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EDUCATION

PhD University of Virginia, 1996—English Literature
MA University of Virginia, 1992—English Literature
BA Oberlin College, 1984—English; Women's Studies

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Macalester College Department of English

Chair, January 2008 to May 2010
Associate Professor of English, Fall 2006-present
Assistant Professor of English, Fall 2003-Spring 2006

Bowie State University Department of English and Modern Languages

Assistant Professor of African American and American Literature, Fall 1999 to Spring 2003

Brandeis University Department of African and Afro-American Studies

Lecturer in Caribbean Literature, Spring 1999

Brown University Department of English

Visiting Assistant Professor of African American Literature, Fall 1996 to Spring 1998

PUBLICATIONS

Submitted

Political Fictions: Time and Justice in African American Literature. Under advance contract with The University of North Carolina Press. Book manuscript completed and submitted, October 2010.

Forthcoming

"The Harlem Renaissance." *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century American Fiction*. Eds. David Madden and Patrick O'Donnell. UK: December 17, 2010; USA: January 3, 2011. Invited.

PUBLISHED

Book

Unnatural Selections: Eugenics in American Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press (May 2004).

- 2004 *Choice* Outstanding Academic Book, American Library Association
- Reviewed (favorably) in *American Literature*, *modernism/modernity*, *Journal of African American History*, *American Studies*, *Journal of Southern History*, *International Fiction Review*, *Nursing History Review*, and *Choice*

Essays (all peer-reviewed)

“The Modern in the Postmodern: Walter Mosley, Barbara Neely, and the Politics of Contemporary African American Detective Fiction.” *American Literary History* 18 (Winter 2006): 772-96.

“W. E. B. Du Bois’s Family Crisis.” *American Literature* 72 (June 2000): 291-319.

“Selecting the Harlem Renaissance.” *Critical Inquiry* 25 (Summer 1999): 807-821.

“Somebody Else’s Foremother: David Haynes and Zora Neale Hurston.” *African American Review* 33 (Summer 1999): 283-97.

“Gertrude Stein and the Politics of Literary-Medical Experimentation.” *Literature and Medicine* 16 (Fall 1997): 188-209.

Conference Proceedings (peer-reviewed)

“Being Black There: Racial Subjectivity and Temporality in Walter Mosley’s Detective Novels.” *NOVEL* 42.3 (Fall 2009): 361-365. Invited submission.

Chapters in Collections

“Eugenics in *Melanctha*.” Rpt. in *Gertrude Stein: Three Lives and Q.E.D., a Norton Critical Edition*, edited by Marianne DeKoven. New York: W.W. Norton & Company (December 2005).

Book Reviews

“Melville J. Herskovits and the Racial Politics of Knowledge, by Jerry Gershenhorn.” Book Review. *American Historical Review* 111 (October 2006): 1218-19. Invited.

“Postmodernism, Urbanism, and African American Literary Studies.” Review of *Signs and Cities: Black Literary Postmodernism*, by Madhu Dubey. *Contemporary Literature* 46 (Summer 2005): 358-362.

“*Conjugal Union: The Body, the House, and the Black American*, by Robert F. Reid-Pharr.” Book Review. *Callaloo* 25 (Spring 2002): 672-674. Invited.

“*Zora Neale Hurston’s Their Eyes Were Watching God: A Casebook*, ed. Cheryl A. Wall.” Book Review. *African American Review* 35 (Winter 2001): 667-669. Invited.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (all peer-reviewed)

“‘Being Black There’: Racial Subjectivity, Temporality, and Narrative Form in Walter Mosley’s Detective Novels.” Presented at *NOVEL’s* 40th Anniversary Conference, “Theories of the Novel Now.” Providence, RI. November 10, 2007. Invited submission.

“‘All I had was the certainty that the world had passed me by’: Blackness, Modernity, and Temporality in Walter Mosley’s Writings.” Presented at the Collegium for African American Research (CAAR) Conference. Madrid, Spain. April 19, 2007. Invited submission.

“Third Person Singular: Gender, Race, and History in William Wells Brown’s *Narrative of the Life and Clotel*.” Presented in a special session I organized and chaired at the Modern Language Association (MLA) Conference. Philadelphia, PA. December 29, 2006.

“*Contending Forces*: The Space of Fiction and the Construction of Citizenship in the Novels of Pauline Hopkins.” Presented at the American Studies Association Conference. Washington, D.C. November 3, 2005.

“Pauline Hopkins’s *Contending Forces*: Immigrant Rights and Black Citizenship.” Presented at the American Literature Association Conference. Boston, MA. May 29, 2005.

“The Modern and Postmodern African American Detective.” Presented in a special session I organized and chaired, titled “Dark Princesses, Detectives, and Survivors: 20th Century African American Genre Fiction,” at the MLA Conference. Philadelphia, PA. December 28, 2004.

“*Blessed Are the Barren*: Lynching, Reproduction, and the Drama of New Negro Womanhood, 1916-1930.” Presented in a special session I co-organized with Jacqueline Goldsby (University of Chicago) at the MLA Conference. New York, NY. December 29, 2002.

“New Women, Old Strategies? The Politics of Reproduction in the United States in the 1910s and the 1990s.” Presented at the National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Simmons College. Boston, MA. June 17, 2000.

“Cleaning Up America’s Trash: The Eugenic Family Studies, 1877-1926.” Presented at the Fourth Biennial Conference of the Center for Working-Class Studies, Youngstown State University. Youngstown, OH. June 12, 1999.

“W. E. B. Du Bois and T. S. Eliot: A Race of Writers?” Presented on Modernist Division Panel at the MLA Conference. San Diego, CA. December 28, 1994.

SELECTED INVITED LECTURES and PANELS

“Is There a Crisis in Black Research Publishing?” Joint roundtable of the Council of Editors of Learned Journals and the Black American Literature and Culture Division of the MLA. MLA Conference. Los Angeles, CA. January 6, 2011.

“Race, Time, and Justice in Chesnut’s *The House Behind the Cedars*.” Northwestern University Department of African American Studies. Evanston, IL. May 20, 2010.

“‘The Thorny Stem of Time’: One Hundred Years of *Crisis*.” Carter G. Woodson Institute Symposium: 100th Anniversary of the NAACP. University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA. October 29-30, 2009.

“Ticking, Not Talking: Timekeeping in Early African American Literature.” Bowdoin College. Brunswick, ME. April 13, 2009.

Panelist. Penumbra Theatre Symposium on August Wilson’s *The Piano Lesson*. Macalester College. St. Paul, MN. March 3, 2008.

Respondent. Special Session, “African American Writers Respond to Government Reform Initiatives, 1919–60.” MLA Conference. Chicago, IL. December 27, 2007.

“The Modern in the Postmodern: Walter Mosley, Barbara Neely, and the Politics of Contemporary African American Detective Fiction.” Hodges Lecture at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. March 13, 2006.

Interview on *Unnatural Selections*. The Tom Pope Radio Show. May 6, 2004.

“Picturing the Harlem Renaissance: Du Bois, McKay, Larsen, and Van Der Zee.” Presented at the David Winton Bell Art Gallery, Brown University. Providence, RI. May 3, 1998.

SELECTED MACALESTER PRESENTATIONS

“Origins and Omissions: Literary and Philosophical Genealogies and the Times of Frederick Douglass.” Macalester Humanities Faculty Colloquium. September 21, 2010.

“Ticking, Not Talking: Against an Oral Tradition in Early African American Literature.” Reunion Lecture. Macalester College. June 5, 2009.

Panelist. “Racism and Science.” Ninth Annual American Studies Conference, “Racism in the Name of Science.” Macalester College. St. Paul, MN. March 1, 2008.

“Reading Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.” Faculty Podcast Series. Macalester College, St. Paul, MN. September 7, 2006.

“Appreciating Frederick Douglass’s *Narrative of the Life*.” Faculty Podcast Series. Macalester College, St. Paul, MN. January 23, 2006.

SELECTED HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

- Wallace Travel Grant, Macalester College. Fall 2006. For travel to and paper presentation at the CAAR Conference in Madrid, Spain. April 2007.
- American Library Association Award, 2004 *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title for *Unnatural Selections: Eugenics in American Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance*. January 2005.
- University System of Maryland Women’s Forum Faculty Research Award. Summer 2001.
- Norman Foerster Prize awarded by American Literature Section of the MLA for best essay published in *American Literature* in 2000 for “W. E. B. Du Bois’s Family *Crisis*.” Prize presented at MLA Conference, Washington, D.C. December 29, 2000.
- National Endowment for the Humanities Dissertation Grant. 1995-1996.

SERVICE

Profession

Invited Reader and Reviewer Work

- National Endowment for the Humanities
- The University of North Carolina Press
- University of Massachusetts Press
- University of Minnesota Press
- The Ohio State University Press
- Temple University Press
- *American Historical Review*
- *PMLA*
- *African American Review*
- *Callaloo*
- *American Quarterly*

MLA Offices

- Member (elected December 2009), Delegate Assembly of the MLA, representing the Great Lakes Region, 2010-2013.
- Member (elected December 2006), Executive Committee of the MLA’s Black American Literature and Culture (BALC) Division, 2007-2111.
 - Chair of Executive Committee, 2010.

- Secretary of Executive Committee, 2009.
- Organizer and Moderator, “African American Literature on the Pacific Rim,” BALC Division Panel at MLA Conference. Los Angeles, CA. January 8, 2011.
- Organizer and Moderator, “New Directions in African American Literary and Cultural Studies,” BALC Roundtable at MLA Conference. Philadelphia, PA. December 29, 2009.
- Moderator, “Intersectionalities and Pluralities: Black Sightings,” BALC Division Panel at MLA Conference. San Francisco, CA. December 29, 2008.
- Chair, Darwin Turner and Joe Weixlmann Prizes Subcommittee, 2007.
- Organizer and Moderator, “The New Chicago Renaissance Studies,” BALC Division Panel at MLA Conference. Chicago, IL. December 29, 2007.

Macalester College

- Member, Internship Advisory Committee, 2010-11
- Member, Gateway Prize Selection Committee, 2010-11
- Member, Education Studies Steering Committee, Spring 2009-present
- Chair, English Department, January 2008-May 2010
- Chair, Department of English Search Committee, 2008-9, 2009-10
- Member, Bookstore Advisory Committee, 2008
- Member, Department of English Search Committees, 2003-4, 2004-5, 2005-6, 2006-7
- Member, Ad Hoc Committee for “Conversations on Multiculturalism,” 2006-7
- Member, Affirmative Action Committee, 2006-7
- Member, General Education Writing Requirement EPAG Subcommittee, 2006-7
- Member, Bush Grant Steering Committee, 2004-5
- Member, Multicultural Advisory Board, 2004-5
- Member, Department of History Search Committee, Spring 2005
- Member, Planning Committee for the 2005 African American Studies Conference, 2003-4