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Associate Professor
English and Africana Studies (with affiliations in WGSS and American Studies)
University of Connecticut

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, Dec. 2004

Dissertation: *The Art of the Aesthete: Aesthetics, Subjectivity, and Ethics in the 'New Negro' Writings of Alain Locke, William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, and Nella Larsen*, under the advisement of professors Herman Beavers and Farah Griffin

Wellesley College, B.A., Magna Cum Laude, in English and French with Honors, June 1995

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

- 20th and 21st Century African American and Afro-Diasporic Literature and Culture
- Feminist and Womanist Modernist and Contemporary Literatures
- Queer of Color Critique
- Aesthetics
- W.E.B. Du Bois's Literature and Thought
- Racial Passing Narratives
- Trans* Transition Narratives

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Visiting Scholar, Intersectionality Seminar at the Valente Center of Arts and Sciences, Bentley University, 2018-19
- Faculty Advancement Fund Grant, Emerson College, 2018
- W.E.B. Du Bois Visiting Scholar, Du Bois Center, UMASS-Amherst, Summer 2017
- Faculty Advancement Fund Grant, Emerson College, 2016
- Honorable Mention Recipient, *African American Review*'s Joe Weixlmann Award for Best Essay in Twentieth- and Twenty-first- Century African American or Pan-African Literature and Culture, 2014
- SAS Dissertation Fellow, University of Pennsylvania, 2000
- Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Humanistic Studies, 1995
- Phi Beta Kappa, Wellesley College, 1995
- Andrew W. Mellon Minority (now Mellon Mays) Fellow, 1993

BOOK MANUSCRIPT

Tales from Du Bois: The Queer Intimacy of Cross-Caste Romance (SUNY Press) offers novel readings of Du Bois's rich literary repertoire, analyzing Du Bois's deployment of a trope I term the "cross-caste romance" as the principal structuring device for his literary works. I define "cross-caste romance" as a bond that is sentimental, conjugal, or erotic, projected across lines of purportedly immutable difference. By examining key texts including *The Souls of Black Folk*, *Darkwater*, and *Dark Princess*, as well as examples from Du Bois's forgotten works of genre fiction, I show how cross-caste romance deconstructs conventional parameters of Black subjectivity and community. An inter-personal relation with socio-political import, the cross-caste romance—whether enabled or disabled—places into relief the fragility of empathic recognition between a "self" and an "other." Drawing on critical race theory, philosophy, feminist and queer theory, and structural analysis, this book examines the possibilities for an intersectional, anti-racist form of Afro-American politics in the literary work of a major intellectual of the twentieth-century.

PUBLICATIONS

- ❖ *Tales from Du Bois: The Queer Intimacy of Cross-Caste Romance* (SUNY Press, April 2022)
- ❖ "The Queer Gift of Black Folk: Double Consciousness in Du Bois's Detective Story 'The Case,'" *Studies in American Fiction*, Volume 48, No. 1, Spring 2021 (published in 2022)
- ❖ "Subverted Passing and Trans* Transition in Helen Oyeyemi's *Boy, Snow, Bird*," *College Literature: A Journal of Critical Literary Studies*, Vol. 48, No. 2, Spring 2021
- ❖ "A Hymn of Faith Is a Tale of Love: *Lohengrin* and Platonic Romance in Du Bois's 'Of the Coming of John,'" *Modern Fiction Studies*, Vol. 66, No. 4, Winter 2020
- ❖ "Subverted Passing: Racial and Transgender Identities in Linda Villarosa's *Passing For Black*," *Studies in American Fiction*, Vol. 40, No.2, Fall 2013
- ❖ "A Lie of Omission: Plagiarism in Nella Larsen's *Quicksand*," *African American Review*, Vol. 45, Nos. 1-2, 2012
- ❖ Review Essay: "Amy Bass's *Those About Him Remained Silent: The Battle Over W.E.B. Du Bois*," *Callaloo*, Vol. 34, No. 4, 2011
- ❖ Entry on W. E. B. Du Bois's novel *Dark Princess*, *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance*, Routledge/Taylor-Francis, 2004
- ❖ "On the Beauty in Breaking (Down) the Law of Meaning," "Forum" section of *How2*, an online journal of modernist and contemporary innovative writing practices by women, Vol.

I, No. 4, 2000

(http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/stadler_center/how2/current/index.html)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- ❖ “Queer and Trans* Subversions of Modernist and Contemporary Africana Passing Narratives” examines the tension between paradigms of racial passing and those of queer and trans* transition in the context of their frequent juxtaposition in African American and Afro-diasporic novels. Examined works will include those by Nella Larsen, James Weldon Johnson, Helen Oyeyemi, Mat Johnson, and Brit Bennett (book manuscript in progress).
- ❖ “Strange Intimacies: Traces of Psyche and Isis in Du Bois’s “The Princess of the Hither Isles” (article in progress)
- ❖ “On Lorraine Hansberry’s Pseudonymous Queer Fiction” (project in preparation)

INVITED TALKS AND PANELS

- ❖ “Strange Intimacies: Traces of Psyche in Du Bois’s ‘The Princess of the Hither Isles,’” Invited Participant, "W.E.B. Du Bois and the Ancient Mediterranean" Conference at Penn State, March 19-21, 2021
- ❖ "Race and the Art of Passing," Invited Panel Participant, Rhode Island College, February 7, 2020
- ❖ Invited Participant, Commemorative Conference Honoring the Tenth Anniversary of the Du Bois Center, UMASS-Amherst, February 20-21st, 2020
- ❖ “Versions of Double Consciousness, Subversions of Passing, and Queer Africana Imaginings,” Guest Lecturer and Seminar Leader, Proseminar in Social Scientific Inquiry on the theme of "W.E.B. Du Bois and the Color Line: Race, Power, and Politics, Bard College of Simon's Rock, November 2018
- ❖ “Subverting Double Consciousness and Queering Romance in W.E.B. Du Bois’s Detective Fiction,” W.E.B. Du Bois Center, UMASS-Amherst, December 2017
- ❖ Panel participant, discussion of intersectionality on Callie Crossley’s radio show “Under the Radar,” WGBH, March 2017
- ❖ After-Show “Talk-back” panel participant, production of “Revolt, She Said Revolt Again,” Company One Theater, November, 2016
- ❖ Guest Lecturer: “Migration as Metaphor in the Harlem Renaissance,” sponsored by the Honors Program at Roxbury Community College, April 2013

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- ❖ "Subverted Passing and Queer Transition in Helen Oyeyemi's *Boy, Snow, Bird*," American Literature Association Annual Conference, 2018

- ❖ “The Politics of Romance: Gender and Genre in Du Bois’s Fiction,” *W.E.B. Du Bois: Collectivity, Gender, and Genre* panel, American Literature Association Annual Conference, May of 2015
- ❖ “Proliferating Princesses: The Politics of Fantasy in the Literature of Du Bois,” *W.E.B. Du Bois and the Twentieth-Century Color Line* panel, Modern Language Association Annual Conference, January 2013
- ❖ “The Black Detective or Detecting Black Consciousness: Du Bois’s Subverted Detective Fiction,” *The Mechanisms and Materiality of Ensuring Security* panel, American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, March 2012
- ❖ “Mythic Retelling and Revision in the Literature of W.E.B. Du Bois,” *Retellings: Literature as Literary Criticism* panel, Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Conference, April 2011
- ❖ Chair, *Retellings: Literature as Literary Criticism II* panel, NEMLA conference, April 2011
- ❖ “Plagiarizing as Passing: The Case of Nella Larsen,” *African American Literature I: From Modernism to Hip-Hop* panel, Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Annual Conference, November 2009
- ❖ “Racial and Transgender Identity in Linda Villarosa’s *Passing for Black*,” *Narratives of Passing: Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Literature* panel, Northeastern Modern Language Association Annual Conference, February 2009
- ❖ “Judging Beauty: Lohengrin, Cupid and Psyche, and Alternative Leadership in Du Bois,” *Folklore and Mythology* panel, Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Conference, November 2008
- ❖ Organizer and Chair: *Reframing/Revisiting Nella Larsen* panel, Northeast Modern Language Association’s Annual Conference, March 2007
- ❖ “Du Bois’s ‘Of the Coming of John,’ Wagner’s *Lohengrin*, and the Politics of Cultural Segregation,” *African American Literature* panel, Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Conference, November 2005
- ❖ “Why the Music ‘Put [Him] All A-Tune’: Wagner’s *Lohengrin*, the Politics of Art, and New Black Subjectivity in W.E.B. Du Bois’s ‘Of the Coming of John,’” *Conjunctions/Disjunctions Between Aesthetics and Politics* panel, Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, March 2003

TEACHING AND PEDAGOGY

UConn

Associate Professor, English and Africana Studies, 2021-

- Africana/English 3215W: 20th- and 21st- century African American Lit. (Spring 2022)
- English 1601W: Race, Gender, and the Culture Industry (Spring 2022)
- English 2214 (AFRA 2214): African American Literature (Fall 2021)

Emerson College

Associate Professor of African American Literature and Culture, 2020-2021

- Honors Seminar 101: Literature and Culture of the Americas, Fall 2020
- Interdisciplinary Studies 374: Passing in Literature and Film, Fall 2020, Spring 2021
- Literature 312: Harlem Renaissance, Fall 2020

Assistant Professor of African American Literature and Culture, 2014-2020

- Honors Seminar 101: Literature and Culture of the Americas, Fall 2019, Fall 2016, 2015
- Honors Seminar 102/103: Reading American Literature and Culture/Writing the Extended Research Paper, Spring 2017, 2016
- Honors 490: Thesis Directed Study, Fall 2014
- Interdisciplinary Studies 117: Women Artists in Cultural Contexts, Fall 2018, 2017, 2014, Spring 2019, 2017, 2016
- Interdisciplinary Studies 423: Key Contemporary Thinkers: Du Bois, Fall 2016
- Interdisciplinary Studies 332: Key Contemporary Thinkers: Du Bois/Literature 309: Literature of W.E.B. Du Bois, Fall 2015, 2014
- Literature 312: Harlem Renaissance, Fall 2019, 2017, 2016, Spring 2015

Scholar-in-Residence, 2005-2014

- Honors 490: Thesis Directed Study, Fall 2013
- Honors Seminar 102/103: Reading American Literature and Culture/Writing the Extended Research Paper, Spring 2013, 2012, 2011, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006
- Honors Seminar 101: Literature and Culture of the Americas, Fall 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005
- Interdisciplinary Studies 320: Key Contemporary Thinkers: Du Bois, Fall 2013
- Interdisciplinary Studies 320/Literature 421: Key Contemporary Thinkers: Du Bois/The Literature and Politics of W.E.B. Du Bois, Fall 2012
- Interdisciplinary Studies 200: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, Fall 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006
- Interdisciplinary Studies 117 (formerly 123): Women Artists in Philosophy, Literature, and Culture, Spring 2014, 2008, Fall 2013, 2007, 2005
- Interdisciplinary Studies 123.9: Coming of Age, Spring 2014
- Interdisciplinary Studies 123: Culture and Identity, Spring 2006
- Literature 382: African American Literature, Fall 2011, 2008
- Literature 210: American Women Writers, Fall 2005
- Literature 209: Literature and Culture of the Harlem Renaissance, Spring 2014, 2013, 2011, 2010

- Literature 208: US Multicultural Literature, Spring 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, Fall 2007, 2006

Wellesley College

Lecturer

- Writing 125: Writing About Art and Life, Spring 2003
- English 268: Female Narratives of Personal Development, Spring 2002
- Writing 125: Women Writing About Art, Spring 2002
- English 266: Early Modern American Literature, Fall 2001
- Writing 125: American Writers in France, Fall 2001

University of Pennsylvania

- Comparative Literature: America's Other: France in the American Cultural Imagination, Summer 2000
- Resident Advisor and Teaching Assistant: African American Studies Summer Institute, Summers of 1998 and 1999
- Teaching Assistant: Gender and Society, Fall 1998
- T. A. Training Workshop Leader: Multiculturalism in the Classroom, Fall 1998
- Writing Consultant: Writing Center, 1998-2000
- Freshman Writing: Identity and Artistry in Modern Literature, Spring 1998
- Freshman Writing: Cultural Controversy in Contemporary America, Fall 1997

COLLEGE SERVICE

University of Connecticut

- Headship Search Committee, English department, Spring 2022
- Reader of Graduate School Applications, English department, Spring 2022
- Departmental Representative, Dissertation Defense of Amy Fehr, "Reading for World Citizenship in the Postwar University," English department, Spring 2022
- Curriculum Committee, English department, 2021-2022
- Diversity and Equity Committee, English department, Fall 2021
- CARDF Cluster Co-Mentor (with Dr. Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann and under the advisement of Associate Dean of DEI Kate Capshaw), 2021-2022
- ASI representative, Fall Open House, October 2021
- Guest speaker, AFRA 2211: Introduction to Africana Studies, Spring 2022
- Panelist, "First Book First Steps," sponsored by the WGSS CounterSpace, Spring 2022

Emerson College

- Presidential Advisory Group on Community and Equity, 2021
- Presidential Covid-19 Core Leadership Working Group, Summer 2020
- Co-Chair of Liberal Arts Council Equity and Justice Committee (with Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann), Spring 2021
- Governing Council member, representative at large, Emerson AAUP, 2020-present

- Member, Council for Diversity and Inclusive Excellence, Emerson College, 2020-2021, Fall 2017
- Member, Curriculum Committee for Liberal Arts Council, Emerson College, Fall 2016-Spring 2017; Fall 2019-present
- Representative, Faculty Council 2019-2020
- Facilitator, Panel on Intersectionality, Annual Teach-In on Race, Fall 2018
- Member, Honors Advisory Council, Emerson College, Fall 2017- present
- Discussion Leader for "Bright Lights" Screening of *Get Out*, Fall 2017
- Panel Participant for "Hidden Gems," a Screening and Tribute for Camille Billops, Spring 2017
- Co-facilitator of the President's Book Club discussion of Claudia Rankine's *Citizen: An American Lyric*, Emerson College, April 2017
- Appointee, Ad Hoc Committee to reform US and Global Diversity Requirements, Emerson College, Fall 2015- Fall 2018
- Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Emerson College, Fall 2015
- Inclusive Excellence Faculty Fellow, Emerson College, Summer 2015
- First Year Seminar committee, Emerson College, 2012-2014
- Co-Chair, Student Evaluation Instrument Committee, Emerson College, 2013-2014
- Faculty Advisor, *Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Minor*, Emerson College, 2013-present
- Vice President, of ECTAC, Term Faculty Advocacy Chapter of the AAUP, 2013-2014
- Representative: Faculty Council, Emerson College, 2013-2014
- Member, Liberal Arts Council, Emerson College, 2012- present
- Special Assistant to the Dean of Liberal Arts: researching, directing, and presenting on curricular reform in First-Year Studies and for the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Minor, Emerson College, Fall 2010-Spring 2013
- Moderator: *Why Los Angeles Exploded: Perspectives on the Urban Upheavals from 20 Years Out* panel, Emerson College, Emerson College, February 2012
- Elected Member: Presidential Budget Advisory Committee, Emerson College, 2012-2014
- Chair: Search Committee for Global Citizenship and Science and Society Faculty Positions, Institute for Liberal Arts/Interdisciplinary Studies, Emerson College, 2012
- Appointee: NEASC Standard Four Committee, Emerson College, 2011-12
- Representative: Academic Policy Committee, Emerson College, 2011-13,
- Elected Member: Faculty Subcommittee of the Presidential Transition Committee, Emerson College, Spring-Fall, 2011.
- Member: Steering Committee on the Liberal Arts, Emerson College, Fall 2010
- Elected Member: Strategic Planning Sub-committee, Faculty of the Future, Emerson College, Spring 2010
- Member: Search Committee for Scholar-in-Residence in Race and Ethnicity, Emerson College, Spring 2010
- Special Assistant to the VP of Academic Affairs/Administrative Fellow, Emerson College, Fall 2009
- Moderator: *Souls Divided: A Discussion of Black Womanism* panel, Harvard Black Law Students Association Spring Conference, Harvard University, Spring 2008

- Appointee: Search Committee for the Dean of Liberal Arts/Executive Director, Institute for Liberal Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies, Emerson College, 2007-2009
- Co-Organizer: *Art and Epistemology: Identities in Perspective* conference, sponsored by PRISM, an organization addressing perspectives on race, identity, sexuality, and multiculturalism, Emerson College, Fall 2006
- Representative: Faculty Council, Emerson College, 2006-2008
- Mentor: Viacom Scholars Program, a scholarship program for traditionally underrepresented students, Emerson College, 2006-07
- Participant: Diversity Facilitator Training, Center for Diversity in the Communication Industries, Emerson College, Spring 2007
- Member: PRISM, faculty/student/staff committee on diversity, Emerson College, 2005-
- Participant: *How Professors Deal With Multi-cultural and/or Multi-racial Issues Affecting Both Their Personal Lives and Work* panel, Fusion, an organization of multi-racial/multi-cultural students, Wellesley College, Spring 2003
- Co-facilitator: Diversity Training Workshop, Wellesley College, Fall 2002
- Member: Prizes Committee, English Department, Wellesley College, Spring 2002
- Facilitator, "Straight Talks": A Discussion of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans-gender Issues, Wellesley College, Fall 2001

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Manuscript Reviewer for *African American Review* and *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Member: American Literature Association, 2015-2020
- Member: American Comparative Literature Association, 2012-2018
- Member: Pacific Modern Language Association, 2005-2011
- Member: Northeast Modern Language Association, 2002-2011
- Member: Modern Language Association, 2000-present

LANGUAGES

Proficiency in French and Reading Proficiency in German