

# INTERCOUNTRY LECTURESHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

For Professors and Journalists

NAME: Laura Christine Otis

GRANT PERIOD: Sept. 15, 2010-Feb. 15, 2011

EMAIL ADDRESS: lotis@emory.edu

BORN: Oct. 8, 1961

PRESENT POSITION US: Professor of English, Emory University

LANGUAGES: English, German, Spanish, French

GERMAN HOST INSTITUTION: Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

<http://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/en/index.html>

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE: English Literature

AREAS OF RESEARCH: Visual and Verbal Thinking, Literature and Science, History of Neuroscience, 19<sup>th</sup>-Century European Literature

POSSIBLE LECTURE TOPICS:

“Thinking with Images, Thinking with Words”

“The Science of Professor Higgins and Dr. Moreau”

“The Science Fiction of Santiago Ramón y Cajal”

ACADEMIC TRAINING AND DEGREES:

PhD, Comparative Literature, Cornell University, 1991

MA, Comparative Literature, Cornell University, 1989

MA, Neuroscience, University of California, San Francisco, 1988

BS, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, Yale University, 1983

PREVIOUS POSITIONS:

Professor of English, Hofstra University, 2002-2003

Associate Professor of English, Hofstra University, 1997-2002

Assistant Professor of English, Hofstra University, 1993-1997

Preceptor, Harvard University, 1991-1993

PUBLICATIONS (selected):

**Academic Books**

*Muller's Lab*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

*Networking: Communicating with Bodies and Machines in the Nineteenth Century*, Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2001.

*Membranes: Metaphors of Invasion in Nineteenth-Century Literature, Science, and Politics*, Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999.

*Organic Memory: History and the Body in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries*, Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1994.

**Translation**

Santiago Ramón y Cajal, *Vacation Stories: Five Science Fiction Tales*, Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2001.

**Edited Book**

*Literature and Science in the Nineteenth Century: An Anthology*, Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2002

**Recent Articles**

“Monkey in the Mirror: The Science of Professor Higgins and Doctor Moreau,”  
*Twentieth-Century Literature*, special issue on Charles Darwin, forthcoming  
2010.

“Science Surveys and Histories of Literature: Reflections on an Uneasy Kinship,” *Isis*,  
forthcoming, 2010.

“Minimizing Narrative: Knowledge without Stories; Stories without Knowledge,”  
*Texte: Revue de Critique et de Théorie Littéraire* 43-44 (2009): 193-210.

- “Going with Your Gut: Some Thoughts on Language and the Body,” *The Lancet* 372 (2008): 798-99.
- “What’s an Archive? A Literary Scholar’s View of the History of Science,” *History of Science Newsletter* 36.4 (2007): 6.
- “Creating an Anthology of Nineteenth-Century Literature and Science,” *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews* 28.3 (2003): 157-160.
- "The Metaphoric Circuit: Organic and Technological Communication in the Nineteenth Century," *Journal of the History of Ideas* 63 (2002): 105-128.
- "Ramón y Cajal: A Pioneer of Science Fiction," *International Microbiology* 4 (2001): 175-78.
- "The Other End of the Wire: Uncertainties of Organic and Telegraphic Communication," *Configurations* 9 (2001): 181-206.
- “Signs of Life: Communication in *El Amor en los Tiempos del Cólera*,” *Revista de estudios hispánicos* 34 (2000) 261-87.