



STANFORD UNIVERSITY  
DIVISION OF LITERATURES, CULTURES, AND LANGUAGES

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## PEOPLE



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### Focal Groups:

User is not a member of any group.

### Research Groups:

User is not a member of any group.

### Affinity links:

problems of comparative method  
philosophy of religion  
novel theory  
history of the novel  
democratic subjectivity  
Dostoevsky

Faculty by Courtesy    Slavic Languages and Literatures

## Nancy Ruttenburg

Professor of English and, by courtesy, Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Comparative Literature

Director, Stanford Center for the Study of the Novel

Nancy Ruttenburg is the William Robertson Coe Professor of American Literature in the English Department at Stanford. She also holds courtesy appointments in the Department of Comparative Literature and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. She received the PhD in Comparative Literature from Stanford (1988) and taught at Harvard, Berkeley, and most recently at NYU, where she was chair of the Department of Comparative Literature from 2002-2008.

Her research interests lie at the intersection of political, religious, and literary expression in colonial through antebellum America and nineteenth-century Russia, with a particular focus on the development of liberal and non-liberal forms of democratic subjectivity. Related interests include history of the novel theory, and the global novel; philosophy of religion and ethics; and problems of comparative method, especially as they pertain to North American literature and history.

Prof. Ruttenburg is the author of *Democratic Personality: Popular Voice and the Trial of American Authorship* (Stanford UP, 1998) and *Dostoevsky's Democracy* (Princeton UP, 2008), and she has recently written on the work of J. M. Coetzee and on Melville's "Bartleby." Books in progress include a study of secularization in the postrevolutionary United States arising out of the naturalization of "conscience" as inalienable right, entitled *Conscience, Rights, and 'The Delirium of Democracy'*; and a comparative work entitled *Dostoevsky And* for which the Russian writer serves as a lens on the historical development of a set of intercalated themes in the literature of American modernity. These encompass self-making and self-loss (beginning with Frederick Douglass's serial autobiographies); sentimentalism and sadism (in abolitionist fiction); crime and masculinity (including Mailer's *The Executioner's Song*); and the intersection of race, religious fundamentalism, and radical politics (focusing on the works of James Baldwin and Marilynne Robinson). Her courses will draw from both these projects.

Prof. Ruttenburg is past president of the Charles Brockden Brown Society and has been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Humanities Center Fellowship, a University of California President's Research Fellowship, as well as fellowships from the Social Science Research Council for Russian and East European Studies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council for Learned Societies.

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, Stanford University, 1988

B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz, 1980

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## COURSES

COMPLIT 183 **Self-Impersonation: Fiction, Autobiography, Memoir (ENGLISH 183E)**

*Winter 2017-18*

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## PUBLICATIONS

Ruttenburg, Nancy. "The Human Document." *Journal of Literary Studies* 25 (2009): 51.

Ruttenburg, Nancy. *Dostoevsky's democracy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008.

Ruttenburg, Nancy. "Dostoevsky's Estrangement." *Poetics Today* 26 (2005): 719-751.

Ruttenburg, Nancy. *Democratic personality : popular voice and the trial of American authorship*. Stanford Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1998.

Ruttenburg, Nancy. "Melville's Handsome Sailor: The Anxiety of Innocence." *American Literature* 66 (1994): 83-103.

Ruttenburg, Nancy. "George Whitefield, Spectacular Conversion, and the Rise of Democratic Personality." *American Literary History* 5 (1993): 429-458.

Ruttenburg, Nancy. "Silence and Servitude: Bondage and Self-invention in Russia and America, 1780-1861; Bookishness and Literacy." *Slavic Review* 51 (1992): 731-748.