




Retirement Tributes  
Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
Yale University

*May 2020*

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## Seyla Benhabib

*Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy*

Seyla Benhabib, B.A. American College for Girls, Istanbul, and second B.A. Brandeis University, Ph.D. Yale University, faculty member at Yale since 2000: In 2004, you remarked in an interview, “I think most people who do philosophy ... have a certain central question, an existential question that accompanies them most of their lives. You write different works, you write different books, but I believe that you are basically asking the same question.”

Your question — “how to reconcile universalistic principles of human rights, autonomy, and freedom with our concrete particular identity as members of certain human communities divided by language, by ethnicity, by religion” — seems as capacious as it is profound. Whether in more philosophical works such as *Critique, Norm, and Utopia* and *Exile, Statelessness, and Migration*, or in concrete application to issues concerning migration, gender, and global justice as in *Another Cosmopolitanism*, your contributions have had a decisive impact on contemporary critical theory, legal theory, feminist theory, Jewish political thought, and the always-evolving jurisprudence of human rights.

Your own cosmopolitanism has informed your path. Born in Istanbul into a Sephardic Jewish community whose ancestors had left Spain for the Ottoman Empire in the fifteenth century, raised in the twentieth-century Turkish republic, you arrived first at Brandeis, then at Yale in the 1970s and then made your mark on other prestigious institutions as fellow, and faculty member, before returning to Yale at the start of the new millennium. Your work addresses issues of central importance in the United States, but it also elevates and edifies the voices of scholars around the world. Your contributions to global critical theory have earned

you accolades worldwide, including the Ernst Bloch Prize for contributions to cultural dialogue, the Leopold Lucas Prize of the Evangelical Academy of Tübingen, the Meister Eckhart Prize of the Identity Foundation and the University of Cologne, and honorary degrees from the Humanistic University in Utrecht, the University of Valencia, and Boğaziçi University in Istanbul.

In the course of your storied career, you have graciously lent your expertise and generosity to many students who have gone on to have remarkable careers of their own. You have supervised dissertations that span the canon of political theory from multiple perspectives. Students see you as a sharp, committed, critical reader who fights for the rights of young scholars to undertake ambitious research projects, especially those that challenge the demands of speed and marketability that the academic world seems increasingly to impose.

You are a strong, articulate presence at Yale as well as in the larger world, a founder of the Women Faculty Forum here, and a vigorous advocate in faculty deliberations about the University's direction. When you rise to speak, people know that they will hear powerfully argued and beautifully iterated views, and woe be to them if they dissent and cannot counter with equal suasion. As you retire from Yale, your proud alma mater thanks you for the distinction that you have brought to the study of political theory at Yale, to its practice as a vocation in the world, and for all of your exemplary contributions.

## Truman Bewley

*Alfred Cowles Professor of Economics*

Truman Bewley, B.A. Cornell University, Ph.D. University of California at Berkeley, faculty member at Yale since 1983: You have had a remarkable career, in which you made long-lived contributions both to your discipline and to your department.

You began your career as a mathematical economist, making fundamental advances in the existence of economic equilibria and decision-making under uncertainty. In an extraordinary series of papers, you invented what have come to be known as “Bewley models,” now routinely taught as part of core curricula in graduate, and even undergraduate, economics. These models demonstrate how to construct economic equilibria with heterogeneous consumers facing earnings risk in the labor market. They now underlie much of the modern economic research on income and wealth inequality.

Most economists would have spent the rest of their careers building on this pioneering work because it has so many real-world applications – and in fact many other economists influenced by you have indeed done so. You, however, are that rare academic who has truly followed the beat of his own drummer, courageously shifting gears in the middle of your career to study different important economic questions.

That about-face led you to study a central and ancient question in macroeconomics – how wages change during recessions – using a methodology completely different and radical, at least to economists: interviewing participants, both workers and employers, in the labor market. You undertook hundreds of such interviews over many years, which culminated in your influential book *Why Wages Don't Fall During a Recession*. The book argues convincingly that the morale of the labor force is a critical

factor in its success, one typically absent from standard economic models of recessions. In an ongoing years-long project, you are now using this same methodology to understand how prices in all kinds of markets are set, again interviewing hundreds of actual decision-makers.

At the same time that you have pursued pioneering research, you have earned an unparalleled record of running the department's Ph.D. program — one of the world's finest in no small part because of your wise and steadfast leadership. You have served as director of graduate studies for a remarkable quarter-century, ending your tenure only this year. During this time, through your quiet but firm leadership, the doctoral program in Economics at Yale has become one of the best in the world, attracting the most able students from all countries and routinely placing them at top positions in academia, government, and business. The hallmarks of the program are its high standards of excellence and its collegiality and fairness in training and nurturing students. Although we will deeply miss your unmatched wisdom in adapting to new challenges, the foundations you laid will allow the department to carry this venerable culture and tradition into the future.

The department of Economics considers you a gentleman and a scholar, Truman, irreplaceable, but with a legacy that will continue on and on.

## Thomas H. Brown

*Professor of Psychology, Professor of Cellular and Molecular Physiology*

Thomas H. Brown, B.A. San Jose State University, Ph.D. Stanford University, faculty member at Yale since 1988: You have made many fundamental contributions to the neuroscience of learning and memory, particularly through your many highly cited studies of synaptic plasticity. In a highly influential paper in the journal *Science*, you were the first to demonstrate that long-term potentiation, a form of synaptic plasticity in which a neuron's firing is enhanced as a consequence of prior strong activation, could be demonstrated in the sympathetic cervical ganglion, and thus not restricted to the hippocampus where it was first discovered. This core study established the ubiquity of synaptic learning mechanisms throughout the nervous system.

You later moved the field concerned with the cellular mechanisms of learning substantially forward by demonstrating that associative long-term potential, a mechanism by which weak synaptic inputs on one part of a neuron are strengthened by their temporal contiguity with strong synaptic inputs on another part of the neuron, can be demonstrated in an *in vitro* hippocampal slice preparation. You showed that long-term potentiation in an axial slice of hippocampus can be readily manipulated pharmacologically allowing you and scientists throughout the world to conduct a deep biochemical analysis of neuronal circuits critical for learning. You put scientific meat on the bones of Hebb's famous conjecture about "cells that fire together, wire together" — now a central tenet in computational deep learning — by elegantly describing its neurophysiological basis.

Your scientific research — resulting in more than 100 published articles — was generously funded through highly

competitive grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Office of Naval Research, the McKnight Foundation, and the State of Connecticut. You were recognized by the latter through your election to the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering.

You were a teacher with a varied range of interests. You taught generations of Yale undergraduates the fundamentals of neuroscience through your well-regarded courses in “Brain and Behavior,” and “Psychopharmacology.” You also taught insightful, and enduringly popular, seminars on the “Science of Free Will” and “The Psychobiology of Emotion and Reason.” You mentored many graduate students and post-doctoral fellows who went on to productive careers. You were an executive committee member of the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program at Yale, and the founding director of the Center for Theoretical and Applied Neuroscience. For your contributions to Psychology and to teaching and learning at Yale over thirty years, your colleagues thank you and wish you a happy and productive retirement.

## John F. Dovidio

*Carl Iver Hovland Professor of Psychology and  
Public Health*

John Dovidio, B.A. Dartmouth College, Ph.D. University of Delaware, faculty member at Yale since 2007: Your elegant research has illuminated the processes of mind that sustain and reproduce racial and other forms of inequality, despite the legal and cultural changes of the 1960s and 1970s. Indeed, your “aversive racism” framework outlines the ways in which prejudice continues to shape the decisions we make. Through this work, you’ve offered the world a sobering reminder that decidedly nonprejudiced people will, often unknowingly, continue to behave in discriminatory ways and will do so under circumstances that allow them to maintain an egalitarian self-image. Yet you have managed to communicate this inconvenient truth with empathy, inviting audiences to self-reflect and evaluate past decisions, equipping us to make better decisions going forward.

You are plausibly one of the most prolific, generative, and impactful scholars that social psychology has produced. This is not due solely to your astonishing publication record, but also to the influence you and your work have had on any number of professional domains and organizations. Your insights on the psychology of prejudice have changed how medical schools teach doctors to interact with patients across racial lines, how teachers do the same with students, how managers make hiring decisions, and have informed the National Academy of Sciences/Institute of Medicine as it attempts to grasp the many ways that race and racism undermine the health or well-being of American citizens. Your efforts to place yourself in the room where decisions are happening, all in the service of disrupting the everyday reproduction of societal disparities, are nothing short of extraordinary.

You embody the very best of social psychology, of social science more broadly, and certainly the promise and potential of engaged scholarship to solve society's biggest problems.

Not only has your research challenged the way the field and the world think about the roots of prejudice and discrimination, it has also revealed the power of social affiliations, "our ingroups," to shape human behavior, whether for altruistic and prosocial ends or in service of the very worst forms of intergroup violence. Most significantly, you have also demonstrated how to leverage the psychology of group affiliations to overcome our automatic prejudices and instead engender cooperation. Perhaps it is this research on the power of common ingroup identities that has inspired you to work so tirelessly to create strong communities at each of your previous institutions and certainly during your time here at Yale.

As influential as your work has been as a scholar, it is rivaled by your service as a mentor to generations of undergraduate and graduate students. Your guidance, attention, and wisdom have altered the trajectories of vast network of early-career social psychologists from underrepresented racial and ethnic minority backgrounds that extends far beyond your official trainees, and you have performed this vital service with neither compensation nor credit. In the last years, Yale has counted on you for the same contributions, as it seeks to adapt to the changing social landscape. For so many, and for so many years, in the world and at Yale, you have been a moral compass.

Social psychology at Yale has a rich, storied history. Names like Carl Hovland, Stanley Milgram, Irving Janis, Bob Abelson, and Bill McGuire come to mind. Yale is so fortunate to be able to add the name Jack Dovidio to this list and to this legacy.

## Edwin Duval

*Henri Peyre Professor of French*

Edwin Duval, B.A. Stanford University, Ph.D. Yale University, faculty member since 1987: You are a distinguished scholar of the long French Renaissance, an expert on the way Renaissance poetry and prose generate meaning. In addition to your other critical contributions, the advances you have brought to the studies of the towering sixteenth-century French writer and humanist François Rabelais places you among the pathbreaking critics of this period. In three successive books you have illuminated the meaning of Rabelais' *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, inviting close looks at the beginning and end of texts, clearing up long-held critical logjams in the prologue to *Gargantua*, illuminating the concentric circles of the third and fourth Rabelaisian books, demonstrating Rabelais's deep affinity with Montaigne, and, with customary philological precision, focusing on the contradictions inherent in interpreting and explicating so much challenging and difficult material.

As scholars, our job is to want the truth, to demand logic, and to get it right, even though the literature that we unpack may contain an antithetical wisdom. Your literary criticism is probity itself. As much as any other scholar we have known or have been privileged to have as a colleague, your work has embodied precision of thought and erudition. It is a model to remember whenever we are tempted to cut a scholarly corner or make a sloppy argument. You will continue to set a gold standard for your fellow humanists in the way they approach their own work.

Your devotion to research has not meant that you have neglected anything else. In your department you have done the trifecta: you were DUS, DGS, and Chair. Your gifts as a teacher were recognized when in 2015 you were awarded the Harwood



F. Byrnes/Richard B. Sewall Teaching Prize for undergraduate teaching in the humanities. Among your most important contributions to Yale College is your introduction to close reading and analysis of literary texts written in French, from DuBellay to Sartre, for current and former students of Directed Studies.

Academics share opinions more than most people, and more than most we ask rhetorical questions, secretly wanting rhetorical confirmation. Your integrity in such exchanges is rare and rock-solid. There's a particular kind of laugh when you agree with your colleague; followed by a recollected detail as proof. A sharp laugh (with a wrinkle) in cases of *polite* agreement; with a criticism the colleague will only discover if he or she asks. But then – and your students must have cherished this most – there's the I-don't-know: a moment that belongs to a whole mood of honest interrogation. The Socratic method is a game only one can play, but, with you, it's as if there are two questioners somewhere in the same person. This sense is familiar to anyone who has known and learned from you, a touchstone of your character, but also a definition of intelligence.

Besides literature, your other first love is music; you combine, in the highest possible degree, the traits of sensibility and discipline that characterize a gifted musician. In music, as in literature, your students at all levels have come to regard you with the mingled fear and devotion that properly belong to the maestro. As you retire, your admiring colleagues pay homage with a resounding *merci de tout coeur*.

## Phyllis Granoff

*Lex Hixon Professor of Religious Studies*

Phyllis Granoff, B.A. Radcliffe College, Ph.D. Harvard University, faculty member at Yale since 2004: You possess a once in a generation knowledge and understanding of classical Indian religions. Your stunning facility in twelve languages allows you to enter the imaginative worlds of classical Jain, Buddhist, and Hindu texts; the scholarship in modern languages that addresses them; and the contemporary worlds that continue to circulate and debate the meaning of these traditions. Language for you is a route into epistemology and particularity; language is the vehicle and the itinerary that enables perception of subtle philosophical debates and obscure medieval humor. Reading across traditions and genres, you masterfully think about confluences, composites, and competitions, arguing against the silo of single-tradition knowledge. Your insistently comparative work suggests that to think without thinking across cultural conversation is to be blind to the contingent interconnectedness of literature, philosophy, and art.

It seems you have addressed every major topic in the study of religion through your vast published writings. You have written about dying noble deaths, monastic rules, and the ordination of children; you have written about miracles, healing, sacred space, and pilgrimage; you have written about temples and temple cities, relations between poets and philosophers, ritual meaning and ritual eclecticism, and biographies of saints, kings, artisans, scholars, and warriors. You have written about attitudes toward language and the metaphor of god, the violence of nonviolence, and worship as commemoration. You developed a specialty in Indian art, offering your discerning attention to sculpture, painting, textiles, and more. Like your ability to read Jain drama alongside Buddhist doctrine alongside Hindu ritual manuals,

your capacity to analyze literary productions alongside fine art has produced textured, informed, and vivid work on Asian culture.

Despite being a passionate expositor of thinking about the ancient and the medieval, you are someone with a vivacious, life-affirming presence in the now. As a scholar, you have forged an international network of committed interlocutors. As a translator, you brought English twentieth-century Bengali stories to English readers, demonstrating a gift for vernacular expression equal to that of your classical linguistic work. Your monograph on a twelfth-century Sanskrit poet made you a scholarly star, but your editorial work on the *Journal of Indian Philosophy* made you the global arbiter for classical and modern Indian thought. You trained a group of devoted, brilliant students united against bromide and banality.

You bring mirth and practicality to any departmental conversations that drift into ambiguity and obtuseness. You are a legendary scholar with a gift for friendship; you are a reader of novels and an introvert who throws the best dinner parties. Even when you lose a particular battle, your thinking and scholarly being affect students and colleagues at Yale for the better. You remind us of the value of relationship, of deep and wide reading, and of sharing a long laugh at the absurdity of everyday life. We wish you a life of deepening creativity, kinship, and pleasure in the days to come.

## Inderpal Grewal

*Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies*

Inderpal Grewal, M.A. Punjab University, Ph.D. University of California at Berkeley, faculty member at Yale since 2009: You are a preeminent, exemplary scholar of movement. In your field-defining scholarship, you have shown how ideas, politics, power, knowledge, and artifacts of popular culture travel and transform across borders, genders, and social inequalities. Along the way, you invigorated the interdisciplinary fields of American Studies, South Asian Studies, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, encouraging us to think much more carefully and creatively about the transnational, the postcolonial, and the cultural ramifications of imperialism and empire. Your extraordinary work on security regimes, feminism, state power, nongovernmental organizations, and neoliberal retrenchment has energized generations of scholars in cultural studies and beyond. And you accomplished all this with your signature good humor, your inviting laugh, and your refreshing skepticism toward institutional operations.

In a fast decade, you built the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at Yale into a tour-de-force of research, teaching, and programing, in turn reshaping the intellectual life of the Yale community. The WGSS Program has not simply survived but has soared because of you, and has become a model for our Ivy League colleagues. By never taking "no" for an answer in a time of budgetary constraints, you oversaw the hiring of the many WGSS faculty who are now the backbone of our robust program. WGSS course offerings, course enrollments, and undergraduate majors exploded in number thanks to you and your leadership. The speaker series, symposia, workshops, and interdisciplinary gatherings you convened were prescient,

politically urgent, and profoundly appreciated by students, staff, and faculty across the university. Indeed, what you accomplished for WGSS at Yale mirrors what you accomplished for women's, gender and sexuality studies as an intellectual formation more broadly: expanding its horizons, transnationalizing its purview, keeping it real, relevant, and necessary for our challenging time.

You are an exemplary advisor and teacher. Your undergraduate and graduate students are grateful for your attentive mentorship and for your outstanding commitment to their education, their research, and their futures. You are demanding in the best way, counselling your advisees to read, research, and think more expansively, across fields of knowledge. You show your students how to explore “a messier world” (your resonant phrase) with intellectual rigor and luminous prose. Much of your teaching was collaborative, as you generously shared your authority with your graduate students and colleagues. You created community in every possible way.

In addition to all that we will miss about your intellect, your leadership, your mentorship and your friendship, we will also miss your inspiring, impeccable sartorial style, reminding us that nerds can look good too. And your colleagues and students will deeply miss your living room, which served as the social hub of WGSS and several other communities at Yale. Your celebrations and dinners – often generously co-hosted by Alfred and your daughters – were necessary breaks from the grind, evenings of joy that were especially assuring for newcomers.

We suspect you might be a Californian at heart, but we hope you will return to New Haven often. To learn and laugh with you is an unparalleled privilege.

## James Hepokoski

*Henry L. and Lucy G. Moses Professor of Music*

James Hepokoski, B.S. University of Minnesota at Duluth, Ph.D. Harvard University, faculty member at Yale since 1998: Your legendary lectures and penetrating prose have unlocked the grand tradition of classical music for generations of students and scholars. In studies of the great nineteenth- and twentieth-century composers from Verdi to Sibelius, Beethoven to Elgar, you have left no note unturned in your deeply humane exegetical work.

After “writing the book” on Verdi’s *Otello*, you did it again with *Falstaff*, and once more with Sibelius’s Fifth, but you were just getting started. The extraordinary book that occupied so much of your time and teaching at Yale, *Elements of Sonata Theory*, stands as one of the monumental accomplishments of American musicology. It spans the divide between musicology and music theory in characteristically Hepokoskian fashion, and forms a headwater of the burgeoning subdiscipline known as “New *Formenlehre*.” The *Elements* is stuffed with exciting new ideas, terms, and concepts that quickly became basic facts of the discipline. You and your coauthor Warren Darcy place nearly the entire standard repertory of classical music on stage, each symphony, concerto, and sonata set in dialogue with others, illuminating a centuries-long conversation among composers about how to turn raw time into drama through music alone. Though this conversation was wordless, written in the language of musical tonality, your inimitable rhetoric and ear for *le mot juste* has rendered it legible to all who would understand the secrets and powers of the sonata.

You have been endlessly generous with these linguistic gifts, carefully reading mountains of prose written by your colleagues and students and offering pointed, memorable, and constructive

critique. Attention from the “Prose Bear,” as you came to be known, benefited not only your fellow Yale citizens, but the authors and readers of *19th-Century Music*, a journal renowned for its high literary standards that thrived under your leadership from 1992 through 2005. Your interest in the craft of writing was matched by an insistence on methodological rigor and skepticism about ideology.

With a musical career that began in the trumpet section of the United States Air Force Band, you nurtured a lifelong interest in American music. Your deep knowledge of the collections at Yale was the basis for a graduate seminar on Charles Ives, Cole Porter, and the blues that trained several generations of students in the art of archival research and the delightful complexities of the early twentieth-century American musical landscape – not to mention the countless ribald lyric variations on “Anything Goes” tucked away in those acid-free boxes in the Gilmore Music Library.

Your students have recognized your teaching with the Sidonie Miskimin Clauss Prize (2010). Your discipline has recognized your scholarship with the Wallace Berry Award (2008). And your colleagues have recognized your service by asking you to cap your Yale career with two terms at the helm as department chair. You showed the world how Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven created a language of forms and deformations that became a platform for a century’s worth of masterworks. While you have returned to the homeland, as all Minnesotans must, you created a formidable template for musical scholarship at Yale with which your colleagues will be in dialogue for many years to come.

## Marianne LaFrance

*Professor of Psychology and of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies*

Marianne LaFrance, B.A. University of Windsor, Canada, Ph.D. Boston University, faculty member at Yale since 1998: You are an international leader in the psychology of gender and a pioneer in the study of nonverbal communication. Your research has illuminated how nonverbal communication can reflect and reinforce social and structural differences in power, particularly between women and men. Your scholarship is theoretically sophisticated and empirically rigorous, and you communicate it in a way that is not only informative to researchers in psychology but also accessible to interdisciplinary and general audiences.

As a scholar, you have a unique talent for identifying how seemingly small behaviors have significant implications. You see the relationship between a particular behavior – a direct look or averted gaze, a shift in posture, a smile – and its broader impact. You remind us that there is no such thing as “not behaving”: even inaction has consequences. You have demonstrated that nonverbal behaviors, social interactive responses and expressions in language communicate and perpetuate power relations between individuals and groups. You have consistently directed the field to be more theoretically inclusive, studying and incorporating the perspectives of those outside the center of power in order to more fully understand human social behavior.

You are widely admired for your transformative contributions to the study of gender throughout your career. One of your most highly cited papers goes beyond definitively documenting that women smile more than men to explain when and why these differences occur. Characteristic of your attention to detail, you subsequently made foundational contributions in showing how

micro-expressions, such as systematic differences in the form and duration of a smile, convey important social information, particularly with respect to gender relations. Your deep commitment to the social significance of research is reflected in how you regularly translate your scientific findings to books for broad audiences, exemplified by your recent book, *Lip Service: Smiles in Life, Death, Trust, Lies, Work, Memory, Sex, and Politics*.

All bias is not subtle, however. Your research on sexual harassment is classic in the field of social psychology. Understanding how women respond to experiences of sexual harassment—and when and why they do not—is clearly a timely issue with implications for psychology, gender studies, the general public, law and policy, and public discourse. Your scholarly interests have continually evolved: in a recent series of experiments you studied perceptions of and bias toward sexual minorities and transgender individuals. This is cutting-edge scholarship that expands the scope of work within the fields of psychology and gender studies.

The attention that you give to detail in the service of scholarship is also evident in your contributions as a teacher, mentor, and colleague. You hold your undergraduate and graduate students to high standards, and you engage and inspire them to meet or exceed those standards. Your colleagues in psychology, gender studies, and other communities within and beyond the university value you for your deep commitment to profession. Your openness and directness, coupled with your good humor, encouragement, and generosity, keep us on the course to excellence.

The world's expert on smiles, you have a wonderful one yourself, full of the warmth and twinkle that makes you a highly regarded teacher, colleague, and friend. Partisan of Canada, land of your birth, world traveler, art collector, oenophile, and gourmande, in retirement we hope you look forward to continuing to apply the same high standards to travel, art, wine and restaurants that you always do to scholarship and your profession.

## Peter Phillips

*Sterling Professor of Economics and Professor of Statistics*

Peter Phillips, B.A. University of Auckland, Ph.D. London School of Economics and Political Science, faculty member at Yale since 1979: You are one of the world's most distinguished econometricians, known for your extraordinary clarity of mind and intellectual power.

Your research contributions span the field of econometrics. A prolific scholar with more than 250 publications, your theoretical work has elevated the quality of applied research in economics, finance, and more widely in the social sciences. Major fields have emerged from your work in such areas as stationary and nonstationary time series and panel data, unit roots and cointegration, spurious regression, and partially identified models.

Your contributions have been practical as well as theoretical: central banks use the powerful methods you have developed for detecting bubbles in asset prices in real-time. Your current research on random coefficient models of panel data, machine learning, and econometric modeling of climate change, makes clear that your significant contributions will not end with retirement.

Attracted to Yale in part by the devotion and love for their discipline of three legendary Yale economists—Koopmans, Orcutt, and Tobin—you have shown that you share that devotion and love and, like them, have become legendary in passing it on to others. To date over ninety Ph.D. students have benefited from your superb mentorship, attentiveness, and collaborative instincts and are now prominent economists around the world.

Your influence is wide in journalism and in education: You are the founding editor of the Cambridge journal *Econometric Theory* and of the Cambridge advanced textbook series *Themes*

*in Modern Econometrics*. A corresponding fellow of the British Academy, the recipient of honorary degrees and many awards, you also hold appointments in Singapore and at the University of Southampton. Although a worldwide traveler, you have now returned to your home country of New Zealand, where you have long held a visiting position at your alma mater, the University of Auckland, and where your family resides.

Brilliant economist and devoted Kiwi; your colleagues hope that, although you are far away, you retain warm feeling for your second home in New Haven, where you have made outstanding contributions and where we hope to see you again often.

## Sandra Sanneh

*Senior Lecturer II, African Languages*

Sandra Sanneh, B.A. University of the Witwatersrand, M.A. Yale University, faculty member at Yale since 1989: You are the Queen of African Languages at Yale. There is no doubt that without your commitment, devotion, hard labor, and creativity over many years, the study of African Languages at Yale would not exist in the way it now does.

You yourself have taught Zulu – beginning, intermediate, and advanced – to Yale graduates presently all over the world. Besides your dedicated classroom work, you have developed digital teaching materials, created language programs for health-care professionals, enhanced resource materials, and taken part in countless conferences – all in support of a language with 12 million native South African speakers.

But there is so much more. For while your own teaching has been in Zulu, you have been a central support for the teaching of all African languages over many years. As director of the Yale African Language Initiative for six years, and an inveterate member of the Council on African Studies, you have fostered all language learning and study of Africa. Since its early days, you were involved in the inter-institutional Summer Cooperative African Language program, which hired instructors to teach eleven courses in eight African languages. When that dissolved in 2011, your development of a module-based program of online distance learning courses in African languages responded to the need for new and adaptive ways of teaching and learning language. In 2012, you were among the first instructors to join the Shared Course Initiative, sharing your Zulu courses via videoconferencing with students at Columbia and Cornell. And you were active on the national level, coordinating a working

group for Southern African languages that meets each spring, and co-organizing the consortium which brings together African language program directors, coordinators, and instructors from universities throughout the Northeastern U.S. for two meetings each year.

And then there is your role as a devoted campus citizen. As an experienced, thoughtful, and highly respected adviser, counselor, and wise elder in Yale's language community, you have been invaluable over the years in multiple administrative roles: You helped select applications from students who wished to undertake directed independent study of languages not currently offered as courses. You were the executive secretary to the Faculty Advisory Committee on Foreign Languages and served on the Language Study Committee for many years. And you were always willing to do even more, taking the helm as acting master of Silliman College for a year in the nineties when the college was in need of interim leadership.

You have just returned from Ghana, where an institute was dedicated in the name of your late husband, Lamin Sanneh, scholar of Islam and Christianity and D. Willis James Professor of Missions and World Christianity at the Yale Divinity School. You and Lamin, each with your own special gifts, enhanced the climate of learning around Africa at Yale for three decades. As you retire to spend more time with your accomplished children and your grandchildren, the Yale community asks: how will we do without you?

## Ronald B. Smith

*Damon Wells Professor of Geology and Geophysics*

Ronald Smith, BAE, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University, you are a titan in the field of dynamic meteorology. You are also one of the grand figures in science at Yale where, upon your retirement this June, you will have been a professor for forty-four years.

Your scientific career has centered on the problem of how mountains influence the winds that attempt to flow above and around them. How does a high topography influence the pattern of rainfall in the surrounding lands? What are the dynamics of uplift, condensation, and precipitation? Many of your field projects addressed these questions in far-flung locations: Mount Blanc in the French Alps, St. Vincent and Dominica in the Lesser Antilles, the Sierra Nevada, and New Zealand. Your own certification as a pilot aided these studies, and they form the sustaining vortex of your contributions to atmospheric science.

A number of other research topics have spun out from your central interests. As a young professor, you made major contributions to the nonlinear theory of rock deformation. In mid-career you pioneered the use of stable-isotope geochemistry in meteorological research, and made important contributions in the applications of satellite remote-sensing data. Your imagination bridged mathematical theory and field measurements, fueling interdisciplinary collaboration. You founded the Center for Earth Observation at Yale, collaborating with other Yale Faculty of Arts and Science departments, Yale's Institute for Biospheric Studies, and the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.

At last count you had 117 publications listed in the Web of Science, and have served as Lead or Mission Scientist on numerous meteorological field projects. As a long-standing Fellow of

the American Meteorological Society, you have been honored with the Society's Mountain Meteorology Award and their Jules Charney Award.

Not only a great researcher, you have been a lynchpin of Yale's teaching in environmental and climate science, mentoring dozens of developing researchers in meteorology – graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and undergraduates alike – many of them now distinguished in their fields. For as long as anyone can remember, you have taught the course on atmospheres, ocean and climate – an erstwhile favorite of the Yale sailing team – which now serves as a core-course in Yale's interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Major. You also originated the course “Observing Earth From Space,” exposing all levels of students to hands-on use of remote-sensing data. More lately you have taught courses in sustainable energy and wind power in support of Yale's Energy Studies certificate program.

In 2012, in honor of your skills as a teacher, Yale College awarded you the Harwood F. Byrnes/Richard B. Sewall Teaching Prize for the teacher who “has given the most time, energy and effective effort” to educating undergraduates, bringing honor to yourself and pride to the department. As you retire, your colleagues cheer that you will have more time to yourself, but know they will be scrambling to fill your shoes for a long time to come.

## Robert R. Wilson

*Hooper Professor of Religious Studies, Professor of Old Testament, Yale Divinity School*

Robert Wilson, A.B. Transylvania University, B.D. Yale University Divinity School, Ph.D. Yale University, faculty member at Yale since 1972: Your work is the foundation of modern biblical studies, compelling us to read Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel for what they tell us about the sociology of ancient Israel. The genealogies are passages of the Bible that readers often skip, but you saw in those lengthy lists anthropological information requisite to understanding Israelite history. Whereas scholars previously saw the Hebrew Bible as a work of literature, history, doctrine, or theology, you helped us see it as a work of and for the social sciences. With your landmark book *Prophecy and Society in Ancient Israel*, you provided a model for the application of modern comparative methods to the study of religion and society in ancient Israel that generations will cite. Whether thinking about the hardening of Pharaoh's heart or Israel's judicial system in the preexilic period, whether thinking about the problem of false prophecy or the meaning of creation imagery, your scholarship is unafraid to ask new questions and answer with new tools.

You are never just about yourself. You also served your intellectual and curricular communities, providing – as former president Richard Levin observed – “wise, principled, and practical” counsel on institutional matters big and small. You are a veritable encyclopedia on the history of biblical scholarship, authoring overviews of scholarly trends with generosity, ease, and an enthusiasm for the newest research. You served on the Council of the Society of Biblical Literature, and as associate dean of academic affairs in the Divinity School. As chair of the



Department of Religious Studies, you argued that the department embrace new methodologies and new subject areas, and as a director of graduate studies you were an abiding supporter of individual students as they struggled through their dissertations. You moved with grace between a Christian divinity school and the secular study of religion, attracting in both contexts students who recorded the memorable one-liners from your lectures on apocalypticism, Old Testament interpretation, and the Ancient Near East. Among the loudest compliments in your student evaluations are remarks upon, and proofs of, your deadpan wit.

A lifelong music lover and an orchestral-level master of the timpani, you bring to every situation deep kindness and demonstrated even-handed reason in difficult matters. As you settle down to a harmonious retirement, we hope you have many happy adventures and good summer days at Tanglewood ahead.

*The faculty lost a number of distinguished emeriti this year: Harold Bloom, Marie Borroff, Michael Coe, David Brion Davis, Stanley Insler, Brian Skinner, and George Veronis. All of them received tributes from the faculty on their retirement, with the exception of Harold Bloom, who did not retire before he died and is recognized here.*

## Harold Bloom

*Sterling Professor of the Humanities*

Harold Bloom, B.A. Cornell University, Ph.D. Yale, faculty member at Yale since 1951: The presence of an obituary note on the front page of the *New York Times* after his death is appropriate indication of Harold Bloom's place in American literary criticism during the second part of the twentieth century. Widely published, influential, opinionated, controversial, he was by far the most recognized literary critic of his day. He was born on the Lower East Side of New York to immigrant parents. His father was a garment worker, his first language was Yiddish, and he spoke no English until he was six. At the local library where his sisters took him, he became mesmerized by the poems of Hart Crane and William Blake, and from that moment on poetry and poets became his life. A less than mediocre student in high school, his guidance counselor directed him to teacher's college, but a surprise first place in the aggregated subjects of the New York Regent examinations won him a scholarship to Cornell instead, and offered him the mentorship of the critic M. H. Abrams, the brilliant, kind, genial spirit who recognized his genius and helped him on.

Bloom's originality was four-fold: First, at a moment when Romantic poets were out of fashion, devalued by the formalism of T. S. Eliot and the New Critics, he championed the Romantics through his pathbreaking books on Shelley and Blake and his more comprehensive book, *The Visionary Company*. In

the seventies, in a book that galvanized the critical world, *The Anxiety of Influence*, he theorized that all literary texts incorporate the influence of the past and are a response to works that have preceded them. In his middle career, his fame and influence elevated and made reputations: by highlighting such poets as Whitman, Emerson, and Crane, and bringing to the eye of his students the poetry of Wallace Stevens and Elizabeth Bishop, he helped win for them greater attention in the Academy, the literary world, and a much larger public. Finally, in his later years, in an age dominated by theory and by new forms of criticism, he stood fast for Shakespeare, for the poets he valued, and for the pleasures of reading and the worlds it opened.

Whatever his accomplishments as a critic, Bloom always insisted that above all he was a teacher – and year after year he taught seminars to scores of undergraduates and auditors who learned from him, loved him, remembered him, visited him, and carried his literary values and tastes with them into the wider world. His fierce views could make him challenging as a colleague – hence his special title as Sterling Professor of the Humanities and his place in a department of one – but he loved Yale, his students and faculty friends, and the world of poetry he inhabited within it. He insisted he would teach until the end, and he did; he held his last class four days before he died.

At his passing the Yale faculty honors a colossus of poetry, who bestrode its world with fiery intensity. Exuberantly knowledgeable, champion of reading, grand explicator of a canon of which he was the zealous expositor, foe to isms, stubborn guardian of aesthetic and cognitive standards, he stood fast for the sublimity that literature and the act of reading offer.

Yale