

Current Research Profile: Professor Hugh J. Silverman

15 February 2013

Professor Silverman's research focuses on the articulation of **Continental Philosophy** and on themes in **Cultural and Aesthetic Theory**. His major authored books *Inscriptions: After Phenomenology and Structuralism* (Northwestern, 1997, Korean trans., 2011) and *Textualities: Between Hermeneutics and Deconstruction* (Routledge, 1994, German, 1997, Arabic, 2002, Italian, 2003, Korean, 2009) are regarded as classics in the understanding of Contemporary Continental Philosophy. They trace the path of the self-language-body-world relation in Transcendental Phenomenology to Existential and Hermeneutic Phenomenology and from Semiology and Structuralism to Post-Structuralism, Archaeology of Knowledge, and Deconstruction. These works provide an account of Continental Philosophy that includes interpretations of Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, de Saussure, Levi-Strauss, Lacan, Ricoeur, Foucault, Kristeva, and Derrida. A new study *Postmodernisms: Between Ethics and Aesthetics* will complete the trilogy and explore contemporary postmodern theorizing in the context of ethical, political, cultural, aesthetic, and cinematic concerns. Figures discussed will include Derrida, Foucault, Eco, Vattimo, Lyotard, Kristeva, Žižek et al. Films are the ongoing thread in the 25 chapter project. In the trilogy, the guiding theme is the notion of difference and the "in-between," which has become identified with the ongoing research profile.

Other recent publication groups (Articles and Book Chapters) focus on: (1) the question of responsibility in the context of postmodern ethics and the "responsibility between us," (2) the chiasmatic in the arts (painting, architecture, film, etc.) with studies of Gerhard Richter, Andy Warhol, Barnett Newman, Hans Hollein, Quentin Tarantino, David Lynch et al., (3) essays on Merleau-Ponty in relation to contemporary philosophers, and (4) metaphor and the image, with emphasis on the photographic, filmic, and painted image. Any of these could result in a book-length project.

Professor Silverman's many edited volumes formulate and shape the landscape of **Continental Philosophy**. The eight volumes in the Routledge Continental Philosophy series include landmark studies of figures such as Merleau-Ponty: *Philosophy and Non-Philosophy -1988*, Derrida: *Derrida and Deconstruction* (1989, Korean, 1998), Gadamer: *Gadamer and Hermeneutics* (1991), and Lyotard: *Lyotard: Philosophy, Politics and the Sublime* (2002) and contemporary themes: *Postmodernism—Philosophy and the Arts* (1990, Korean, 1992), *Questioning Foundations* (1993), *Cultural Semiosis* (1998), and *Philosophy and Desire* (2000). Other edited volumes define new directions: *Continental Philosophy in America* (1983), and *Horizons in Continental Philosophy* (1988). Still others establish the terrains of Continental Philosophy: *Critical and Dialectical Phenomenology* (1988), *Hermeneutics and Deconstruction* (1985), *Postmodernism and Continental Philosophy* (1988), and *Writing the Politics of Difference* (1991). Then there are the studies of individual philosophers/theorists: Sartre (1980), Piaget (1980, Spanish, 1989), Merleau-Ponty (1992, 2nd ed 1996), Derrida (2002, in German only), and Žižek (2004).

In the area of **Philosophy and Literature (Cultural and Aesthetic Theory)**, specific studies include: *The Textual Sublime: Deconstruction and its Alternatives* (1990), *Textualität der Philosophie / Philosophie und*

Literatur (1994, in German only). Similarly the Textures Series volumes: *Dramas of Culture: Theory, History, Performance* (2009) and *Intermedialities: Philosophy, Arts, Politics* (2010) are dedicated considerations of current cultural theory. They result from carefully edited essays originally presented at conferences of The International Association for Philosophy and Literature (IAPL) for which Professor Silverman is Executive Director. Also IAPL Conference Books (since 2002) complement annual conferences providing original essays and bios by plenary speakers, location descriptions, and much more than the program schedule. These international, interdisciplinary conferences effectively constitute “research laboratories” for current interdisciplinary work in the humanities. The same could be said of the International Philosophical Seminar (Alto Adige, Italy) that is also organized by Professor Silverman and takes place each summer for a week, focusing on current research in Continental Philosophy and Cultural Theory. These contexts are places where research developments are not only discussed but enhanced by the in-person exchange and cross-breeding of ideas and theories.