

PETER O'LEARY  
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*curriculum vitae*

**CURRENT PROJECTS**

*Metamorphoses of Gloom* (poetry); *All Is Oz: Ronald Johnson's Poetry* (literary study); *Thick & Dazzling Darkness: Reading & Writing Religious Poetry* (literary study); *Divine Hymns to Eros* of St. Symeon the New Theologian (translations)

**EDUCATION**

**1999** PH.D., THE DIVINITY SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.  
*Concentration: Religion & Literature.* **1994** MASTER OF ARTS IN DIVINITY, THE DIVINITY SCHOOL,  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO **1990** BACHELOR OF ARTS, THE COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

**TEACHING**

**2000-present**

ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO, LIBERAL ARTS & BFA/WRITING PROGRAMS. Courses: The Truth and Life of Myth; Four Western Myths; The Problem of Evil; Imagining God; American Transcendentalism; Black Mountain Poetry; Islam; Buddha, Jesus, Muhammad; Science-Fiction and Religion; Mythic Depths; Christianity; Repetition; Wizards; the Spiritual Classic; Lit Survey II: Make It New; Paradise Re-made; Prometheus/Faustus; the Poet-Critic; Introduction to the Study of Religion; Blake; the Long Poem; the Divine Comedy.

**AWARDS/DISTINCTIONS**

**2011** Artist's residency, Krems, Austria; **2008** Grainger Faculty Grant, Art Institute. **2007**, Artist's grant, Illinois Arts Council, for poetry. **2006**, nominated for a Pushcart Prize; Faculty Enrichment Grant, Art Institute; **2005**, nominated for a Pushcart Prize; Faculty Enrichment Grant, Art Institute; Contemporary Poetry Series winner for the University of Georgia Press competition; **2003**, nominated for Pushcart Prize; Faculty Enrichment Grant, Art Institute; **2002**, recipient, Best American Poetry of 2002, for Ronald Johnson; nominated for Pushcart Prize; **2001**, Recipient, Fund for Poetry Grant, for *LVNG*; nominated for Pushcart Prize; **1998-1999**, Junior Fellow, Martin Marty Center for the Study of Religions, Divinity School; **1997**, awarded Distinction, Divinity School qualifying exams; **1996**, Brauer Seminar Fellow; **1991**, Artist's grant, Illinois Arts Council, for poetry.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

**POETRY**

*The Phosphorescence of Thought*. The Cultural Society, 2013.  
*Luminous Epinoia*. The Cultural Society, 2010.  
*Wren / Omen*. Albion Books, 2009. (Chapbook.)  
*Benedicite*. Answer Tag Home Press, 2009. (Chapbook.)  
*Depth Theology*. University of Georgia Press, 2006.

*A Mystical Theology of the Limbic Fissure*. Dos Madres, 2005. (Chapbook.)  
*Watchfulness*. Spuyten Duyvil, 2001.

CRITICISM

*Gnostic Contagion: Robert Duncan & the Poetry of Illness*. Wesleyan U. Press, 2002.

**Articles/Essays/Poetics**  
ARTICLE=JURIED; ESSAY=SOLICITED

**2007-2011**

- “On Duncan’s *H.D. Book*,” *Chicago Review* (Essay; forthcoming.)  
“Blake,” *Wild Orchids* (Essay; forthcoming.)  
“Talking Cosmos: Deriving Robert Duncan; Influencing Ronald Johnson,” *Reading Duncan Reading*, edited by Stephen Collis & Graham Lyons. (Article; forthcoming.)  
“Robert Duncan’s Celestial Hierarchy,” *Duncan’s Late Poetry*, edited by James Maynard. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. (Article; forthcoming.)  
“Apocalypticism: A Way Forward in Poetry,” *Chicago Review* 55:3-4. (Essay.)  
“It Looks Curious: Oppen & Whitman,” *American Poet* 37 (Fall 2009). (Essay.)  
“Conversation on the Psalms,” with Alicia Ostriker, Poetry Foundation website ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)). (Essay.)  
“With the Oldest Seraphim of Knowledge,” *Crayon* 6. (Essay.)  
“Gilding the Buddha: My Apprenticeship with Ronald Johnson,” *Ronald Johnson: Life & Work*, edited by Eric M. Selinger & Joel Bettridge. Orono, ME: National Poetry Foundation, 2008. (Memoir.)  
“The Energies of Words,” on *Poetry Magazine* February 1931 ‘Objectivists’ Issue,” Poetry Foundation website ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)). (Essay.)  
“What Lies Beneath My Copy of Eternity? Religious Language in the Poetry of Lissa Wolsak,” *The Gig Anthology of Canadian Experimental Women’s Poetry* (Toronto: The Gig Press, 2008). (Essay.)  
“Robert Duncan, Reading Guide: ‘Often I Am Permitted to Return to a Meadow,’” Poetry Foundation website ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)). (Essay.)  
“The Chops of Hell: W.S. Di Piero’s *Chinese Apples: Selected Poems*,” *Poetry* (November 2007). (Review essay.)

**Ronald Johnson Publications**

- editor, *ARK*. Corrected text. Chicago: Flood Editions, 2011.  
editor, *Collected Later Poetry*. Chicago: Flood Editions, 2013.  
“The Book of Adam,” *Chicago Review*, 2007 (with afterword).  
“KNITTING: Collected Poems of X. Lax, 1906-1966,” *jubilat* 12 (with introduction), 2006.  
*Radi os*. Chicago: Flood Editions, 2005.  
“across dark stream,” *Best American Poetry 2002*, eds. Robert Creeley and David Lehman. New York: Scribners, 2003.  
editor, *The Shrubberies*. Johnson’s last poems. Chicago: Flood Editions, 2001.  
editor, *To Do As Adam Did: Selected Poems of Ronald Johnson*, with an introduction. Jersey City, NJ: Talisman House, 2000.  
editor, “The Shrubberies” and “Notebook entries,” by Ronald Johnson, *Fracture* 1 (2000).  
editor, “The Shrubberies,” by Ronald Johnson, *Hambone* 15 (Fall 2000).  
editor, “The Shrubberies,” by Ronald Johnson, *First Intensity* 15 (Fall 2000).

**Poetry**

## 2008-2011

- “The Phosphorescence of Thought,” *Talisman* 38/39/40.  
“The Phosphorescence of Thought,” *The Cultural Society* 03.17.10.  
“{O.Eu.H},” *The &NOW Awards: The Best Innovative Writing*, edited by Steve Tomasula, Robert Archambeau, and Davis Schneiderman (Lake Forest College Press, 2009).  
“The Phosphorescence of Thought,” *Hambone* 19 (Fall 2009).  
“The Phosphorescence of Thought,” *American Poet* 37 (Fall 2009).  
“Splayed in the Nave,” *The Cultural Society* 10.28.09.  
“The Phosphorescence of Thought,” *Golden Handcuffs Review* 11 (Spring-Summer 2009).  
“The Phosphorescence of Thought,” [2 selections] *Marsh Hawk Review* 1.  
“The Phosphorescence of Thought: selections,” *Mantis* 7.  
“The Phosphorescence of Thought,” *The Cultural Society* 06.27.08.  
“The Phosphorescence of Thought,” *The Cultural Society* 02.19.08.

## Reviews

### 2009-2010

Gustaf Sobin, *The Collected Poems*, *The Cultural Society* (forthcoming); Karl Gartung, *Now That Memory Has Become So Important*, *The Cultural Society* 10.28.09; Gabriel Gudding, *Rhode Island Notebook*, *The Cultural Society* 01.19.09.

## CONFERENCES & READINGS

### 2011

Poetry reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore, Iowa City, March 4; “Possession and Commentary in Michael Heller’s Poetry,” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, February 24; Poetry reading, with Brian Teare, Poetry Flash, Oakland, CA, February 20; Poetry reading, with Suzanne Buffam, University of Chicago, January 18.

### 2010

Poetry reading, with Nathanaël, Danny’s Tavern, December 15; Poetry reading, with Nick Demske, Racine Public Library, December 11; Poetry reading, with John Tipton, Copper-Colored Mountain Arts Center, Ann Arbor, MI, October 15; “Olson and Synchronicity,” Charles Olson Centenary Conference, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, June 4-6; “The Truth and Life of Myth: A Robert Duncan Symposium,” conference organizer, for the Chicago Poetry Project, at SAIC, April 22-24; poetry reading, with Thomas Meyer, Observable Series, Schlafly Bottle Works, St. Louis, February 4.

## ACTIVITIES

CO-ORGANIZER, “*The Truth and Life of Myth: A Robert Duncan Symposium*,” APRIL 2010

Duties: inviting presenters, organizing presentations and readings, co-ordinating plans for a major literary conference and symposium.

ADVISORY EDITOR, *The Cultural Society* (WWW.CULTURALSOCIETY.ORG), 2001-PRESENT

Duties: soliciting work to appear on the monthly updated website, as well as work for the print publications of the Society.