

# Vera Tobin

Department of Cognitive Science  
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## Education

**Ph.D., English Language and Literature**, University of Maryland, College Park. 2008.

**M.A., English Language and Literature**, University of Maryland, College Park. 2002.

**B.A., English**, Brown University. 1997.

## Academic Positions

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

**Assistant Professor, Department of Cognitive Science.** 2012-present.

University of California, Santa Barbara

**Arnhold Faculty Fellow (Postdoctoral) in Cognitive Approaches to Literature.** 2010-2012.

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

**Lecturer, Department of Cognitive Science.** 2008-2010.

## Publications

### Books

**Tobin, Vera.** In press for April 2018. *Elements of Surprise: Our Mental Limits and the Satisfactions of Plot.* Harvard University Press.

### Books: Editor

Parrill, Fey, **Vera Tobin**, and Mark Turner, eds. 2010. *Meaning, Form, and Body.* Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications.

### Articles and Chapters

**Tobin, Vera.** In press. "Viewpoint, Misdirection, and Sound Design in Film: *The Conversation.*" *Journal of Pragmatics.*

**Tobin, Vera** and Todd Oakley. 2017. "What We Talk About When We Talk About Texts." *Semiotica*, (215): 119-141.

**Tobin, Vera.** 2016. "Performance, Irony, and Viewpoint in Language." In *Theatre, Performance and Cognition: Languages, Bodies and Ecologies.* Eds. Amy Cook and Rhonda Blair. Methuen.

Cappelle, Bert, Edwige Dugas, and **Vera Tobin.** 2015. "An Afterthought on *Let Alone.*" *Journal of Pragmatics.* 80:70-85.

## Publications, continued

- Tobin, Vera.** 2014. "Readers as Overhearers and Texts as Objects: Joint Attention in Reading Communities." *SCRIPTA*, vol. 18, no. 34
- Tobin, Vera.** 2014. "Where Do Cognitive Biases Fit Into Cognitive Linguistics? An Example from the 'Curse of Knowledge.'" *Language and the Creative Mind*. Eds. Barbara Dancygier, Mike Borkent, and Jennifer Hinnell. Stanford: CSLI Publications.
- Oakley, Todd, and **Vera Tobin.** 2014. "The Whole is Sometimes Less than the Sum of Its Parts: Toward a Theory of Document Acts." *Language and Cognition*, vol. 6, no. 1
- Tobin, Vera,** and Michael Israel. 2012. "Irony as a Viewpoint Phenomenon." In *Viewpoint in Language: A Multimodal Perspective*. Eds. Eve Sweetser and Barbara Dancygier. 25-46. Cambridge University Press.
- Oakley, Todd, and **Vera Tobin.** 2012. "Attention, Blending, and Suspense in Classic and Experimental Film." In *Blending and the Study of Narrative*. Eds. Ralf Schneider and Marcus Hartner. 57-83. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Tobin, Vera.** 2010. "Joint Attention, *To the Lighthouse*, and Modernist Representations of Intersubjectivity." *English Text Construction*, vol. 3, no. 2
- Tobin, Vera.** 2010. "Grammatical and Rhetorical Consequences of Entrenchment in Conceptual Blending." In *Meaning, Form, and Body*. Eds. Fey Parrill, Vera Tobin, and Mark Turner. Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications.
- Tobin, Vera.** 2009. "Cognitive Bias and the Poetics of Surprise." *Language and Literature*, vol. 18, no. 2
- Tobin, Vera.** 2006. "Ways of Reading Sherlock Holmes." *Language and Literature*, vol. 15, no. 1  
Winner of the 2006 Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA) Prize.
- Israel, Michael, Jennifer Riddle Harding, and **Vera Tobin.** 2005. "On Simile." *Language, Culture and Mind*. Eds. Suzanne Kemmer and Michel Achard. Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications.

### Other

"Projection" and "Blended Space." 2010. Entries in *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the Language Sciences*. Ed. Patrick Colm Hogan. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press.

## Recent Invited Talks and Symposia

- Invited guest lecturer, Cognitive Poetics Symposium, University of Bayreuth, Germany. "What is a Reader? Thoughts on Addressees, Observers, Overhearers, and Side Participants." June 2017.
- Visiting Research Fellow in Cognition and Poetics, Universität Osnabrück, Germany. Blockseminar on "Elements of Surprise," December 2014.
- Invited speaker and panel discussant for workshop on "Can Cognitive Scientists Help Computers Recognize Irony?" 2014 Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (COGSCI 2014), Quebec City, Canada, July 2014.
- Keynote speaker for symposium Cognitive Science in the Arts and Humanities: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook NY, March 2014.
- Invited panel discussant, "Looking Forward," a forum about the future of cognitive linguistics. International Cognitive Linguistics Conference, Edmonton, Canada. June 2013.

## **Selected Presentations**

- “Experimental Investigations of Irony as a Viewpoint Phenomenon.” International Cognitive Linguistics Conference. Tartu, Estonia. July 2017.
- “The Artifacts Project” (with Todd Oakley). Introduction to co-organized theme session on Artifacts and Joint Attention. International Cognitive Linguistics Conference. Tartu, Estonia. July 2017.
- “Narrative Surprise and Your Lying Eyes.” Narrative 2017 Conference, Lexington, Kentucky. March 2017.
- “Triangles of Social Cognition, Suspense, and Viewpoint in Experimental Film.” Narrative 2016 Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands. June 2016.
- “Viewpoint and Sound Design in Film.” Thirteenth International Cognitive Linguistics Conference, Newcastle, UK. July 2015.
- “Viewpoint and the Pragmatics of Unstable Empathy” (with Michael Israel). Twelfth Conference on Conceptual Structure, Discourse, and Language. University of California, Santa Barbara. November 2014.
- “The Case of the Cursed Clue.” First Conference on Cognitive Futures in the Humanities. Durham University, UK. April 2014.
- “Old Unreliable: Character Narration, the Curse of Knowledge, and Elements of Surprise.” Department of English, CWRU. November 2013.
- “Grammar and Compression: Instructions for (Not) Unpacking a Blend.” International Cognitive Linguistics Conference. Edmonton, Canada. June 2013.
- “Shrinking Poems and Fickle Women” (with Todd Oakley). Conference on Cognition and Poetics, Osnabrück, Germany. April 2013.
- “Where Do Cognitive Biases Fit into Cognitive Linguistics? On Perspective Taking, Presuppositions, and the Curse of Knowledge.” Conceptual Structure, Discourse, and Language Conference 2012. University of British Columbia, Vancouver. May 2012.
- “Surprised at the Source: Unreliability, Cognitive Bias, and the Pleasures of Misdirection.” Culture and Mind Speaker Series. University of California, Santa Barbara. February 2012.
- “Revising Fictional Worlds: The Readerly Urge to Repair Narrative Gaps.” The 33rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Boston. July, 2011.
- “Old Reliable: Unreliable Narrators, the Curse of Knowledge, and Implausible Surprise.” Invited lecture. Stanford University. April, 2011.
- “Playing Fair in Fiction and Cognition.” Colloquium on Literature and Mind. University of California, Santa Barbara. October, 2010.
- “Rhetorical, Conceptual, and Grammatical Entrenchment with Expressions of Change.” Ninth Conference on Conceptual Structure, Discourse, and Language, Case Western Reserve University. October, 2008.
- “When the ‘Curse of Knowledge’ is a Blessing: Egocentric Biases and the Organization of Literary Discourse.” Tenth Conference of the International Cognitive Linguistics Association, Krakow, Poland. July, 2007.
- “Joint Attention in Reading Communities.” Eighth Conference on Conceptual Structure, Discourse, and Language, UC San Diego. November, 2006.

## University Service

Committee for Curriculum and Educational Programs, College of Arts and Sciences. Elected position.  
Member: September 2014-present. Chair: January 2016-August 2016.

SAGES Fellow Search Committee. 2014.

Department service, 2012-present:

- Member of committee for evaluating visiting scholar applications, 2012-present.
- Member of committee for evaluating applications to the MA in cognitive linguistics, 2013-present.
- Member of committee for drafting strategic plan, 2016-present.
- Department representative for drafting/developing learning outcomes and assessment plans for HLC accreditation process 2014-2015. Administrator of annual assessment survey, 2016-present.
- Undergraduate advising and recruitment.

## External Service

Monograph referee, Cambridge University Press and Bloomsbury Press.

Member, International Scientific Board, International Conference on Multimodal Communication. 2017.

Mentor, Google Summer of Code 2017: Red Hen Lab. <http://www.redhenlab.org/summer-of-code/summer-of-code-2017---ideas-page>

Member, Scientific Committee, Georgetown University Round Table on Languages and Linguistics, 2013.

Faculty, Summer School on Empirical Methods in Cognitive Science. Cleveland, OH. August 2012.

Article referee for journals including *PMLA*, *Cognitive Linguistics*; *Lege Artis*; *Text & Talk*; and *Review of Cognitive Linguistics*. 2012-present.

Organizer, Conference on Entrenchment and Plasticity. Santa Barbara, CA. April 2011.

Co-organizer, Ninth Annual Conference on Conceptual Structure, Discourse, and Language. Cleveland, OH. October 2008.

## Teaching Activities

1. Undergraduate teaching in cognitive science (CWRU), linguistics (CWRU), and English literature (UCSB). Courses taught at CWRU listed in attached document.
2. Graduate teaching of MA students in cognitive linguistics (CWRU). Courses listed in attached document.
3. Supervision (dissertations, theses, and projects):
  - a. PhD reader: 1 complete (at the University of West Virginia), 2 in progress at CWRU.
  - b. MA supervisor: 1 in progress.
  - c. MA reader: 2 in progress, 4 complete.
  - d. BA supervisor: 7 complete, 1 in progress.

## **Research Support**

1. W.P Jones Presidential Faculty Development Fund. Travel to Germany for research collaboration on project “Readers as (Co-)Observers.” \$3,934. Principal investigator. Funding period: April-December 2017. Funded.
2. National Endowment for the Humanities. Institute for Advanced Topics in Digital Humanities: “Talking to Big Data.” \$207,793. Principal investigator. Funding period: October 2016-September 2018. Not funded.
3. Institute for the Science of Origins donor campaign, to fund research assistance for “The Origin of Surprise.” \$5000. Principal investigator. Proposal submitted December 2014. Not funded.

## **Professional Associations**

Modern Language Association  
Linguistics Society of America  
International Pragmatics Association  
Poetics and Linguistics Association  
International Cognitive Linguistics Association