

Robert J. Corber

Education

Ph.D., English Language and Literature, University of Chicago, 1987

M.A., English Language and Literature, University of Chicago, 1981 (cum laude)

B.A., Haverford College, 1980

Employment

William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of American Institutions and Values, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, Trinity College, Hartford, CT 06106, 2013-

Professor, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, Trinity College, Hartford, CT 06106, 2006-2013

Associate Professor of Lesbian and Gay Studies, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Program, Trinity College, Hartford, CT 06106, 2004-6

Visiting Associate Professor of Lesbian and Gay Studies, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Program, Trinity College, Hartford, CT 06106, 2001-2004

Visiting Assistant Professor, American Studies and Lesbian and Gay Studies, Trinity College, Hartford, CT 06106, 1998-2001

Core Faculty, New School For Social Research, New York, NY 10011, 1997-2000

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Chatham

College, Pittsburgh, PA 15232, 1987-1994

Administrative Experience

Director, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Program, Trinity College,
Hartford, CT 06106, 2006-2013

Director, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Program, Trinity College,
Hartford, CT 06106, 2015-

Books

A Scarlet Pansy by Robert Scully (New York: Fordham University Press, 2025). Edited and with an introduction. Revised edition, and with a new preface.

A Scarlet Pansy by Robert Scully (New York: Fordham University Press, 2016). Edited and with an introduction.

Cold War Femme: Lesbianism, National Identity, and Hollywood Cinema (Durham: Duke University Press, 2011).

Queer Studies: An Interdisciplinary Reader. Co-edited with Stephen Valocchi. (Oxford, England: Blackwell Publishers, 2002).

Homosexuality in Cold War America: Resistance and the Crisis of Masculinity. (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1997; second printing 1999; third printing 2011).

In the Name of National Security: Hitchcock, Homophobia, and the Political Construction of Gender in Postwar America (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1993; second printing 1996).

Work-in-progress

A book, tentatively titled, *James Baldwin: A Queer Paradox*, which explores problematic or unsettling aspects of Baldwin's work glossed over or suppressed in both the scholarship and popular culture, with the aim of clarifying his complex legacy.

Editorial boards

American Literary History 2006-2023

American Quarterly, 2004-2007

Contemporary Literature, 1998-present

Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies, 2004-present

The James Baldwin Review, 2013-2018

PMLA, 2013-2016

Advisory Editor, *Encyclopedia of Men and Masculinities*, ed. Michael Kimmel (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio Press, 2004).

Associate Editor, *The James Baldwin Review*, 2019-

Forwards and Afterwards

“Afterward,” in Richard Bruce Nugent, *Gentleman Jigger: A Novel of the Harlem Renaissance* (Fordham University Press, 2024) pp. 333-339.

“Forward,” in James Purdy, *I am Elijah Thrush* (Fordham University Press, 2022), pp. vii-xiii.

“Forward,” in James Purdy, *Out with the Stars* (Fordham University Press, 2022), pp. vii-xiii.

“Afterward: *The Birth of a Nation* and the Temporality of Race,” in *Art, Culture, and Ethics in Black and White: The Legacy of The*

Birth of a Nation, ed. Ian Scott, Douglas Field, and Jenny Barrett (Manchester University Press, 2022), pp. 241-249.

Articles in journals

“A Very Dangerous Effort”: James Baldwin’s Encounter with the BBC in 1963,” *James Baldwin Review* vol. 9 (2023), pp. 112-118.

“Romancing Beale Street,” *James Baldwin Review* vol. 5 (2019), pp. 178-190.

“Queering I Am Not Your Negro: Or Why We Need James Baldwin More Than Ever,” *James Baldwin Review* vol. 3 (2017), pp. 160-172.

“Ginger Trouble,” *Arizona Quarterly* vol. 71, no. 2 (Summer 2015): 121-148.

“Joan Crawford’s Padded Shoulders: Female Masculinity in *Mildred Pierce*,” *Camera Obscura* 62, 1-31.

“Rethinking Sex: Alfred Kinsey Now,” *American Quarterly* vol. 57, no. 2 (Summer 2007): 463-474.

“Cold War Femme: Lesbian Visibility in *All About Eve*,” *GLQ* vol. 11, no. 1 (Winter, 2005): 1-22.

“Nationalizing the Gay Male Body: AIDS and Sentimental Pedagogy in *Philadelphia*,” *American Literary History* vol. 15, no. 1 (Spring, 2003): 107-133.

“Queer Regionalism,” *American Literary History*, vol. 11 no. 2 (Summer 1999): 397-412.

“Sentimentalizing Gay History: Mark Merlis, Alan Hollinghurst, and the Cold War Persecution of Homosexuals,” *Arizona*

Quarterly, vol. 38, no. 4 (Winter 1999): 115-142.

“Scholarship and Sexuality: Lesbian and Gay Studies in Today’s Academy,” *Academe* September-October 1998, 46-49.

“Queering the Cold War: Tony Kushner and the Case of Roy Cohn,” *Annals of Scholarship* vol.12, no. 3-4 (Summer-Fall 1998): 128-44.

“Gore Vidal and the Erotics of Masculinity,” *Western Humanities Review* 48, no. 1 (Spring 1994): 30-52.

“Resisting History: *Rear Window* and the Limits of the Postwar Settlement,” *boundary 2* 19, no. 1 (Spring 1992): 121-48.

“Reconstructing Homosexuality: Hitchcock and the Homoerotics of Spectatorial Pleasure,” *Discourse* 13, no. 2 (Spring-Summer 1991): 58-82.

“Representing the ‘Unspeakable’: William Godwin and the Politics of Homophobia,” *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 1, no. 1 (Summer 1990): 85-101. Reprinted in *Nineteenth Century Literature Criticism, Vol. 130*, ed. Russell Whitaker (Thompson Gale, 2003).

Articles in books

“The Trouble With Normal in *The Three Faces of Eve*” in *Centers and Margins: New Perspectives in Anglo-American Studies*,” ed. Teresa Botelho (forthcoming, 2019).

“Reconstructing Homosexuality: Hitchcock and the Homoerotics of Spectatorial Pleasure,” in *Alfred Hitchcock*, ed. Neil Badmington (London: Routledge, 2014), pp. 56-82. Reprint of chapter 2 of *In the Name of National Security*.

“Tennessee Williams and the Politics of the Closet,” in *Bloom’s Modern Critical Interpretations: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, ed. Harold Bloom (New York: Chelsea House, 2011), 41-68. Reprint of chapter 5 of *Homosexuality in Cold War America*.

“All About the Subversive Femme: Queer Femininity and Cold War Homophobia in Joseph L. Mankiewicz’s *All About Eve*,” in *American Cold War Culture*, ed. Douglas Field (Edinburgh, UK: University of Edinburgh Press, 2004), 34-49.

“After Stonewall: Lesbian and Gay Short Stories,” *The Columbia Companion to Twentieth-Century American Short Fiction*, ed. Blanche Gelfant (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001), 56-63.

“‘You Wanna Check My Thumbprints’”: *Vertigo*, the Trope of Invisibility, and Cold War Nationalism” in *Hitchcock: Centenary Essays*, ed. Richard Allen and Sam Gonzales (London: British Film Institute, 1999), 304-14.

“Hitchcock’s Washington: Spectatorship, Ideology, and the ‘Homosexual Menace’ in *Strangers on a Train*” in *Hitchcock’s America*, ed. Jonathan Freedman and Richard Millington (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998), 99-121. Reprint of chapter 1 of *In the Name of National Security*.

“Resisting History: *Rear Window* and the Limits of the Postwar Settlement” in *Postnational Identities and Post-Americanist Narratives*, ed. Donald E. Pease (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1994), 121-4.

Articles in encyclopedias

“Cold War Masculinities,” *Encyclopedia of Men and Masculinities*, ed. Michael Kimmel, (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Press, 2004).

“James Baldwin,” in *Encyclopedia of Gay and Lesbian American History*, ed. Marc Stein (New York: Scribners, 2004).

“Whittaker Chambers,” “Roy M. Cohn,” “Homophile Movement,” “J. Edgar Hoover,” “McCarthyism,” “F.O. Matthiessen,” “Mattachine Society,” “The United States,” in *The Encyclopedia of Homosexuality, Volume II: Gay Histories and Cultures*, ed. George E. Haggerty (New York: Garland Press, 2000).

Selected reviews and review essays

Review of *James Baldwin in Context*, ed. D. Quentin Miller (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019), in *American Literary History Online Review*, Series XXIII.

Review of Kevin Ohi, *Dead Letters Sent: Queer Literary Transmission*, in *American Literary History Online Review*, Series VI.

Review of *James Baldwin in Turkey: Bearing Witness from Another Place*, ed., Kathryn Hubbard, in *African American Review* vol. 46, no. 4 (Winter 2013), pp. 773-74.

Review of Magdalena Zaborowska, *James Baldwin’s Turkish Decade: Erotics of Exile*, in *Callaloo* vol. 32, no. 3 (Summer, 2009): 130-32.

Review of Nancy Ordover, *American Eugenics: Race, Queer Anatomy, and the Science of Nationalism* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2003), in *American Historical Review*, vol. 109, no. 4 (September 2004).

Review of Joanne Meyerowitz, *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2002), in *American Historical Review*, vol. 108,

no. 5 (December 2003).

Review essay, “Everybody Knew His Name: Reassessing James Baldwin,” in *Contemporary Literature* vol. 42, no. 1 (Spring 2001), 166-75.

Review of Arthur C. Danto, *Playing with the Edge: The Photographic Achievement of Robert Mapplethorpe* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996), in *Annals of Scholarship* 13, nos 1-2 (Spring-Summer, 1999): 131-36.

Review of Harvey Teres, *Renewing the Left: Politics, Imagination and the New York Intellectuals* (Oxford University Press, 1996), in *Contemporary Literature* 38, no. 2 (Summer 1997): 371-77.

Blog Posts

“The Complicated Politics of Masculinity,” *Russian History Blog: An Experiment in Digital Russian History*, www.russianhistoryblog.org/2021/06/men-out-of-focus. Response to *Men Out of Focus: The Soviet Masculinity Crisis in the Long 1960s* by Marko Dumančić (Toronto University Press, 2021).

Interviews

P.S. Burn This Letter Please (dir. Michael Seligman and Jennifer Tiexiera, 2021). Documentary on 1950s New York drag queens.

Erin Lee Mock, “*Cold War Femme: Lesbianism, National Identity, and Hollywood Cinema: An Interview with Robert J. Corber*,” *New Books in Popular Culture*, (www.newbooksnetwork.com)

Prizes and awards

Cold War Femme: Lesbianism, National Identity, and Hollywood

Cinema. Named an Outstanding Book of the Year by *Choice Magazine*. Named an “Over the Rainbow” book by the American Library Association.

Homosexuality in Cold War America: Resistance and the Crisis of Masculinity. Named an Outstanding Book of the Year by *Choice Magazine*.

In the Name of National Security: Hitchcock, Homophobia and the Political Construction of Gender in Postwar America. Named Outstanding Book on the Subject of Human Rights by the Gustavus Meyers Center for the Study of Human Rights.

Fellowships and grants

Faculty Research Grant, Trinity College, 2006-2007

Fellowship, The Futures of American Studies, Mellon Humanities Institute, Dartmouth College, 1997

Eccles Research Fellowship, Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah, 1994-95

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, 1994-95

Whiting Dissertation Year Fellowship, 1985-86

Selected keynote and invited Talks

“What Nature Intended: The Trouble with Normal in *The Three Faces of Eve*,” Portuguese Association of Anglo-American Studies Annual Meetings, Lisbon, Portugal, 2016

“Ginger Trouble,” New York University, 2012

"Recuperating 'America': Homosexuality, National Fantasy, and the 'War on Terror,'" Scenes of Secrecy, Duke University, 2008

"Rock Hudson and the Loss of American Innocence," Reaganism

and American Culture, conference Oxford University, 2005

"All about the Subversive Femme," Homeland Insecurity: Civil Liberties, Repression, and Citizenship in the 1950s, conference Smith College, 2003

"AIDS and Sentimental Pedagogy in *Philadelphia*," University of Connecticut, Stoops, 2000

"*Vertigo* and the Trope of the Invisible Subversive," Hitchcock: A Centennial Celebration, conference New York University, 1999

"AIDS and Sentimental Pedagogy in *Philadelphia*," University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1999

"Resisting the Lure of the Commodity: *Laura* and the Spectacle of the Gay Male Body," Rice University, 1997

"James Baldwin and the Homophobic Politics of Form," Dartmouth College, 1997

"Resisting the Lure of the Commodity: *Laura* and the Spectacle of the Gay Male Body," American Culture and The Cold War, conference University of Toledo, 1996

"Tennessee Williams and the Politics of the Closet," University of Chicago, 1995

"Resisting the Lure of the Commodity: *Laura* and the Spectacle of the Gay Male Body," University of Utah, 1995

"William Godwin and the Politics of Homophobia," University of Pittsburgh, 1991

"Hitchcock and the Homoerotics of Spectatorial Pleasure,"

Dartmouth College, 1991

Areas of specialization

Lesbian and gay studies; history of sexuality; queer theory/studies; masculinity studies; feminist theory/studies; film studies/theory; twentieth-century American literature and culture

Courses taught

Hollywood Stars

Hitchcock

The Woman's Film

Film Noir

The Hollywood Musical

Mapping American Masculinities

Modern American Sexualities

James Baldwin Now

Queer Studies: Issues and Controversies

History of Sexuality

Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality

Professional service

Best Graduate Student Essay Prize Committee, *James Baldwin Review*, 2016.

Best Graduate Student Essay Prize Committee, *James Baldwin Review*, 2015.

Norman Foerster Prize Committee, 2003. Awards the prize for best article published in *American Literature*.

Institutional Service

Member, Diana Paulin's Tenure Committee, American Studies Program, Trinity College, 2010

Member, Advisory Board, Human Rights Program, Trinity College, 2009-2012

Chair, President's Special Council on LGBT Life, Trinity College, 2003-2005

Co-Chair, The Committee on Lesbian and Gay Studies, Trinity College, 2000-2003

Faculty Advisor, EROS, Trinity College, 2001-2005

Professional Memberships

American Studies Association

Modern Language Association

Society for Cinema and Media Studies