

Nick Yablon

Associate Professor
Department of American Studies
University of Iowa
210 Jefferson Building
129 E. Washington Street
Iowa City, IA 52242
Phone (office): (319) 355 0321
Phone (home): (319) 338 1834
Email: nick-yablon@uiowa.edu

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Higher education

- 1995-2002 Ph.D., History, University of Chicago
(received Distinction for dissertation)
- 1994-1995 M.A., History, University of Chicago
- 1991-1994 B.A. (Hons), Medieval and Modern History, University of Birmingham,
England

Professional and Academic Positions

- 2009- Associate Professor, Department of American Studies, University of
Iowa
- 2003-2009 Assistant Professor, Department of American Studies, University of Iowa
- 2002-2003 AAS-National Endowment of the Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow, at the
American Antiquarian Society

Honors and Awards

- 2007-8 Getty Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2002-3 National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship (for research at the
American Antiquarian Society)
- 2003 Nominated by Department of History, University of Chicago, for the
Allan Nevins Prize for a dissertation in American history, 2003
- 2002 Awarded distinction by dissertation defense committee, University of
Chicago, June 2002
- 2000-01 Andrew Mellon Dissertation Writing Fellowship
- 2000 Andrew Mellon Summer Research Fellowship (for research at the
Huntington Library)
- 2000 Von Holst Prize Lectureship, University of Chicago, 2000

SCHOLARSHIP

Publications (refereed)

Books

Untimely Ruins: An Archaeology of American Urban Modernity, 1819-1919 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009)

Articles and book chapters

“Encapsulating the Present: The War of the Classes and the Birth of the Time Capsule, 1876-1901,” *Winterthur Portfolio* 45, no. 1 (Spring 2011): 1-28

“Utopia or Heterotopia: John Sloan and the ‘Roof Life of the Metropolis,’” *American Art* 25, no. 2 (Summer 2011): 14-17

“Echoes of the City: Spacing Sound, Sounding Space, 1888-1908,” *American Literary History*, vol. 19, no. 3 (Fall 2007), 629-660

“‘A Picture Painted in Fire’: Pain’s Re-enactments of the Last Days of Pompeii, 1879-1914,” in Victoria Coates and Jon Seydl (eds), *Antiquity Recovered: The Legacy of Pompeii and Herculaneum* (Getty Publications, 2007)

“South Side Story” [review of Robin F. Bachin, *Building the South Side: Urban Space and Civic Culture in Chicago, 1890-1919*], *Reviews in American History*, vol. 33, no. 2 (June 2005), 224-32

“The Metropolitan Life in Ruins: Architectural and Fictional Speculations in New York, 1909-1919,” *American Quarterly*, vol. 56, no. 2 (June 2004), 308-347

Grants Funded

Getty Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2007-8

Old Gold fellowship, University of Iowa, Summer 2004

American Antiquarian Society-National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship, 2002-03 (year-long research fellowship, worth \$35,000, to use the archives of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts)

Andrew Mellon Dissertation Writing Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2000-01 (\$12,000 fellowship to support the completion of the dissertation)

Andrew Mellon Fellowship for Research at the Huntington Library, 2000 (summer fellowship grant to use the archives of the Huntington Library, Pasadena, California)

Invited Lectures and Conference Presentations

Invited Lectures (international)

"Rhetoric of the Unfinished: Invoking the Ruins of America's Half-built Monuments, 1825-1893," John-F.-Kennedy-Institut für Nordamerikastudien, Berlin, Germany, November 2011

Invited Lectures (national)

“‘Land of Unfinished Monuments’: The Ruins-in-Reverse of Nineteenth-Century America,” at the symposium, “American Ruins and Antiquities in the Long Nineteenth Century,” Huntington Library, California, March 2010

“As if Struck by a Tornado of Supernatural Strength: Building up and Demolishing the Star Theatre, 1901,” at “Mean Streets: Violence and the Cinematic City,” Cornell University, April 2009

“Encapsulating the Present: The ‘War of the Classes’ and the Birth of the Time-Capsule, 1876-1914,” presented at the symposium, “The Politics of Display: America’s Past in Three Dimensions,” in honor of Professor Neil Harris’s retirement, University of Chicago, May 2008

“Ruins of the Future Anterior: Architectural and Fictional Speculations in New York, 1893-1919,” Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, March 2003

“Instant Cities, Instant Ruins: Urban Expansion and Romantic Sensation on the Erie Canal, July 9, 1831,” American Antiquarian Society, December 2002

“‘Among the Detritus of the Metropolitan:’ Real Estate, Popular Fiction, and the Skyscraper in Ruins,” Wayne State University, Detroit, February 2002

“The Met Life in Ruins: Architectural Obsolescence, Popular Fiction, and the City of the Future (Anterior), 1909-1919,” Buell Colloquium on American Architecture, Columbia University, May 2001

“‘The Damndest Finest Ruins’: Technologies of Catastrophe,” presented at the Newberry Library, Chicago, February 2001

Lectures (local)

“‘Land of Unfinished Monuments’: The Ruins-in-Reverse of Nineteenth-Century America,” lecture to the Iowa Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), November 2010

“Posteritism: A Prehistory of the Time Capsule, 1876-1901,” Department of American Studies’ Friday Lecture Series, University of Iowa, Spring 2009

“Trouble in Eden: Fantasies of Ruin on the American Urban Frontier, 1825-37,” 18th/19th-Century Interdisciplinary Colloquium “Fauna and Flora” Lecture Series, in connection with the University of Iowa Museum of Art’s exhibition, “Picturing Eden,” March 2007

“‘Even Eden, You Know, Ain’t All Built’: Transatlantic Circulation and the Ruins of Cairo, Illinois, 1837-44,” Project on Rhetoric of Inquiry (POROI), University of Iowa, December 2005

“Babel and Bedlam: Music, Technology, and the Sonics of Urban Space, 1888-1908,” Sound Research Seminar, University of Iowa, October 2005

“Riot on Sunset Strip: Ed Ruscha at the Scene of the Crime,” University of Iowa Museum of Art, April 2004

“‘On the Faith of Monstrous Representations’: Dickens’ Meditations on the Speculative Ruins of Cairo, Illinois,” History Department colloquium, University of Iowa, November 2003

Conference presentations (international)

“The old country’s to blame for it, and not the new ’un:” Dickens, transatlantic capital and the failure of American paper cities, 1837-44,” at *Engaging the New American Studies*, an international American Studies conference at University of Birmingham, England, May 2006.

“Seismographs of the Mind: Snapshots and Psychologists in San Francisco, 1906,” at the annual conference for the Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), London, March-April 2005

“Collecting Capital: The Art of Business and the Business of Art in Dreiser’s Trilogy of Desire,”

at the conference for the British Association of American Studies (BAAS), Wales, April 2003

“Silencing Space: Literature, Music, and Noise in Progressive-Era New York,” at “New York, Chicago, Los Angeles: Cultures and Representations II,” an international American Studies conference at the University of Nottingham, England, April 2003

“Photographs and Seismographs: The Psychology of Disaster,” at the annual conference of the British Association of American Studies, Keele University, England, April 2001

Conference presentations (national)

“The Petrified City: Antiquity and Modernity in Melville’s New York, 1835-1861,” at the Organization of American Historians annual conference, March 2009

“Homelessness and the ‘Right to the City’ in Antebellum New York,” at the American Studies Association annual conference, Philadelphia, October 2007

“This venerable landmark of history:” Tourism, Antiquarianism, and the Repossession of Fort Ticonderoga, 1820-1860,” at the Organization of American Historians annual conference, March 2004

“From the Bowery to Coney Island: Re-branding Pompeii as American Mass Culture, 1834-1908,” at “Antiquity Recovered,” a symposium at University of Pennsylvania, October 4-5, 2002

“Revisiting the Ruins of New York: The Imagination of Disaster, 1890-1920,” on a panel discussing the historical background to the events of September 11, 2001, at CUNY’s Gotham Center’s Conference on New York City History, October 2001

“‘Dead Lay the City’: Real Estate, Architectural Obsolescence, and the Ruins of New York, 1909-19,” conference organized by CUNY’s Gotham Center, October 2001

Conference presentations (regional)

“The Reiterated Sacrifice to Pecuniary Profit: Architecture and Temporality in Henry James’ *The American Scene*,” at Mid-America American Studies Association, Kansas City, April 2007

“The Petrified City: Antiquity and Modernity in Melville’s New York, 1835-1861,” at Mid-America American Studies Association, St. Louis, April 2006

Conference participation (as chair/moderator/commentator)

Chair of panel, “Techne and the City,” at “Identities and Technoculture” conference, University of Iowa, April 2009

Chair of panel, “Bad Boys,” at Serious Pleasures, the annual conference of Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies, University of Iowa, April 2004

Courses taught at University of Iowa

45:01 Understanding American Cultures

45:90 Clocks, Calendars, and Capsules: A History of Time in America

45:90/147 Seminar: American Disasters

45:45:151 American Business Cultures

45:160 American Cityscapes

45:163 American Ruins

45:200 Theory and Practice of American Studies

45:250 Seminar: Topics in American Studies: Cultures of American Architecture

45:250 Seminar: Topics in American Studies: Money and American Culture

45:2xx Seminar: Topics in American studies: Empire of Time: Temporality in American History

45:299 American Studies Proseminar: The Arts in American Studies