

**Stephen Clingman** is Distinguished University Professor Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He was Chair of the English Department from 1994-2000, and was founding Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Institute (and its earlier incarnation, the Interdisciplinary Seminar in the Humanities and Fine Arts) from 2001-2017. At the University of Massachusetts, Stephen was awarded the Chancellor's Medal, the highest honor given to faculty by the campus. Stephen was born and grew up in South Africa where he studied as an undergraduate at the University of the Witwatersrand; he received his doctorate from the University of Oxford. He has held fellowships at a variety of institutions internationally, including Yale University, Cornell University, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study.

Stephen's literary critical work includes a book on the South African writer and Nobel Prize winner, Nadine Gordimer (called 'the best study' on the subject on the Nobel website), as well as an edited volume of Gordimer's literary and political essays titled *The Essential Gesture: Writing, Politics and Places*, which was translated into a number of languages. His book, *Bram Fischer: Afrikaner Revolutionary*, a biography of the lawyer and political figure who led Nelson Mandela's defense at the Rivonia Trial, was co-winner of the *Sunday Times* Alan Paton Award, South Africa's premier prize for non-fiction. Stephen has presented two Bram Fischer Memorial Lectures, one at the University of Oxford, and one at the University of the Free State. He has also published *The Grammar of Identity: Transnational Fiction and the Nature of the Boundary*, and *Birthmark*, a memoir/autofiction. More recently, Stephen was commissioned to write the text of *William Kentridge*, the catalogue for the South African artist's 2022 exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London—the most substantial exhibition to date of Kentridge's work in the UK. In 2024 the exhibition moved to the Taipei Fine Arts Museum in Taiwan, where the catalogue has also been translated and published, and where Stephen presented the opening keynote lecture. A new book on Kentridge, provisionally titled *Milestones*, is forthcoming from Skira Editore in 2025. In addition, Stephen has written on a range of topics across the disciplines, with articles and chapters on South African literature (Nadine Gordimer, J.M. Coetzee, Njabulo Ndebele), transnational fiction (Caryl Phillips, W.G. Sebald, Salman Rushdie, Jenny Erpenbeck), as well as on refugees, fugitive narrative, dwelling, hospitality, and 'Trump the Antisemantic'.