

Shirl Yang

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023 - 2025 **Modeling Interdisciplinary Inquiry Fellow, Washington University in St. Louis**
Interdisciplinary Program in the Humanities
- 2021- 2023 **Humanities Teaching Fellow, University of Chicago**
Department of English (Affiliated fellow in Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity)

EDUCATION

- 2021 **Ph.D. in English, University of Chicago**
Dissertation Title: *Letdown Aesthetics: Genres of Withdrawal in the Long Downturn, 1970-Present*
Committee: Lauren Berlant, Adrienne Brown, Tina Post
- 2016 **M. A. in English, University of Chicago**
- 2013 **B.A. in English and Biology, Williams College**
Highest Honors in English

FIELDS OF SPECIALITY

20th & 21st century American literature and culture, economic humanities, Marxism, science and technology studies, affect and emotion studies, psychoanalysis, comedy

PUBLICATIONS

“On Undermediation.” *Post-45 Contemporaries* (“Minimalisms Now” issue, May 2023)

Special issue “Affect Theory in Practice: Method, Anti-Method, and Afterlives.” *SubStance: A Review of Theory and Literary Criticism* (accepted, forthcoming May 2025)

- “Introduction” (written with co-editors Cheng Chai Chiang and Deborah Thurman)
- “Thin-Skinned Comedy: Comedy in the Classroom”

TEACHING

- 2024-2025 Instructor of Record, “The Emotional Life of Work: Literary and Critical Perspectives,”
Washington University in St. Louis
- Instructor of Record, “Theory and Methods in the Humanities,” Washington University in St.
Louis (*course for Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities majors*)
- 2023-2024 Instructor of Record, “Fictions of Financial Crisis,” Washington University in St. Louis
(*first-year seminar*)
- Instructor of Record, “Theory and Methods in the Humanities: Thought and Feeling,”
Washington University in St. Louis (*course for Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities majors*)

- 2022-2023 Instructor of Record, “Comedy from the Margins,” University of Chicago (*cross-listed under English, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies*)
- Instructor of Record, “The Art of Revenge: Style, Affect, Excess” University of Chicago (*cross-listed under English, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Gender and Sexuality*)
- Instructor of Record, “Media Aesthetics: Text,” University of Chicago (*first-year seminar*)
- Instructor of Record, “Media Aesthetics: Image,” University of Chicago (*first-year seminar*)
- 2021-2022 Instructor of Record, “The Emotional Life of Work: Critical Perspectives,” University of Chicago (*cross-listed under English, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies*)
- Instructor of Record, “American Hustle: On Cons, Scams, and Hoaxes,” University of Chicago
- Instructor of Record, “Media Aesthetics: Text,” University of Chicago (*first-year seminar*)
- Instructor of Record, “Media Aesthetics: Image,” University of Chicago (*first-year seminar*)
- Guest Lecturer, “Comedy: Stand-up and Sit-com,” UC Berkeley
- 2018-2019 Instructor of Record, “Pop Psychology: A Cultural Study,” University of Chicago
- 2017-2018 Course Assistant, “Introduction to Fiction”
 Course Assistant, “Introduction to Poetics”
 Course Assistant, “Junior Seminar: Passions, Emotions, Moods”
- 2013-2014 Advanced Placement (AP) Literature Teaching Assistant, Boston Match Public Charter

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Washington University in St. Louis
 Office of Postdoctoral Affairs Career Development Award, Washington University in St. Louis
 Publishing Workshop Fellowship, *LA Review of Books*
 Mellon Grant for Race Studies Centers, University of Chicago
 Rosenthal-Blair Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago
 Tillotson Travel Grant, University of Chicago
 University Fellowship, University of Chicago
 Consortium Grant, Institute for Recruitment of Teachers
 Robert G. Wilmers Jr. Memorial Fellowship, Williams College

PUBLIC TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks and Presentations

- 2024 “Speculative Fiction/Speculative Finance.” Chapter in progress. *Workshop in Politics, Ethics, and Society at Washington University in St. Louis*. (St. Louis, November 1)

- 2023 “A Labor Theory of Suspense.” Lecture for the UIC “Modern Critical Theory” series. *Center for Criticism and Interpretive Theory at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*. (Champaign and Urbana, September 5)
- 2021 “What is the Tone of Critique? Teaching Comedy Through Art.” Public talk at “After Hope: Future Forms and Alternative Methods” symposium and art installation. *Asian Art Museum of San Francisco*. (San Francisco, November 5-6)

Conference Presentations

- 2025 “The Financial Complaint.” Special session on “Deadly Intricacies: Reading Value Under Finance Capitalism.” *Modern Language Association* (New Orleans, January 9-12)
- “Teaching Across Disciplines.” Panel for conference hosted by program in Modelling Interdisciplinary Inquiry, “Society and Technology: Finance and AI.” *Washington University in St. Louis* (St. Louis, March 21-22)
- 2024 “Illiquid Transactions: Company Scrip, Relief Checks, and the Politics of Payment.” Panel on “Semiotic Manipulations: Aporias of Art and Anthropology.” *Australian Anthropological Society Annual Meeting* (Perth, November 27-29).
- “The Asset and the Narrator.” Panel on “Untimely Luxuries.” *Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present* (New York City, October 17-19)
- “‘Do You Know the SMG?’: On Teaching Critical Finance Studies and the False Promises of Democratized Finance.” *American Studies Association* (Baltimore, November 14-17)
- 2023 “The Beautiful Interim: Prop 22 and the Contemporary Rideshare Novel.” Conference on “Arts of Fugitivity.” *Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present* (Seattle and Bothell, October 4-7)
- “More Than FOMO: Emotional Labor in Times of Financial Speculation.” Intersections of Finance and Society Annual Conference. *Finance and Society Network* (Brussels, September 14-15)
- “More than FOMO: Investment as Service Work in HBO’s *Industry*.” Panel on “Girlboss Aesthetics: Pop Feminism, Neoliberalism, and Capitalist Forms.” *American Comparative Literature Association* (Chicago, March 16-19)
- 2022 “A Theory of Hype: Beanie Babies, Fictitious Capital, and the Comedy of Bad Investing.” Panel on “Period Genres.” *American Comparative Literature Association* (virtual, June 15-18)
- 2021 “Picking up where we left off: Aesthetics of Re-encounter in Barry Jenkins’ *Moonlight*.” Panel on “The Difficulties of Trying Reciprocity.” *Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present* (virtual, October 27-30)
- “The Comedy of Commitment.” Seminar on “Awkwardness 2.0.” *American Comparative Literature Association* (virtual, April 8-10)

“The Humor of Detachability: Analyzing the Rape Joke.” Special session on “Laughter and Feminist Critical Thought” sponsored by Screen Arts and Culture committee. *Modern Language Association* (virtual, January 7-10)

“Artless Art: Postmodern Loneliness and the Aesthetics of Sincerity,” 20th/21st Century Cultures Workshop (University of Chicago, January 25)

2020 “Andy Kaufman and the Awkward Case of Comic Sincerity.” Seminar on “Awkwardness.” *American Comparative Literature Association* (cancelled due to COVID-19)

“Leisurely Nostalgia: Temporary Employment and the Summer Job Comedy.” Special Session on “The Work of Feeling in the Age of Deindustrialization.” *Modern Language Association* (Seattle, January 9-12)

2019 “Comic Sincerity.” *English Department Graduate Student Conference* (University of Chicago, December 5)

SERVICE

2025 Co-editor for special issue, “Affect Theory in Practice: Method, Anti-Method, and Afterlives” in the journal *SubStance*

Conference co-organizer, “Society and Technology: Finance and AI,” Washington University at St. Louis

Panel co-organizer, “Complicit Figures, Complicit Forms,” proposed for American Comparative Literature Association

2024 Panel co-organizer, “Untimely Luxuries,” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present

Panel co-organizer, “Deadly Intricacies: Reading Value Under Finance Capitalism,” Modern Language Association

2023 Workshop respondent, Workshop in Politics, Ethics, and Society, Washington University in St. Louis

Panelist for “From Part to Whole,” a course for graduate students transitioning from proposal-writing stage to writing first chapter, English Department at University of Chicago

Workshop respondent, 20th/21st Century Cultures Workshop, University of Chicago

Workshop respondent, Theater and Performance Studies Workshop, University of Chicago

Faculty advisor for student-founded organization “UWork: UChicago Work and Labor Society”

Presenter for faculty development meetings (Humanities Core), University of Chicago

2022 Symposium co-organizer and co-moderator, “AfterAffects: New Methods in Affect Theory,” Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at the University of Chicago

Presenter for faculty development meetings (Humanities Core), University of Chicago

2021 Panel co-organizer, “Tries and Tribulations: The Difficulties of Trying Reciprocity,” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present

Assistant coordinator, S/Zalon (critical theory reading group for undergraduate students at UC Berkeley)

Seminar co-organizer, “Awkwardness 2.0,” American Comparative Literature Association

2020 Seminar co-organizer, “Awkwardness,” American Comparative Literature Association

Panel co-organizer, “The Work of Feeling in the Age of Deindustrialization,” Modern Language Association

2019 Workshop respondent, 20th/21st Century Cultures Workshop, University of Chicago

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024 Inclusive Writing and Reading Pedagogies Working Group | *Washington University in St. Louis*
Leadership and Management in Action for Humanities, Engineering, and Social Sciences | *Washington University in St. Louis*

2022 LARB Publishing Workshop | *LA Review of Books*

2020 Academic and Professional Writing Lector Training | *University of Chicago Writing Program*

2019 Race and Pedagogies Working Group | *University of Chicago*

2018 Pedagogies of Writing | *University of Chicago Writing Program*

2016 Fundamentals of Teaching Literature | *Chicago Center for Teaching*

2016 Teaching Undergraduate English | *Department of English, University of Chicago*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association

American Comparative Literature Association

Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present

American Studies Association