

Elizabeth J. West, Professor

John B. and Elena Diaz-Verson Amos Distinguished Chair in English Letters

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. English, Certificate in Women's Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

M.A. English, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA.

B.A. English, Minor Biology, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA.

B.S. Chemistry, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS.

FACULTY POSITIONS HELD

GSU Department of English

Professor (2014 – Present)

Associate Professor (2007 – 2014)

Assistant Professor (2001 – 2007)

Morehouse College Assistant Professor, Department of English (2000 – 2001)

Texas A&M University Assistant Professor, Department of English (1998 – 2000)

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS HELD

ACADEMIC

Academic Director, GSU-CAS Center for the Study of Africa and Its Diaspora (6/2020- Present)

--Responsibilities include oversight of scholarly initiatives and programming for the center, pursuit of institutional and external funding, building partnerships and collaborations.

Director, English Department Mainz/Heidelberg Exchange Program (August 2021 – Present)

--Responsibilities include oversight of student and faculty exchanges with American Studies Departments at Johannes Gutenberg and Heidelberg Universities. Additionally, this exchange involves oversight of the binational degree program between JGU and GSU.

GSU Faculty Affairs Fellow—Office of Faculty Affairs (Jan 2019 – June 2020)

--Responsibilities include updating and revising faculty handbook and policy guidelines; faculty training; managing university faculty awards review and selections; creating and facilitating faculty development and recognition programming.

Executive Director, South Atlantic Modern Language Association (2015 – 2020)

--Joint GSU English Dept/A&S Grant-SAMLA appointment that includes management of SAMLA operations and the joint grant, supervising staff that includes an associate director, graduate research assistants, graduate professionalization assistants, interns, and volunteers.

SCHOLARSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Publications—Monograph

Finding Francis: One Family's Journey from Slavery to Freedom. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press. (Dec. 2022). <https://uscpress.com/Finding-Francis>.

--Winner of the 2023 [College Language Association Book Award](#).

--Included in South Carolina [Women in Leadership \(WIL\) Read's](#) curated titles for adults, teens, and children by women authors or on important issues related to women and leadership.

--Review in [a/b: Auto/Biography Studies](#). December 2024.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/raut20/39/2>

--Review in manifold.sc.edu. 2025.

--Review in *CLAJ*. Forthcoming spring 2025

African Spirituality in Black Women's Fiction: Threaded Visions of Memory, Community, Nature and Being. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2011. Paperback edition, 2012.
 Among titles in "CHOICE e-Collection for African-American Studies,"
http://www.publishersrow.com/Choice_African_American_Studies.htm.
 NBn Interview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CT7s-_PMBQ8
 Reviewed in *Michigan Citizen* 34.5 (12/11/2011) pA14; *CHOICE* (Jul 2012); *CLAJ* 55.2 (December 2011); *SAR* 76.3 (Fall 2012); *Amerikastudien* 58.2 (2013).

Publications—Edited Collections

Gullah-Geechee Diasporas: Knowledge, Culture, and the Black Lowcountry Legacy. Co-Ed. and -Introduction. USC Press. (Forthcoming, Spring 2026).
Literary Expressions of African Spirituality. Co-Ed. & -Introduction. Lexington Books. 2013. Paperback edition, 2015. Reviewed in *Caribbean Quarterly* 63.2-3 (2017); *Caribbean Studies* 41.2 (July - Dec 2013): 272 - 275; *African Studies Quarterly* 14.4 (September 2014): 102-103.

Publications—Journal Articles

Co-Author. Brown, Ras Michael, Britton Davis, Joseph Price, Elizabeth West. "Two Million Black Americans Born Prior to Emancipation in the 1900 U.S. Census." *Journal of Slavery and Data Preservation* 6, no. 2 (2025): 72-82. <https://doi.org/10.14321/jsdp.6.2.0072>
 Forthcoming.
 "Afterword: In and Beyond the Boundaries of Medievalism." The "Medieval" Undone: Imagining a New Global Past. Special Issue, *boundary2: an international journal of literature and culture*. 2 (2023) 50 (3): 233–246. Ed. Sierra Lomuto.
<https://doi.org/10.1215/01903659-10472457>
 "Community and Naming: Lived Narratives of Early African American Women's Spirituality." *Religions* 11(8), 426 (August 2020). <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel11080426>
 "COVID-19 and Black Grief in the Academy." *CLA Journal* (Rapid Response Special Issue). Eds. Dana Williams and Kendra Parker. 63.2 (September 2020): 148 - 151.
 Co-Author. "Transnational Black Politics and Resistance from Enslavement to Obama Through the Prism of 1619" in *JTAS* Special Forum Introduction. 10.1 (2019).
https://escholarship.org/uc/acgcc_jtas/10/1
 "Whiteness in African American Antebellum Literature: An Enduring Imprint in the Lived and Literary Imagination." *South Atlantic Review* 84.1 (Spring 2019): 35 - 53.
https://www.dropbox.com/s/dnd6xc2yh4t9jd9/SAR_84.1.pdf?dl=0
 Co-Author. Introduction. "Sankofa; or 'Go Back and Fetch It': Merging Genealogy and Africana Studies." (Special Issue). 2(4), 46 *Genealogy* (Fall 2018). doi:10.3390/genealogy2040046
 "American Studies and the Racial Fault Line," Forum: Sebastian Weier's "Consider Afro-Pessimism." *Amerikastudien* 59.3 (2014): 439 - 442.
 Co-Author. Introduction. *Five Decades of CLAJ on Race in Anglocentric Literary Works* (Special Issue). *CLAJ* 57.3 (2014).
 "Maps, Mythologies and Identities: Zombies and Contra-Anglo Spirituality in Edwidge Danticat's *Breath, Eyes, Memory* and Angie Cruz's *Soledad*." *PALARA* (Publication of the Afro-Latin/American Research Association) 17 (Fall 2013): 1 -12.
 "The Enigmatic "Clear Black" in William Wells Brown's *Clotel*," *CLA Journal* 56.2 (December 2012): 170 - 183.
 "From David Walker to President Obama: Tropes of the Founding Fathers in African American Discourses of Democracy, or the Legacy of Ishmael." 56 (2012) *American Studies Journal* (Center for American Studies, Harle-Wittenberg, Germany).
 "Memory, Ancestors, and Activism/Resistance in Charles Chesnutt's Uncle Julius." *Studies in the Literary Imagination* 43.2 (Fall 2010): 31- 45.

- “Conflicting Epistemological Selves in the Narratives of Frederick Douglass.” *CLA Journal* 52.1 (September 2008): 13-37.
- “Religion, Race, and Gender in the ‘Race-less’ Fiction of Alice Dunbar-Nelson.” *Black Magnolias Literary Journal*. 3.1 (March-May 2009): 5-19.
- “Of Providence and Rhetoric: The Failure of Alexander Crummell’s Anglo-African Nationalism.” *Slavery and Colonialism in the Atlantic World Spec. issue of Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* 5.3 (2004). Project Muse.
- “In the Beginning There Was Death: Spiritual Desolation and the Search for Self in Jamaica Kincaid’s *Autobiography of My Mother*.” *South Central Review* 20 (Summer-Winter 2003), 2-23.
- “Black Female Protagonists and the Abstruse Racialized Self in Antebellum African American Fiction.” *Womanist Theory and Research* 3.2/4.1 (2001/20002): 50-56.
- "Reworking the Conversion Narrative: Race and Christianity in *Our Nig*." *MELUS (Journal of the Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States)* 24 (Summer 1999), 3-27.

Publications—Book Chapters

- “Citizenship and Enslavement,” [*The Routledge Companion to Politics and Literature in English*](#). Ed. Matthew Stratton. (2023).
- "The Transcontinental African in Pauline Hopkins's *Of One Blood*." *Routledge Companion to Transnational American Studies*. Eds. Alfred Hornung and Nina Morgan. (2019).
- Contributing Co-Author. “Introduction: Religion and Spirituality” in *Routledge Reader of African American Rhetoric: The Longue Dureé of Black Voices* (2018). Gen. Eds. Vershawn Young and Michelle Bachelor Robinson. 91 – 93.
- “Conflicting Epistemological Selves in the Narratives of Frederick Douglass.” Reprinted in *Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism on Frederick Douglass*, Gale Literary Criticism Vol 350. Ser. Ed. Lawrence J. Trudeau. Farmington, Hills, MI: Gale/Cengage Learning. (2/23/2018).
- "We've Seen This Before: The Pre-Obama Transnational Figure in Early Black Atlantic Writings." in *Obama and Transnational American Studies* Ed. Alfred Hornung. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter. 2016.
<https://journals.openedition.org/ejas/12436>
- “Blackness as Medium: Envisioning White Southern Womanhood in Eudora Welty’s ‘A Worn Path,’ and *Delta Wedding* and Kathryn Stockett’s *The Help*.” in *From Uncle Tom’s Cabin to The Help: Critical Perspectives on White-Authored Narratives of Black Life*. Eds. Claire Garcia and Vershawn Young. Palgrave-Macmillan. 2014. 39 - 56.
- “Memory, Ancestors, and Activism/Resistance in Charles Chesnutt’s *Uncle Julius*.” Reprinted in *Short Story Criticism*, Gale Literary Criticism Ser. 184. Ed. Lawrence J. Trudeau. Farmington, Hills, MI: Gale/Cengage Learning. 2013. 156 – 163.
- “In the Beginning There Was Death: Spiritual Desolation and the Search for Self in Jamaica Kincaid’s *Autobiography of My Mother*.” Reprinted in *Jamaica Kincaid: Criticism and Interpretation*. Ed. Harold Bloom. New York: Bloom’s Literary Criticism, 2008. 141-158.
- “Making the Awakening Hers: Phillis Wheatley and the Transposition of African Spirituality to Christian Religiosity.” in *Cultural Sites of Critical Insight*. Eds. Angela Cotten and Christa Davis Acampora. SUNY Press, 2007. 47-66.
- “Cooper and Crummell: Dialogics of Race and Womanhood.” *Representing Women Rhetors: Triumphs, Complications, and Misrepresentations*. Eds. Hildy Miller & Lillian Bridwell-Bowles. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2005. 81-102.

Publications—Editorship Works

- Contributing Co-Ed. "Religion and Spirituality" in *Routledge Reader of African American Rhetoric: The Longue Dureé of Black Voices* (2018). Gen. Eds. Vershawn Young and Michelle Bachelor Robinson. 91 – 162.
- Co-Ed. "Sankofa; or 'Go Back and Fetch It': Merging Genealogy and Africana Studies." (Special Issue). 2(4), 46 *Genealogy* (Fall 2018). doi:10.3390/genealogy2040046.
https://www.mdpi.com/journal/genealogy/special_issues/Africana_Studies
- Co-Ed. *Five Decades of CLAJ on Race in Anglocentric Literary Works* (Special Issue). *CLAJ* 57.3 (2014).
- Co-Ed. & Introduction. *Literary Expressions of African Spirituality*. (Lexington Books 2013). Paperback edition, 2015. Reviewed in *Caribbean Quarterly* 63.2-3 (2017); *Caribbean Studies* 41.2 (July - Dec 2013): 272 - 275; *African Studies Quarterly* 14.4 (September 2014): 102-103.
- Co-Ed. & Introduction. *Caribbean Women Writers in Exile*. in *Studies in the Literary Imagination* 37.2 (Fall 2004).
- Book Series Co-Editor: *Black Diasporic Worlds: Origins and Evolutions from New World Slaving*. Roman & Littlefield/Lexington Books, 2014 - 2024.
- Titles:
- Travel and the Pan African Imagination*. Tracy Keith Flemming (2021)
- Transatlantic, Transcultural, and Transnational Dialogues on Identity, Culture, and Migratio*. Lori Celaya and Sonja Stephenson Watson. (2021)
- America's Other Muslims: Imam W.D. Mohammed, Islamic Reform, and the Making of American Islam*. Muhammad Fraser-Rahim. (2020)
- A Bristol, Rhode Island, and Matanzas, Cuba, Slavery Connection: The Diary of George Howe*. Rafa Ocasio. (December 2019)
- Afro-Asian Connections in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Eds. Luisa Marcela Ossa and Debbie Lee-Distefano. January 2019.
- Jean Price-Mars, Haiti, and Africa: Between Two Worlds*. Eds. Celucie Joseph et al. 2018.
- Envisioning Black Feminist Voodoo Aesthetics: African Spirituality in American Cinema*. Kameelah Martin. Sept. 2016. 2017 CLA Book Award Winner.
- African Modernity and the Philosophy of Culture: The Works of Femi Euba*. Iyunolu Osagie. Spring 2017
- Receptions of the Classics in the African Diaspora of the Hispanophone and Lusophone Worlds: Atlantis Otherwise*. Eds. Elisa Rizo and Madeline M Henry. Sept. 2016.

Publications—Interview

- "Interview with Nikky Finney." *Five Points* 19.2 (Spring 2019), 1 – 16.

Publications—Conference Proceeding

- "La literatura afroamericana y la dinámica de la identidad interracial." in *El color de la tierra: Las Minorías En México y Estados Unidos*. Coordinadoras Bárbara Driscoll de Alvarado y Paz Consuelo Márquez-Padilla. México: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 2001. 73 - 85.

Publications—Reference, Encyclopedic, and News Articles

- "How WWI Sparked the Artistic Movement that Transformed Black America." in *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/us> March 31, 2017.
- . Reprinted in *HuffingtonPost* 11/15/2018. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/world-war-i-black-america-culture_us_5bedbf63e4b07f6a97f8def7
- . Reprinted in *The Sunbury News* 11/2018 sunburynews.com/features/obama-book
- . Reprinted in <https://urbanfaith.com/author/ewest/> October 2018
- . Reprinted in *Sinkholemag.com* 9/15/17; *Rawstory.com* 4/1/17; *business-standard.com* 4/17

- . Reprinted as "WWI Sparked the Artistic Movement that Transformed Black America." in *NEWSELA*. <https://newsela.com/articles/lib-convo-world-war-art-african-american/id/30577/> June 2017
- . Reprinted as "The World War One Artistic Revolution that Transformed Black America." in *Democracy Chronicles*. <https://democracychronicles.org/artistic-revolution/> June 2017
- "Blacks." in *American History Through Literature 1820-1870*. Eds. Janet Gabler-Hover and Robert Sattlemeyer. NY: Twayne Publishers. 2005. 126-131. Reprinted in enotes.com/American-history-literature.
- "Slavery." in *American History Through Literature 1820-1870*. Eds. Janet Gabler-Hover and Robert Sattlemeyer. NY: Twayne Publishers. 2005. 1092-1100. Reprinted in enotes.com/American-history-literature.
- "Black Nationalism." in *Oxford Companion to African American Literature*. Eds. William Andrews, Trudier Harris, Frances Smith Foster. 1997. 75-79. Reprinted in answers.com.
- "Alexander Crummell." in *Oxford Companion to African American Literature*. Eds. William Andrews, Trudier Harris, Frances Smith Foster. 1997. 192-193. Reprinted in answers.com.

Publications—Reviewer Projects

- In-text blurb for "A Case for Cato: rediscovering the Enslaved Man Who Helped Hercules Mulligan," in *Smithsonian Online*. by Claire Bellerjeau and Tiffany Brooks. (Forthcoming fall 2025).
- [Bookjacket blurb](#) for *Gullah/Geechee Muslims in America: Exploring Islamic Identity in the African Diaspora*, by Muhammad Fraser-Rahim. Lexington Books.
- Review of *Love, Activism, and the Respectable Life of Alice Dunbar Nelson*, by Tara Green. Bloomsbury Press, 2022. Reviewed in *The Langston Hughes Review*. 29.1 (March 2023): 114-116.
- Review of *Biography and the Black Atlantic*. Eds. Lisa A. Lindsay and John Wood Sweet. Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press. 2014. Reviewed in *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Latin American History*. 70.2 (April 2016): 260 - 262.
- Review of *Hiding in Plain Sight*, by Nuruddin Farah. New York, NY: Riverhead Books, 2014. Reviewed in *CLAJ* 58.3-4 (March/June 2015), 224 - 25.
- Review of *In Search of Power: African Americans in the Era of Decolonization, 1956 - 1974*, by Brenda Gayle Plummer. New York, NY: Cambridge UP, 2013. Reviewed in *Amerikastudien* 59.3.
- Review of *Black Legacies: Race and the European Middle Ages*, by Lynn T. Ramey. Gainesville: U of FL Press, 2014. Reviewed in *PALARA* 18 (2014): 82-84.
- Bookjacket blurb for *African Writers in Exile*, by Chinedu Ogoke. Piraeus Books, 2011.
- Review of *Extraordinary Measures: Afrocentric Modernism and Twentieth-Century American Poetry*, by Lorenzo Thomas. Reviewed in *South Atlantic Review* 66 (Fall 2001), 213-215.
- Review of *African American Literary Criticism, 1773 to 2000*. Ed. Hazel Arnett Ervin. Reviewed in *CLA Journal* 43.2 (December 1999), 254-258.

Works Under Review and In Progress

- Building an ArcGIS Story Map of Sample Data, and a user-accessible database. Project was supported (2024 -25) by NEH Digital Humanities Advancement Grant, "Data Mining and Mapping Antebellum Georgia." In progress
- "Story Mapping and 3D Simulating: Imagining the Early Temne and Their Middle Passage Descendants." In Progress.
- "A Creole Pope: Signals of Possibilities in Alice Dunbar-Nelson's Fiction," (In progress for submission to *Journal of Black Studies*, Special Issue).

“African American Experiences in the Mississippi Insane Asylum, 1866 - 1935: What the Records Convey.” An archival project that examines the Asylum records for insight on the history of African Americans in the Asylum. The information will be compiled in both a text and a quantitative format that can be utilized for further research and scholarship. (In progress).

“Black Migration and the U.S. South: A Story Mapping Narrative.” Geomapping project narrating the migrations of Francis Cistrunk and her family and that of their Sistrunk enslaver. (In progress)

NEH Immersive Global Middle Ages Institute Project, “A 3D Simulation of a 15thC Temne Village.” (Archiving in progress)

Grant Proposals and Activities

Mellon Foundation Intersectionality Collective Grant Renewal (\$300,000). “Intersectionality in the American South.” PI(Invited). Renewal Period: 04/1/2025 - 6/30/2028.

NEH Digital Humanities Advancement Grant, “Data Mining and Mapping Antebellum Georgia.” (\$75,000). PI (January 2024 – December 2024)

Fulbright Hays Group Short-term Seminar Project Abroad. “Global Education Initiative: Fostering Afro-Brazilian International Studies in Atlanta Metro Public Schools and Universities (\$143,000). Co-Director. July 7, 2023-Dec 9, 2024.

Mellon Foundation Intersectionality Collective Grant (\$524,000). “Intersectionality in the American South.” PI(Invited). Awarded Fall 2021 for period 01/2022-06/2025.

American Family Insurance Award (\$100,000). “Place and Race: Financial Literacy in Underserved Communities.” PI. CSAD Writing Team. Awarded Fall 2021 for period, Fall 2021-Summer 2023.

GSU University Research Services and Administration’s Conference Grant (\$3000) in Collaboration with Johannes Gutenberg Obama Institute (matching \$3000 award) for Spring 2018 Symposium, “The Post Obama Ethos: Transnationalism and The U.S. in the Aftermath of Hope.”

Professional Presentations

Panelist: Film and Discussion, Black Scholars in America: The Story of the College Language Association.” Session 5.7. April 11, 2024. Annual CLA Conference. Memphis, TN. April 10-13, 2024.

Panel Chair: “Charles Waddell Chesnutt and the Problem of Justice.” April 12, 2024. Annual CLA Conference. Memphis, TN. April 10-13, 2024.

Co-Presenter (with Dr. Joshua Jackson): “Geolocating Enslaved Ancestors in Georgia.” February 29, 2024. Rootstech by FamilySearch. Salt Lake City, Utah. Feb 29 -March 3, 2024.

Panelist: “Experiencing the Immersive Global Middle Ages: A Workshop and Digital Lab.” Presentation and overview of virtual reality simulation of 15th Century Temne Community. Jan 4, 2024. The American Historical Society (AHA) Conference. San Francisco. January 3 - 7, 2024.

Presenter: “Multimodal Methods for the 21st-Century Study of Africa and Its Diaspora.” ASWAD 2023 11th Biennial Conference, University of Ghana-Legon, August 2-5, 2023.

Presenter: “Black Archives and the Future.” Session 525V. MLA Conference, Washington, D.C. January 8, 2022.

Presenter: “Public Humanities: Regional MLAs and Their Communities.” Session 306. MLA Conference, Seattle, WA. January 10, 2020.

Panelist: 2019 The American Short Story: New Considerations. Symposium Sponsored by the Society for the Study of the American Short Story and the American Literature Association.

“House of God or Man: No Place for a Woman in Alice D. Nelson’s Short Fiction.” New Orleans, LA. September 2019.

Panelist: 2018 Afro-Latin/American Research Association (ALARA). “By Way of Jenkins’s Ear: Familial Narratives of Black and White in the Early U.S. South.” Houston, TX. August 2018.

Panelist: 2017 American Studies Association Conference Talkshop III: “Global Publications in the Context of Dissent.” Chicago. November 2017.

Panel Chair and Presenter: “Science, Technology and the Senses: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Black Atlantic Life Writing” CAAR 2017 Biennial Conference. Malaga, Spain. June 2017.

Presenter: “Thinking and Living the Transnational in the Early African American Imagination,” Session 123. MLA Conference, Austin, TX. January 7, 2016.

Presenter: “The Redo: Getting Lucy Right in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” SAMLA Conference. Durham, NC. November 2015.

Presenter: “Rethinking the Other in Contemporary Study Abroad Courses,” ASWAD (Association for the Study of the Wideworld African Diaspora) Biennial Conference, Charleston, SC. November 2015.

Presenter: “Memories and Histories: How Do We Narrate the Complex Legacy of the U.S. South?” Colloquium of African American Research (CAAR) Conference. Liverpool Hope University, England. June 2015.

Roundtable Discussant: “African Diaspora Religions: How Far Have We Come?” American Academy of Religion Conference. San Diego, CA. November 2014.

Presenter: When “Knowing is Obsolete”: Learning African American Literature “in the Clouds.” SAMLA Conference. Atlanta, GA. November 2014.

Presenter: “Ethiopianism and Black Women in Pauline Hopkins’s Mythological Vision.” The Annual Africa Conference, University of Texas, Austin. April 3 -6, 2014.

Roundtable Discussant: “Teaching Travel, Immigration, and Exile in Diaspora Texts/Intersections of Home and Black Female Sexuality.” Section 68. SAMLA Conference, Durham, NC. November 9 – 11, 2012.

Presenter: “Myth, ‘Magic’ and Memory and the Contra-Anglo Ethos in Angie Cruz’s *Soledad*.” Section 136. SAMLA Conference, Durham, NC. November 9 – 11, 2012.

Panel Chair: “Melodies and Meditations in Contemporary Literature.” Session 53. CLA Conference, Spartanburg, SC. April 6-9, 2011.

Panel Chair: Session 36. “Shattering the Silence: Representations of Women in the U.S. and Global Souths.” Southern Regional American Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, GA. February 18, 2011.

Presenter: “Urbanity And Freedom: Epistemology and the City in Slave Narratives.” Session 270. MLA Conference, Los Angeles, CA. January 7, 2011.

Presenter: “Ethiopianism and Black Constructs of Blackness in Pauline Hopkins’s *Of One Blood*.” ALA Conference, Boston, MA. Spr. 2009. (Read by Panel Chair)

Presenter: “The Transnational Black Heroic in Pauline Hopkins’s *Of One Blood*.” CLA Conference, Cambridge, MD. March 26-28, 2009.

Presenter: “Memory, Ancestors, And Activism in Charles W. Chesnutt’s Uncle Julius,” CLA Conference, Miami, FL. April 2007.

Presenter: “Christianity and Female Victimization: Alice Dunbar-Nelson’s Heroines.” 19th Southern Writers Symposium. Fayetteville, NC., February 2007.

Panel Chair: “Slavery in the Contemporary Literary Imagination.” 73rd Annual SAMLA Conference. November 2003.

Presenter: “The Philosophy of Memory in Early African American Women’s Writings.” 2003 MELUS Conference.

Special Session Panelist, “Exploring an African American Poetics.” April 2002 College Language Association Conference.

Roundtable Session Chair: “African American and Afro Caribbean Women Writers: Discourses of Blackness, Nationality and Identity,” International Conference on Caribbean Literature. Nov. 1999.

Presenter: “Cooper and Crummell: Gendered Visions of African American Womanhood.” Second Biennial Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s) Conference. Minneapolis, Minn. October 1999.

Presenter: “Africanism, Essentialisms and God: Alexander Crummell’s Rhetoric of African American Womanhood.” Conference on African American Rhetoric sponsored by The Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric, Bishop’s College. Quebec. June 1999.

Presenter: “African American Literature and the Dynamic of Intra-racial Identity.” May 1999 conference, Intercultural Development Across The Border: An Intercultural Exchange Between The U.S. and Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico.

Invited Lectures/Presentations/Commentary

Invited Lecture. “Why Stories Matter: Hillman Cistrunk (1846 – 1920) from Harris County, GA to Hinds County, MS.” UMMC Asylum Hill Research Project Summer Field School. Jackson, MS. July 8, 2025.

Workshop Facilitator. “Building Next-Level Learning: Creating Hands-on, Real-World Opportunities,” Office of Faculty Success, Texas State University. 4/8/2025.

Invited Speaker. Organization of African Public Health Professionals (OAPHP) *Professional Journey Series*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Nov. 19, 2024. Clifton Building Conference Room. Noon – 1:00 pm.

Invited Panelist. GSU Office of International Initiatives. Fire Speaker Series. “Atlanta Educators Exploring Afro-Brazilian Culture.” Oct 10, 2024. Dahlberg Hall. Noon – 1:00 pm.

Invited Speaker. “Black Migration Before the Great Migration.” Mississippi Department of Archives and History. History is Lunch series. Neilsen Auditorium, Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. Jackson, MS. Sept. 4, 2024. <https://2mm.mdah.ms.gov/events/history-lunch-elizabeth-west-black-migration-great-migration> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrmyntfZzFE>

Invited Lecture. “For the Record: A 3-Months’ Ending & a Lifetime Before-Hillman Cistrunk (1846 – 1920). UMMC Asylum Hill Research Project Summer Field School. Jackson, MS. July 18, 2024.

Invited Panelist. Mississippi Museum of Art. “What Became of Dr. Smith Opening Programs: Exploring Asylum Hill.” April 20, 2024. Jackson, MS. <https://www.msmuseumart.org/event/what-became-of-dr-smith-opening-programs/>

Invited Speaker. NEH-Grambling University “Voices of Grambling: Immersive VR Experience” Lecture Series. “Story Mapping and Virtual Simulations: The Early Temne and Their Middle Passage Descendants.” September 5, 2023.

Invited Speaker. “Slavery, History, and Intersectionality.” US Embassy Banjul Virtual Juneteenth Celebration. June 20, 2023.

Invited Speaker. “Archives and the Journey to *Finding Francis*” Georgia Archives and Georgia Genealogical Society Annual Genealogy Picnic. Morrow, GA. June 3, 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B58gVAf718>

Invited Commencement Speaker. GSU PhD Hooding Ceremony. December 2022.

Invited Speaker. “Myths and Illusions: In Search of the Post Racial, the Transnational, and the Global.” Black Arts, Culture, and Literature Series (Virtual) Fall 2022. Institute for Black Arts, Culture, and Literature at University of Waterloo. Sept. 26, 2022. <https://uwaterloo.ca/english/events/institute-black-arts-culture-and-literature-events>

Invited Speaker. “Virtual Juneteenth Blurp” *One GSMA Newsletter* (June 2022). Invited by Diversity and Inclusion division of Global System or Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) to deliver a Juneteenth Greeting and Short video clip on the importance of the

- holiday.
<http://view.email.gsma.com/?qs=4bd9f67e5d8dc71faace7c8b0415388ebb6b4b88a7876a617f090543688006539ad078b070d4fe999e44ec7b1828a7c179048ae7b71eed7810e59d92541e39bed32326456f9f6addeaff09e00965544f>
- Invited Speaker. “Intersectionality and Feminism: Woman Is Not a Monolithic Experience.” Papa John’s Women’s History Month Presentation and Discussion. Atlanta, GA (Virtual). March 2022.
- Invited Speaker. “Building Bridges – African and Asian Descended Faculty Staff and Student Allies” (College of Education), March 30, 2022.
- GSU African American Studies and AARL Freedom School Lectures. “Same Archives Different Stories: Rewriting the Wreckage of White History Making.” April 2021.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uV8fm8tJfY8>
- Invited Discussant. The Consulate General of Canada’s Viola Desmond Lecture, in collaboration with CSAD. “Writing Life Stories as Resistance.” Featuring author and Toronto-based journalist, Eternity Martis; moderated by Rose Scott, award-winning journalist and host of Atlanta’s WABE 90.1 FM, ’s, *Closer Look*. February 18, 2021.
- Invited Panelist. South Carolina Humanities and Spoleto Festival’s Exploring Omar Discussion Series. “Exploring Omar: Religion and Spirituality in Black Lowcountry Diaspora Networks.” February 9, 2021.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHSQiIWxrCc&feature=youtu.be>
- Invited Panelist. Inaugural event of the multi-institutional Race Beyond Borders initiative. Panel discussion exploring how we might engage discussions and actions that lead to a shared understanding of race as a global concept have global impact. “Understanding Race as a Global Concept: Power, Access, and Policy.” February 5, 2021.
<https://atlantaglobalstudies.gatech.edu/Race-Beyond-Borders>
- Invited Moderator. Library of America in partnership with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Celebration of 250 Years of African American Poetry: “Lift Every Voice: Atlanta’s Contribution to the Black Poetic Tradition.” A virtual conversation with poet scholar Kevin Young, playwright and scholar Pearl Cleage, and scholars Maurice Hobson and Lakeyta Bonnette-Bailey. Hosted in collaboration with Atlanta’s AARL and GSU’s CSAD. October 22, 2020. <https://www.africanamericanpoetry.org/media-library/atlantas-contribution-to-the-black-poetic-tradition>
- Invited Speaker. University of North Georgia, Toni Morrison’s *Beloved* Series: The Past That Haunts Us. “Why They Keep Studying Black Folks?: Schoolteacher and the Legacy of White Racialized Humanism.” October 20, 2020.
- Invited Speaker. “Leading in an Era of Unrest.” Westlake High School Administrative Retreat. In collaboration with Partners in Education at Perimeter College. June 25, 2020.
- Invited Panelist. Spoleto ETC Discussion Series: *Exploring Omar*. In conjunction with Summer 2020 Spoleto Festival USA’s (<https://spoletousa.org/events/omar/>) forthcoming World Premiere of *Omar*, (opera based on the life of Omar ibn Said). February 20, 2020.
- Invited Speaker. University of North Georgia, Hoag Lecture Series. “From Hip Hop to Biography: Sampling as a Method of Academic Research.” February 26, 2020)
<https://ung.edu/news/articles/2020/02/hot-topics-on-slate-for-hoag-lecture-series.php>
- Invited Lecturer. College of Charleston, World Affairs Signature Series (African American Studies Program in the School of Languages, Culture and World Affairs). “Beyond the German: Black Kinship Lineage and the Cistrunks of Noxubee County.” November 2019.
<https://today.cofc.edu/2019/11/19/ancestries-of-enslavement/>
- Invited Moderator. Georgia Tech (Library, School of Modern Language, School of Literature, Media & Communication) and the French Embassy’s Cultural Services. “Non-Aligned Utopias: Roundtable with Oulimata Gueye.” October 9, 2019.
- Invited Lecturer. Obama Institute Lecture Series Summer 2019. “Heinrich the Shoemaker and the

S/Cistrunks that Followed: A Narrative of Black and White in the U.S. South.” Johannes Gutenberg University. Mainz, Germany. June 2019. http://www.obama-institute.com/wp-content/uploads/2019-06-25_Lecture_West.pdf

Invited Speaker. GSU Provost Lecture Series: Women Inspire. “And They Raised Black Men: Black Women, Family, and Resistance in the US South.” Feb 5, 2019. <https://vimeo.com/315751364>

CCCC 2019 Spotlight Session: Black Rhetoric Matters! *The Routledge Reader of African American Rhetoric*. “In the Name of God the Merciful’: Speaking Islam in Early African American Christian Discourse.” Pittsburgh, PA. March 2019.

Invited Respondent and Panelist: February 9, 2018 CARE Black History Month Luncheon Panel. Organized by BPAC (Black Professionals @ CARE)

Invited Speaker: “Transnationalism and Race: What We Can Learn from Early Black Writings of the Americas.” (April 16, 2015) Clemson University Colloquium on Race and Ethnicity (CCRE)

Invited Speaker: “We’ve Seen This Before: The Pre-Obama Transnational Figure in Early Black Atlantic Writings.” Fall 2014 (October 16 - 19) Johannes Gutenberg University International Conference, “Obama and Transnational American Studies.”

Invited Lecturer. The Bremen Lectures: Gastvortrag und Diskussion. “Faulty Signifiers: Racial Markers in Toni Morrison’s ‘Recitatif,’ Edwidge Danticat’s *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, and Angie Cruz’s *Soledad*.” Universität Bremen. Bremen, Germany. January 10, 2014.

Invited Speaker. Georgia State Univ. Alumni Association Senior Brunch and Learn Program. Black History Talk: “Folklore as Resistance in Charles Chesnutt’s *Conjure Woman*.” Callanwolde Arts Center. Feb. 13, 2013.

Guest Speaker. “Ironic Discourses of Democracy: From Scrutinizing the President to Becoming the President.” AT&T Mobility’s 2012 African American History Month Celebration. Alpharetta, GA. February 28, 2012.

Book Lecture (*African Spirituality in Black Women’s Fiction*) and Signing. Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History. Feb. 22, 2012.

Invited Speaker. “Narratives of Exile in Caribbean and African American Women’s Narratives.” Africana Studies at College of the Holy Cross. March 27, 2008.

“The Varying Selves of Frederick Douglass.” GSU English Dept. Annual Lecture: New Readings of Significant Texts. October 3, 2007.

Invited Speaker. “African Ways of Being in the Poetry of Phillis Wheatley.” SUNY-Stony Brook, Women’s Studies Conference: Cultural Sites of Critical Insight: Coming Full Circle. March 15, 2007.

“Of Providence and Rhetoric: The Failure of Alexander Crummell’s AngloAfrican Nationalism.” Miami University-Ohio Academic Symposium: Enslavement and Colonialism in the Atlantic World, April 2-3, 2004.

Roundtable Panelist on Virginia Public Radio’s Weekly Broadcast, *With Good Reason* August 2003 (Aired 8/2-8/8/2003), “Liberia’s Charles Taylor.”

Guest Lecturer, Texas Women’s University Distinguished Lecture Series: “Theorizing Black Feminisms Across the Disciplines,” Spring 2000.

Introduction of keynote speaker, Anita Patterson, for Conference on African American Rhetoric sponsored by The Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric, Bishop’s College. June 1999.

Media

Invited Panelist: *Closer Look with Rose Scott*. “[GSU Database of Enslaved People’s Names, Locations Now Available to Public](#).” May 21, 2025. Also available on [Closer Look npr Network](#). May 21, 2025.

Article on DMMAG Database: "Georgia State University to Launch Historical Database to Identify Enslaved People in Georgia," in [*Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*](#) March 11, 2025.

Podcast Interview: [Under Yazoo Clay](#). Episode 3 (32:44-43:48); Episode 1 (19:25-21:05). Host, Larrison Campbell. Timestamp 19:34. March 6, 2025.
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/under-yazoo-clay/id1798747772>

Interview. "Data Mining Project Uncovers Enslaved People's Histories." [Georgia State News Hub](#). March 5, 2025.

Invited Panelist: *Closer Look with Rose Scott*. ["Georgia State Researchers' Mapping Project Connects Enslaved People to Specific Enslavers In Harris County."](#) February 6, 2025.

Invited Panelist: *Closer Look Open Access with Rose Scott*. "Examining Enslavement Across the Americas through the Afro Brazilian Diaspora." June 12, 2024.
<https://www.wabe.org/podcasts/closer-look/impact-of-the-1619-project-examining-enslavement-across-the-americas-through-the-afro-brazilian-diaspora/>

Invited Panelist: *Closer Look Open Access with Rose Scott*. "60th Anniversary of the March on Washington: The Impact Then, The Message Now." August 28, 2023.
<https://www.wabe.org/60-anniversary-of-the-march-on-washington-the-impact-then-the-message-now/>

Invited Guest: Interviewed by Co-host, CookieTee. TV3 Ghana's *Newday*. Accra, Ghana. August 3, 2023.

Invited Guest: CNN International's *One World* with Zain Asher, "Study of Black History Under Threat in America." June 19, 2023.
<https://twitter.com/ZainAsher/status/1670885090656649217>

Invited Guest: Speaking on *Closer Look Open Access with Rose Scott*. "Juneteenth 2023 Edition." June 16, 2023. <https://www.wabe.org/podcasts/closer-look/>

Invited Panelist: Speaking on *Finding Francis*. *Closer Look with Rose Scott*. Special Edition on Tracing Family History. Jan 5, 2023. <https://www.wabe.org/closer-look/guests-discuss-the-process-of-tracing-ones-family-history/>

Invited Panelist: *Closer Look Open Access with Rose Scott*. "Juneteenth 2022 Edition." June 17, 2022. <https://www.wabe.org/watch-live-closer-looks-juneteenth-2022-edition/>

Invited Panelist: *Closer Look Open Access with Rose Scott*. "GSU Pilot Program Aims to Improve Generational Economic Outcomes." April 9, 2022. <https://www.wabe.org/gsu-pilot-program-aims-to-improve-generational-economic-outcomes/>

Podcast Interview: "Ancestries of Enslavement." College of Charleston. Fall 2020.
<http://blogs.cofc.edu/aast/2020/08/27/port-of-entry-episode-6-ancestries-of-enslavement-a-dialogue-with-scholars/>

Podcast Interview: Discussion Facilitator. "Reflections on Interview with Nikky Finney." *The FivePoints Podcast*. December 2019. <https://www.podbean.com/media/share/pb-wdfuw-cc6393?>

Blog: "Nikky Finney on Mentorship and Permission." Video Excerpt from December 2018 Recorded Interview with Nikky Finney. *FivePoints* "from The Den Blog." December 2019.
<http://fivepoints.gsu.edu/nikky-finney-and-mentorship/>

Podcast Interview: "White Jake, Black Jake" (September 30, 2017) on "The Tumbledown" discussing article, "How WWI Sparked the Artistic Movement that Transformed Black America." <https://sinkholemag.com/the-tumbledown>

Podcast Interview (April 2012) discussing *African Spirituality in Black Women's Fiction*, on NBn (New Books network: a podcast consortium of discussions with scholars about their new books). <http://newbooksinafroamstudies.com/list/>

Literary Expert Interviewee for Georgia Public Broadcasting's Emmy Award Winning Documentary, Margaret Mitchell: American Rebel, June 30, 2011 regional broadcast. Spring

2012 National Public Broadcasting's American Masters Series telecast
<http://www.gpb.org/margaret-mitchell>, <https://files.me.com/wardomania/rygr9t.mov>,
<http://www.gpb.org/files/mmfiles/mmamericanrebelpresskit.pdf>,
 or [http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/margaret-mitchell-american-rebel/about-the-documentary/1974/.](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/margaret-mitchell-american-rebel/about-the-documentary/1974/))

Key Grant and CSAD Initiated Events

- GSU Mellon Intersectionality in the American South Summer Workshop. In partnership with and hosted by Johannes Gutenberg University's Obama Institute, Mainz, Germany. July 2025.
- GSU Mellon Intersectionality in the American South Summer Workshop. In partnership with and hosted by The College of Charleston Graduate School, CLAW, and Avery Center. July 2024.
- GSU Mellon Intersectionality in the American South Summer Fieldschool. Led by Drs. Tiffany Player and Ras Michael Brown. July 2024.
- CSAD Co-Organizer for 2024 Global Readathon. Event supported by GSU, local, and international partners. February 2024.
- CSAD Co-Organizer for An Evening with Gelila Assefa Puck. "Ethiopia, Memories of Home." Welcoming Ms. Puck as CSAD's new advisory board member and exploring the history of Ethiopia and its diaspora through Puck's own personal story and with members from Atlanta's Ethiopian community. Nov 10, 2023
- GSU Mellon Intersectionality in the American South Summer Workshop. "Pedagogical Uses of Intersectionality." The eighteen participants were from GSU and external institutions (in and outside state of Georgia) and included graduate students and faculty. June 2023.
- GSU Mellon Intersectionality in the American South Summer Institute. Convening of the Mellon 6-institution Intersectionality Collective. Members represented the Collectives from University of Utah, University of Southern California, University of Illinois-Urbana, NYU, University of Virginia, and GSU. June 2023
- CSAD Co-Organizer for 2023 Global Readathon. Event supported by GSU, local, and international partners. February 2023.
- GSU Mellon Intersectionality in the American South inaugural Conversation Event in partnership with GSU College of Law. October 25, 2022.
- CSAD Organizer of Public Conversation w/Chef Sallie Ann: Preserving the Legacy and Future of Black Lowcountry Communities and Collaborative Projects. CSAD coordinated events in partnership with Agnes Scott College, Kennesaw State University, and Auburn Avenue Library to host Chef Sallie Ann to speak about the Daufuskie Island Gullah Heritage Society (DIGHS) and its mission. April 18-20, 2022.
- CSAD Co-Organizer. Webinar: "Intersecting Medicine and the Humanities." CSAD hosted webinar conversation moderated by Dr. Maurice Hobson with panelists Dr. Bisan Salhi (Emory University, Emergency Medicine), Dr. Ralph Didlake (University of Mississippi Medical Center, Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities), Dr. Peggy Dilworth-Anderson, UNC-Chapel Hill Public Health), and Dr. Mita Banerjee (Johannes Gutenberg University Obama Institute's Life Writing Studies). December 8, 2021.
- CSAD Co-Organizer of a co-sponsored four-part book talk series, with the Georgia State University Library and the Decatur Book Festival. Series highlighted five Georgia State scholars with recently published books, each providing a unique lens on race and social justice issues. October 2020.
- CSAD Co-Organizer of CSAD's Launch Webinar, marking the Center's operational opening. Panel included leading scholars in African and African Diasporic studies: Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Amilcar Shabazz, and Keisha N. Blain. In partnership with GSU and external institutions. August 6, 2020.

Directed and/or Organized University Events

Proposed and Awarded (\$21,000) Summer 2019 Provost's Fellowship Pre-Application Workshop (12 participants)

Directed and Organized March 22 – 23, 2018 Symposium, "The Post Obama Ethos: Transnationalism and The U.S. in the Aftermath of Hope." A GSU-JGU Obama Institute collaboration.

CENCIA AWARD (2016-17) "Religion, Race, and Gender in the Transforming Transnational US South," A Film Screening and Discussion of Maha Marouan's *Voices of Muslim Women from the US South* in collaboration with Atlanta's Auburn Avenue Research Library. March 22, 2017.

Co-Directed and organized "Jamaican Maroon Intellectual and Literary Symposium and Performance." CENCIA, Dept of History, Dept of English Collaboration. Sept. 2016

Panel and Performance Organizer for GSU A&S 2014 Africa Atlanta Conference. Historical Legacy of Africans in Atlanta, "Africans in Atlanta—Real Time: Remaking Self and Culture in Atlanta," and "Atlanta Burundi Drummers Performance." Sept. 2014.

Honors and Awards

College Language Association First-Time Attendee Award established and named in honor of Elizabeth J. West. 2023. <https://www.clascholars.org/elizabeth-j-west-first-time-attendee-award>

Member (Invited). Asylum Hill Research Consortium (AHRC). Interdisciplinary scholarly expert group working collaboratively to document, remember, and memorialize the thousands buried on the asylum grounds during its 80-year history.

Institute Participant: NEH Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities. "Immersive Global Middle Ages," Directors: Dr. Roger Martinez-Davila (Univ Colorado Col Springs), and Dr. Lynn Ramey (Vanderbilt University). January 2022 – November 2023.

GSU 2021 Provost Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Award (J.E.D.I.)

Visiting Researcher and Scholarly Collaborator. College of Charleston, (African American Studies Program in the School of Languages, Culture and World Affairs). One week visiting researcher and Scholarly Collaborator. (November 2019).

The Obama Institute In-Residence Faculty Research Fellowship (for spring 2019). A 4-week visiting research award to work on chapter of biography project.

DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Visiting Professorship (Fall/Winter 2013/14), in the American Studies Department at Johannes Gutenberg University. Mainz, Germany.

GSU English Department Summer Research Grant, 2021, 2013, 2005, 2002.

Scholar-in-Residence, Department of African and African-American Studies (AAAS), Dartmouth College. May 22 – June 2, 2012. (Research and Readings in Afro-Hispanic Literature).

"From David Walker to President Obama: Tropes of the Founding Fathers in African American Discourses of Democracy, or the Legacy of Ishmael." Among the January 2012 editors' selection of "Featured Articles" in the American Studies Association's Directory (*American Studies Journals: A Directory of Worldwide Resources*. http://www.theasa.net/journals/featured_articles/).

GSU Faculty Learning Community Writers Retreat, Sapelo Island, June 2011.

ROOTS 2003 NEH Summer Seminar Participant (6/2-7/11 Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and University of Virginia)

American Association of University Women Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, 2002-2003

Scholarship and Professional Assessments

Reviewer for *Amerikastudien* (2017 - 2022)

Manuscript Reviewer for *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies* (2018)

SAR (South Atlantic Review) Book Review Editor (2012 – 2014)

Manuscript Reviewer for *South Atlantic Review* (2013, 2015-Present)

Referee for special Post-Colonial issue of *Callaloo* (2013)
 Editorial Committee, *Studies in the Literary Imagination* (2010-2012)
 Manuscript Reviewer for *Studies in American Fiction* (2012)
 Manuscript Reviewer for *CLAJ*
 Manuscript Reviewer for *Periphrasis*
 Manuscript Reviewer for *Anthurium*
 Manuscript Reviewer for *African American Review* (2009, 2012)
 Consultant Reader for *LEGACY: A Journal of American Women Writers* (2007 - 2013)
 Manuscript Reviewer for *Mosaic*
 Manuscript Reviewer for SUNY Press (2012)
 Manuscript Reviewer for Routledge Press (2011)
 Manuscript Reviewer for University of FL Press (2013)
 Manuscript Reviewer for University Tenn. Press (2010)
 Outside Reviewer for Tenure Candidates

TEACHING

Courses Taught

Introduction to Literary Studies—English 3040
 Early American Literature—English 3800
 Early African American Literature—English 8831
 African American Literature—English 3950/AAS 3880
 African American Women Writers—English 3960
 American Realism—English 3820
 American Literature—English 2130
 Caribbean Literature—English 3970
 World Literature—English 2110
 Freshman Composition—English 1101
 Women's Literature (Texas A&M)
 LBAR 381 (Texas A&M Interdisciplinary Special Topics Course)
 English 676 Topic: Gender Constructions in pre-1900 American Fiction (Texas A&M)
 English 285 Problems Course focusing on Spirituality and Black Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance (Texas A&M)
 American Literature I--Honors and General Sections (Texas A&M)
 African American Lit--Honors and General Sections (Texas A&M)

Special Topics Courses

English 4101 Single Author: Toni Morrison (Fall 2020)
 English 8894 Topics in 20th C Amer Lit & Culture: "Fiction and Future: Toni Morrison and the Lure of the Past" (Spring 2020)
 HON 3260 Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar, "The U.S. South: Black, White, and Beyond" (Summer 2018)
 English 4201 "Transnationalism and Identity in African American Literature" (Spring 2016)
 Graduate Seminar American Studies (Master)1. "Aesthetics of Spirituality in Early African American Life Writing." (Johannes Gutenberg Univ. 2013/14)
 Graduate Seminar American Studies (Master)1. "Explorations of Epistemology and Race in Turn-of-the-Century (19th/20th) American Literature." (Johannes Gutenberg Univ. 2013/14)
 Proseminar II American Studies. "Blackness in 20th/21st Century African American Literature." (Johannes Gutenberg Univ. 2013/14)
 English 8891 Major American Writers (Toni Morrison; Frederick Douglass; Pauline Hopkins)
 English 8891 Major American Writers (Epistemologies of Race in Late Nineteenth-century American Literature)

English 4100 Study of a Single Author (Frederick Douglass)
 English 645 (Women in Literature: Caribbean Women's Writing: Memory, Place and Community), Approved for Spring 2001 Texas A&M
 LBAR 381 "Identity, Spirituality, and the Discourse of un-Christianity in Black Women's Fiction"
 English 676 (Topic: Gender Constructions in pre-1900 American Fiction)

Direction of and Committee Membership for Individual Student Work

Ph.D. Dissertations

Director

"Take Root in the Stars': Black Women's Speculative Fiction as Liberation Biomythographies," R. Nicole Smith. (Fall 2019)
 "Empathetic Humanism and Multiethnic Narratives," Ashley Cheyemi McNeil. Binational Degree with Johannes Gutenberg University Dept. of American Studies. (Spring 2019)
 "Contested Stories: the (Semi-) Autobiographical Works of Nella Larsen, Evelyn Scott, and Anzia Yezierska," Lindsay Byron (Spring 2013)
 "Secrecy, Silences, and the Unspoken in Twentieth-Century African American Literature," Tamalyn Peterson. (Spring 2013)
 "Foot Tracks on the Ocean: Zora Neale Hurston and the Creation of an African American Transcultural Identity," Patricia Coloma (Summer 2012)

Reader

"The Sentimental Content of History: US Historical Novels, Public History, and Race in the Twentieth Century. Joshua Jackson." (Summer 2022)
 "Convergent Grounds: Black and Native Women Imagining America." Carlye Schock. (Summer 2021)
 "Mothering and Surrogacy in Twentieth-Century American Literature: Promise or Betrayal," Kimberly Weaver (summer 2011)
 "Why Tell the Truth When a Lie Will Do?: Re-Creations and Resistance in the Self-Authorred Life Writing of Five American Women Fiction Writers," Piper Huguley (2006)

M.A. Thesis

Director

"James Baldwin's Discourse on Democracy: Dynamic Constructions of Space in *The fire Next Time* and *If Beale Street Could Talk*." Jamila Lyn. (Spring 2025)
 "Bless Your Heart: A deconstruction of Southern hostility disguised as Southern hospitality and its effects on Black Identity in "*Blues for Mister Charlie*" and *The Vanishing Half*." Sterling Neil. (Fall 2023)
 "Carnival, Convents, and the Cult of St. Rocque: Cultural Subterfuge in the Work of Alice Dunbar-Nelson." Sibongile Lynch (Summer 2012)
 "Medias Res, Temporal Double-Consciousness and Resistance in Octavia Butler's *Kindred*." R. Nicole Smith. (2008)

Reader

"My Feeling Ways": Conceptualizing Healing Through Procreative Agency and Sexual Subversion in Harriet Jacobs' *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* and Gayl Jones' *Corregidora*. Qetarah Richardson. (Summer 2025).
 "Investigating Settler Colonialism in Atlanta's Housing Policy: Problematizing Gentrification and Mapping Oppositional Knowledge." Safiya Miller. (Spring 2025)

"The Impact of the Atlanta Race Riot of 1906 on the Discourse on Womanhood," Pamela Logan. (May 2015)
 "The Trauma of Chattel Slavery: A Womanist Perspective on Georgia in Early Times," Dionne Blasingame. (Summer 2012)
 "Un-Fairytales: Realism and Black Feminist Rhetoric in the Works of Jessie Fauset." Danielle Tillman. (2011)
 "The Intertextualities Between *The Awakening* and *The Color Purple*," Catthuan Nguyen. (2011)
 "Representations of Labor in the Slave Narrative," Agnel Baron. (2009)

M.A. NonThesis

Director

"Acts of Patriarchal Resistance: A Black Feminist Analysis of Linda Brent and Beneatha." Autumn Jones. (2023)

M.S. Capstone Project, Computer Science Dept. (Dir. Chetan Tiwari, CS & GeoScience)

Committee Member

"GRAPHQL Implementation in the DMMAG Project: A Modern Approach to Historical Data Access." Shreya Tadipaneni. (Spring 2025)

M.S. Capstone Project, Computer Science Dept. (Dir. Chetan Tiwari, CS & GeoScience)

Committee Member

"Finding Francis: Uncovering Enslaved Histories by Geo Mapping," Research and Development of an Archival Database of 19th Century Enslaved People in Harris County, Georgia. Rohith Reddy Kasarla. (Spring 2024)

Honors Thesis

Director

"Dog Whistles and Dissonance: Contrasting Narratives of Black Kinship Versus the Black Family Structure," Safiya Miller. (Summer 2021)

Directed Reading

English 4999 "Reading New World Enslavement Through the Lens of the Pre-Middle Passage Temne of Sierra Leone" (Fall 2022)
 English 8100 "Early American Literature," Joshua Jackson (Spring 2019)
 English 8100 "Black Feminist Theory," Dionne Clark (Spring 2019)
 English 8100 "19th Century African American Literature: evolution of the black family pre- and post-emancipation," Brittany Stewart (Fall 2017).
 English 4999 "Representations of Black Women in the South in Fiction and Film," Shenell Williams (Spring 2017).
 English 8100. "African-American Writers Negotiating Identity in the post-Harlem Renaissance/pre-Black Arts Movement Eras," Jamila Lyn (Summer 2013).
 English 4100. "Hip-Hop Culture, Urban Fiction, and the Search for Significance," Jeremy Fuller (Fall 2010)

Teaching Awards/Special Projects

Summer 2024 Gullah/Geechee Fieldschool: Reclaiming Memory Spaces. In collaboration with College of Charleston and supported through Mellon IAS funding. The 6-day course was designed and co-taught by history faculty, Tiffany Player and Ras Michael Brown.
 Maymester 2023 Dafuskie Fieldschool: Proposed and committed Amos Endowment funds for a Maymester Field School for students to conduct on-hands research and work in the Georgia-

South Carolina Gullah Geechee corridor. The course was designed and co-taught by history faculty, Tiffany Player, Ras Michael Brown, and Chad Keller.

Fall 2020-Present: Project Director, "Database Building and Story Mapping Enslavement and Migration Biography." A DH experiential project with graduate and undergraduate student researchers. GSU EPIC Program Project Labs.

Fall 2021: GSU-CASA Mentor Award. In recognition of mentorship in the Mellon Foundation GSU HIP (Humanities Inclusivity Program).

2021- 2023 Mellon Foundation GSU HIP (Humanities Inclusivity Program) Mentor and Research Advisor: Andrea Merritt.

2019-2020: Mellon Foundation GSU HIP (Humanities Inclusivity Program) Mentor and Research Advisor: Safiya Miller.

Spring 2017: GSU Honors College Course (HON 3260) Award for Summer 2018

Spring 2013: University of Baghdad – Georgia State University Partnership, Syllabus Revision and Faculty Mentoring Course. Directed an online course with instructors from the University of Baghdad. Our focus was modern American Literature (fiction and poetry) for undergraduate level courses.

Spring 2011: Faculty Committee, Student-Inspired Language/Literature Conference (SILC) on Sapelo Island Lexical/Literary Connections (SILC on SILC) Sapelo Island, McIntosh County, GA. March 11-13, 2011 (Coordinated by African American English Language and Literature Studies, English Department, GSU).

Summer 2010: Invited Lecturer, Transnational American Studies: The South in the Age of Obama. American Studies Dept., University of Mainz. Sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) at GSU. "From David Walker to President Obama: Tropes of the Founding Fathers in African American Discourses of Democracy, or The Legacy of Ishmael."

Summer 2009: Invited Lecturer and Seminar Discussant, Transnational American Studies: The South in Global Perspectives. American Studies Dept., University of Mainz. Sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) "Imagining Whiteness in Nineteenth-Century African American Fiction."

Fall 2008: GSU Center for Teaching & Learning "Thank A Teacher" Recognition

Spring 2005: Session Leader for Conversations among Partners in Learning (Topic: "Slave Class and Culture in Frederick Douglass's *Narrative*")

Summer 2004: Participating Instructor, African and African American Studies Teacher Workshop, GSU Dept of Educ. and AASudies

SERVICE

University Level

2023-2024 ADVANCE-IMPACT, LAUNCH Committee (Faculty Support Grant-NSF)

2018-2021 Faculty Sponsor, Black Power Book Club-GSU

2020 -2021 President's Task Force for Racial Equity

2017-2019 Member, GSU President's Commission for Next Generation Faculty

2016-19 University Senate:
 Chair (2017-18; 2018-19), Faculty Affairs Committee
 Chair (2016-17), SEI Revision Subcommittee

2011-13 University Senate:
 Cultural Diversity Committee (Chair)
 MRRF sub Committee
 Budget Committee
 ad hoc committee for Doctoral Student Funding
 ad hoc committee for Distinguished Visiting Professor Fellowship
 ad hoc committee for Doctoral Student Funding

Spr2009-11 Faculty Interviewer, GSU Scholarship Day
Committee Member-GSU Scholarship Award Committee
Spr/Sum 2007 Co-chair, University ad hoc Search Comm. for Director of Financial Aid
2005-Spr2007 University Senate Committee Member:
Admissions & Standards Subcommittee, Athletics Subcommittee

College Level

2022-24 Humanities Center Plummer Lecture Selection Committee
2018-20 Organizing Committee: Proposal of A&S Africana Studies Center
2013-14 Organizing Committee: GSU A&S 2014 Africa Atlanta Conference (part
of the larger Atlanta 2014 Africa Atlanta Celebration

Departmental Level

2023-24 English Dept. Hiring Committee
2023-23 Africana Studies Dept. P&T Committee
2023-23 Religious Studies Dept. P&T Committee
2021-Present English Dept. Mainz-Heidelberg Student Exchange ; Mainz-GSU Dual PhD
2021-22 English Dept. Hiring Committee
2018-20 English Dept P&T Committee (Chair)
2012-16 English Dept. P&T Comm.
2014-15 English Dept. Literary Studies Subcomm Curriculum Revision (Chair)
2012-15 English Dept. Literary Studies Section Representative
English Dept. Executive Comm. Member
2010-12 Member, English Dept. Search Committee
Studies in the Literary Imagination, Review Committee
Ad hoc Pre-Tenure Review Committee, English Dept.
2008-09 Chair, GSU English Dept. Events Committee
2005 Member, Dept. Search Committee
2004 Executive Committee Member—English Department
Member, Program Review Committee—English Dept.
Member, Events and Awards Committee—English Dept.
2003 Member, Dept. Search Committee
Member Departmental Self-Review Committee
Member Research Enhancement Committee
2001 Member Departmental MFA./Ph.D. Exams Committees

Professional Elected and Appointed Offices

2024 Standing Committee Chair, Nominations Committee. CLA.
2017 - Present Advisory Board, Johannes Gutenberg University Obama Institute
2017 - 2022 Editorial Board, *Amerikastudien*
2015 – 2020 MLA Delegate Committee/Special Delegate
2008 – 2020. Asst. Treasurer, Treasurer (2016-20), College Language Association
2004 - 2003 MLA Delegate Committee/Special Delegate—Ethnic Studies

Professional Level

2015-16 Mentor, Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty (Dr. McKinley
Melton, Gettysburg College), Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation
2011-12 Co-webmaster & Executive Comm. Member, Pauline Hopkins Society
2010-11 Directed CLA website redesign
Studies in the Literary Imagination, Review Committee
2009-11 Coordinator, Digitizing *CLAJ* 10 yr. Bibliography
Coordinator, Digitizing Publications of CLA Membership
2007-2011 Co-designer & administrator, Pauline Hopkins Society Website

Community Level

- 2022 Invited Discussant. Atlanta Mayor's Transition Team, a Conversation on Ethics in Government. March 16, 2022.
- 2021-2023 Member, Univ Collective Collaboration, Daufuskie Island Gullah Heritage Society
- 2019 ESL Instructor, Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Stone Mtn, GA
- 2018 Invited Guest, Care BPAC (Black Professionals at Care) Lunch & Learn Black History Month (February) Panelist
- 2017 Invited Guest, Care BPAC (Black Professionals at Care) Lunch & Learn
- 2012 Guest Lecturer for study group, Just Faith of Corpus Christi Catholic Church. Lecture title: "Reflections on Race and Religion: Constructing Race and Place in American Society." Stone Mtn., GA. (December 18, 2012).
- 2010 Lead an essay workshop for middle and high school students at Salem Bible Church (March 6, 2010)
- 2009 Member, Coordinating Committee for Girls Summer Swarm Program (scholarly prep outreach program sponsored by Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Stn. Mtn)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Former and Present Memberships

Modern Language Association
American Studies Association
South Atlantic Modern Language Association
College Language Association
AAHGS (African American Historical and Genealogical Society)
ASWAD (Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora)
CAAR (Colloquium on African American Research)
American Academy of Religion
Afro-Latin/American Research Association (ALARA)
American Association of University Women
Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)
Southern Regional American Studies Association
Founding Member Toni Morrison Society
Founding Member Pauline Hopkins Society
Founding Member Charles Chesnutt Society
Founding Member George Moses Horton Society

REFERENCES

Available Upon Request