

Michael T. Saler

Professor, History Department, University of California at Davis.
Focus: Modern British and European Intellectual and Cultural
History.

Education

Joint Ph.D. in History and Humanities, Stanford University,
Stanford, CA 1992. Dissertation Advisor: Peter Stansky.

B.A., Summa Cum Laude, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA,
1985. Double Major in History and European Cultural Studies.

Honors and Fellowships:

The Fin de Siècle World (Routledge, 2014) named a Choice
“Outstanding Academic Title of 2015”

As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual
Reality (Oxford University Press, 2012) named one of the “Best
Books of 2012” by The Huffington Post; shortlisted for the 2013
Mythopoeic Scholarship Award.

Invited Public Lecturer, Grinnell College, March 2, 2016.

Invited Panelist, “Transforming Hollywood 6: Alternative
Realities, World Building and Immersive Entertainment.”
Sponsored by UCLA and USC, May 8, 2015.

Keynote Speaker, “Challenger Unbound Conference,” University
of London, December 9, 2013.

Keynote Speaker, “Esotericism, Religion and Culture,” ASE
Conference, University of California, Davis, July 19-22, 2012.

Plenary Speaker, “Awakening to Wonder: Re-Enchantment in a
Post-Secular Age,” Concordia College, September 14-15, 2010.

Plenary Address, “Sacred Modernities: Rethinking Modernity in a
Post-Secular Age,” Oxford Brookes University, UK, September
17-19, 2009.

Keynote Speaker, “The Space Between: Literature and Culture,
1914-1945,” Naval Academy, Annapolis, June 7-10, 2007.

Keynote Speaker, Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies,
Sonoma State University, April 4-6, 2003.

2003-04 Finalist, ASUCD Excellence in Teaching Award.

2001-02 Fellowship, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford
University, Stanford CA.

Honorable Mention, 2000 British Council Prize in the Humanities,
for The Avant-Garde in Interwar England (Oxford UP, 1999;
paperback, 2000).

1999 Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award, University
of California, Davis.

Phi Beta Kappa, Junior Year.

Selected Publications List:

Books, Single Author:

As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality (Oxford
University Press, January 2012; Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle editions).

The Avant-Garde in Interwar England: ‘Medieval Modernism’
and the London Underground. (Oxford UP hardcover, 1999;
paperback, 2000.)

Books, Edited:

Editor, The Fin-de-Siècle World. (Routledge, 2014.)

The Re-Enchantment of the World ed. Joshua Landy and Michael
Saler (Stanford UP, 2009).

Refereed Articles:

“From Ironic Belief to Certain Knowledge: Professor Challenger as Conan Doyle’s
Doppelgänger.” In Tom Ue, ed., Mapping Conan Doyle’s Modernities: 1887-1929.
(Forthcoming, Manchester: Manchester UP.)

“History and the Two Modernisms.” In Mark Bevir, ed., Modernity and the Social
Sciences. (Forthcoming, Cambridge UP.)

“Introduction.” In Michael Saler, The Fin-de-Siècle World. (Routledge, 2014.)

“Science, the Paranormal, and Science Fiction,” Science Fiction Studies, 40 (March 2013), 148-156.

“Waste Lands and Silly Valleys: Wittgenstein, Mass Culture, and Re-Enchantment,” in Landy and Saler, eds., The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age (Stanford UP, 2009), 56-71.

“Introduction” (co-written with Joshua Landy), The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age (Stanford UP, 2009), 1-14.

“Imagined Communities, Holistic Histories, and Secular Faith,” in Secular Faith, edited by Vincent Lloyd and Elliot Ratzman (Cascade Books, 2011).

Also published in a special issue on “Secular Faith” in Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal 92:1-2 (Spring-Summer 2009), 129-157.

“The Uncanny as Modern Gnosis,” Uncanny Modernity: Cultural Theories, Modern Anxieties, ed. Jo Collins and John K. Jervis (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), 181-200.

“The Canny Wonders and Uncanny Others of H.P. Lovecraft,” The Space Between: Literature and Culture, 1914-1945 2:1 (2006), 11-32.

“Decadence,” Europe - 1789 to 1914: Encyclopedia of the Age of Industry and Empire. John Merriman and Jay Winter, eds. (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2006).

“Modernity and Enchantment: A Historiographic Review,” The American Historical Review 111:3 (June, 2006), 692-716.

“Austin Tappan Wright and Islandia,” Gary Westfahl, ed., The Encyclopedia of Themes in Science Fiction and Fantasy Volume III (New York: Greenwood Press, 2005), 1106-1108.

“At Home in the Ironic Imagination: The Rational Vernacular and Spectacular Texts,” in Maiken Umbach and Bernd Huppau, ed., Vernacular Modernism: Heimat, Globalization, and the Built Environment. (Stanford University Press, 2005), 53-83.

Adventure Fiction.” In James Eli Adams and Tom Pendergast, eds., The Grolier Encyclopedia of the Victorian Era, Volume 1 (Connecticut, Scholastic Press, 2004), 8.

“Modernity, Disenchantment, and the Ironic Imagination.” Philosophy and Literature 28:1 (April 2004), 137-149.

“Clap If You Believe in Sherlock Holmes: Mass Culture and the Re-Enchantment of Modernity, C. 1890- C. 1940,” The Historical Journal 46:3 (September 2003), 599-622.

“Whigs and Surrealists: The ‘Subtle Links’ of Humphrey Jennings’ Pandaemonium,” George Behlmer and Fred Leventhal, ed., Singular Continuities: Tradition, Nostalgia, and Identity in Modern British Culture (Stanford UP, 2000), 123-142.

“Making It New: Visual Modernism and the ‘Myth of the North’ in Interwar England,” Journal of British Studies 37:4 (October 1998), 419-440.

“Hearing Voices of the Past,” Theory and Society 27:4 (August 1998), 591-596.

Essays: "Design"; "Frank Pick"; "Herbert Read"; "Poster Art," in F.M. Leventhal, ed., Twentieth-Century Britain: An Encyclopedia (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1995).

"The 'Medieval Modern' Underground: Terminus of the Avant-Garde," Modernism/Modernity 2:1 (January 1995), 113-144.

Non-Refereed Essays and Book Reviews:

David Mitchell, Slade House. The Times Literary Supplement, December 23, 2015.

“The Ship of the Imagination,” lead review essay on Brian Clegg, Ten Billion Tomorrows and Matt Kaplan, Science of the Magical. The Wall Street Journal, December 19, 2015.

Liu Cixin, The Three-Body Problem and The Dark Wood. The Times Literary Supplement, October 13, 2015.

Michael Witwer, Empire of Imagination. The Wall Street Journal, October 3, 2015.

“Star Stuff?” Review of Yuval Noah Harari, Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind. The Nation, July 20, 2015. (2,750 words.)

“Through the Looking Glass,” lead review essay on Robert Douglas-Fairhurst, The Story of Alice. The Wall Street Journal, June 6, 2015. (2,000 words.)

Jill Lepore, The Secret History of Wonder Woman. The Times Literary Supplement, February 27, 2015.

Lead review essay on three books on the “Dark Net” (The Dark Net by Jamie Bartlett; Hacker, Hoaxer, Whistleblower, Spy by Gabriella Coleman; When Google Met Wikileaks by Julian Assange). The Times Literary Supplement, February 20, 2015. (3,000 words.)

Review of Two Books by William Gibson: The Peripheral and Distrust That Particular Flavor. The Times Literary Supplement, January 9, 2015, 1,750 words.

“The Imitation Game.” The Times Literary Supplement, November 21, 2014.

Matthew Sterenberg, Mythic Thinking in Twentieth Century Britain, Journal of British Studies, 2014.

“Science as Salvation?” The Nation, September 15, 2014.
<http://www.thenation.com/article/181388/science-salvation>

“The Improbable Martin Gardner,” The Times Literary Supplement, February 7, 2014.

Finn Brunton, Spam: A Shadow History of the Internet. The Nation, January 13, 2014.
<http://www.thenation.com/article/177631/shelf-life#>

“Modernity, Enchantment, Fictionalism,” The Immanent Frame, December 13, 2013.
<http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2013/12/20/modernity-enchantment-and-fictionalism/>

“The Uses and Abuses of Illusion,” The Los Angeles Review of Books, August 25, 2013. 3,500 word review essay. (<http://lareviewofbooks.org/review/the-uses-and-abuses-of-illusion/>)

Fred Nadis, The Man From Mars: Ray Palmer’s Amazing Pulp Journey, the Washington Post, August 12, 2013.

“Of Gods and Men.” The Times Literary Supplement, May 31, 2013. 1,500 word review essay about the fiction of James Salter.

“How the Internet is Using Us All,” The Times Literary Supplement, May 22, 2013. 3,700 word lead review essay. (<http://www.the-tls.co.uk/tls/public/article1262717.ece>)

- Translated into French and republished as “La grande depossession” in Books: Livres & Idees du Monde Entier 53 (April 2014).

“Enlightened Monsters,” The Times Literary Supplement, May 13, 2013. 1,500 word review essay about the life and works of Mary Shelley. (<http://www.the-tls.co.uk/tls/public/article1256265.ece>)

“Alan Turing in Three Words.” The Times Literary Supplement (December 21, 2012), 30-31. 3,500 word review essay. (<http://www.the-tls.co.uk/tls/public/article1179883.ece>)

Scott Anthony, Public Relations and the Making of Modern Britain. 20th Century British History 20th Century British History, online December, 2012.

“The Last Redoubt”: Michael Chabon, Telegraph Avenue, The Times Literary Supplement, October 19, 2012. 1,500 word review essay.

“A Fankled Task”: Iain Banks, Stonemouth, The Times Literary Supplement, April 6, 2012. 1,500 word review essay.

“Solving the Mystery of Sherlock Holmes,” OUP Blog, January 30, 2012 (<http://blog.oup.com/2012/01/solving-the-mystery-of-sherlock-holmes/>)

“Explaining Imaginary Worlds: Why The Lord of the Rings is so Addictive,” The Huffington Post, January 24, 2012 (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-saler/lord-of-the-rings-addictive-_b_1216841.html)

“Cross-Dressed for Action”: Grant Morrison, Supergods, The Times Literary Supplement, January 20, 2012.

“A More Evanescent Realm”: Christopher Priest, The Islanders, The Times Literary Supplement, January 13, 2012.

“Special One”: Walter Isaacson, Steve Jobs. 1,500 word review essay, The Times Literary Supplement, December 30, 2011.

Shane McCristine, Spectres of the Self: Thinking About Ghosts and Ghost-Seeing in England, 1750-1920. The American Historical Review (December 2011), 1568-1569.

“Occult Banker,” 1,500 word review essay of three works by Gustav Meyrink, The Times Literary Supplement (February 25, 2011), 5.

“Tarzan Without a Loincloth”: William H. Patterson, Robert A. Heinlein, Volume 1, The Times Literary Supplement (December 10, 2010), 5.

“Cat Studies”: Donald E. Pease, Theodore Seuss Geisel, The Times Literary Supplement (September 24, 2010), 34.

Courtney Bender, The New Metaphysicals, online review commissioned by the Social Science Research Council for their website The Immanent Frame (posted June 14, 2010 at <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2010/06/14/quantum-sociology-and-the-new-metaphysicals/>).

“By the Salton Sea: William T. Vollmann, Imperial and Kevin Starr, Golden Dreams, The Times Literary Supplement (January 29, 2010), Lead Review Essay, 3,000 words.

“The Uses of Re-Enchantment” (with Joshua Landy), The American Scholar (Summer, 2009).

“Movie Magic: Glen David Gold, Sunnyside, The Times Literary Supplement (June 26, 2009).

“The Many Deaths of Roberto Bolaño: Roberto Bolaño, 2666 and The Romantic Dogs, The Times Literary Supplement (January 7, 2009).

“Comic Turns: David Hajdu, The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic Book Scare and How It Changed America and Michael Chabon, Maps and Legends, The Times Literary Supplement (June 6, 2008), Lead Review Essay, 2,000 words.

“Down the Tube: Frank Pick’s Underground Dream,” Cabinet 30 (Summer 2008), 69-76.

“Round and About: Penelope Corfield, Time and the Shape of History,” The Times Literary Supplement (March 21, 2008).

“Writers of the Right: Roberto Bolaño, Nazi Literature in the Americas, The Times Literary Supplement (February 22, 2008).

Review of Arthur Conan Doyle’s ‘Round the Red Lamp’, The Times Literary Supplement (November 23, 2007).

“Michael Chabon’s Yiddish Noir,” The Times Literary Supplement (June 15, 2007).

“Let’s Not Be Stupid Together: Susan Sontag, At the Same Time,” The Times Literary Supplement (April 13, 2007).

“A Lady’s Man and His Pen: Julie Philips, James Tiptree, Jr., The Times Literary Supplement (October 13, 2006).

“John le Carré’s Allegiances: John le Carré, The Mission Song,” The Times Literary Supplement (September 20, 2006).

“Adorno on Mars: Fredric Jameson, Archaeologies of the Future,” The Times Literary Supplement (16 June, 2006),

“Existeixen els intellectuals britànics?” L’Espill 23 (2006) [Translation into Catalan of Lead Review Essay, “Presence of Minds: Is There Such a Thing as a British Intellectual? Stefan Collini, Absent Minds,” The Times Literary Supplement.]

“Presence of Minds: Is There Such a Thing as a British Intellectual? Stefan Collini, Absent Minds,” The Times Literary Supplement (April 14, 2006), Lead Review.

“Captain Alatriste and The Purity of Blood, Arturo Perez-Reverte,” The Times Literary Supplement (January 20, 2006)

“The Highly Civilized Man: Richard Burton and the Victorian World, Dane Kennedy,” The Times Literary Supplement (December 9, 2005).

“Forty Degrees Below Zero, Kim Stanley Robinson,” The Times Literary Supplement (October 7, 2005)

“I Am Alive and You Are Dead: A Life of Philip K. Dick by Emmanuel Carrere,” The Times Literary Supplement (August 25, 2005).

Alex Owen, The Place of Enchantment, The American Historical Review 110:3 (June, 2005).

“Transformations: The Story of Science Fiction Magazines from 1950 to 1970, Mike Ashley,” The Times Literary Supplement (May 23, 2005)

“Divided Kingdom, Rupert Thomson,” The Times Literary Supplement (April 15, 2005)

“Strange Tales of Alien Incursions: H.P. Lovecraft and the Invention of the Modern Horror Story,” The Times Literary Supplement (4 March 2005).

“James Epstein, In Practice,” Albion 36:1 (Spring, 2004).

“Marjorie Manning, National Identities and Travel,” The American Historical Review, 107:5 (December, 2002)

“Standish Meacham, Regaining Paradise: Englishness and the Early Garden City Movement,” Victorian Studies (Summer 2001): 677-680.

“Luisa Passerini, Love in Europe, Europe in Love,” Twentieth-Century British History 11:4 (2000): 464-466.

“Sean O’Connell, The Car in British Society,” Albion 32:1 (Spring, 2000): 158-160.

“William R. Everdell, The First Moderns,” Modernism/Modernity 5:2 (April 1998): 165-167.

“Dianne Macleod, Art and the Victorian Middle Class,” The Mill Valley Literary Review, Spring 1997.
Review, Spring 1997.