

Rita Keresztesi

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CURRENT AND PAST ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

Associate Professor of English, University of Oklahoma (2006 to present)
Assistant Professor of English, University of Oklahoma (2000 to 2006)
Affiliate: African and African American Studies, University of Oklahoma, Executive Committee Member (2019 to present)
Affiliate: Center for Peace and Development, University of Oklahoma (2020 to present)

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in Literature, December 1999, University of California at Santa Cruz.
Dissertation: "Strangers at Home: Ethnic Modernism Between the World Wars."
M.A. in Literature, June 1997, University of California at Santa Cruz.
B.A. in Literature, June 1983, University of Pécs (formerly Janus Pannonius University), Hungary. (Exchange student in Exeter, England for one semester, Spring 1982)

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

**Literary Black Power in the Caribbean: Fiction, Music and Film* (Routledge, Nov. 12, 2020)
<https://www.routledge.com/Literary-Black-Power-in-the-Caribbean-Fiction-Music-and-Film/Keresztesi/p/book/9780367482015>

Strangers at Home: American Ethnic Modernism between the World Wars. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2005 (hardback) and 2009 (paperback).

Edited Book:

The Western in the Global South. MaryEllen Higgins, Rita Keresztesi, and Dayna Oscherwitz, Editors. New York, NY: Routledge Publishers, 2015.

Book-in-Progress:

**African Cinema's Postcolonial Theory* (in progress)

Articles and Book Chapters:

"Hip Hop Politics: Agitation through Film and Music in West Africa." Abikal Borah, Bisola Falola, Toyin Falola, eds., *Creative Incursions: Cultural Representations of Human Rights in Africa and the Black Diaspora* (Africa World Series). Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, (October 7) 2019: Chapter 10, pp. 213-224.
"Bekolo's Dictator – Televised." Charlotte Baker and Hannah Grayson, eds. *Fictions of African Dictatorship* (Series: "Race and Resistance Across Borders in the Long Twentieth Century"). Bern, Switzerland: Peter Lang Publishers, 2018: 57-75.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/j.ctv7xbscn.6.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3Ab530273c9d60722af2a1b43b0383c0ba>

- “From Hip Hop to Nollywood: Resistance in Music and Film in West Africa.” Samuel Ojo Oloruntoba and Vusi Gumedede, eds. *State Development in Post-Independent Africa*. Austin, TX: Pan-African University Press, 2018: Chapter 21, pp. 355-366.
<https://www.amazon.com/Development-Post-Independent-Africa-Samuel-Oloruntoba/dp/1943533318>
<https://panafricanuniversitypress.com/pan-african-university-press-publications/>
- “Hip Hop Politics: Agitation through Film and Music in West Africa.” – *African Popular Music* (special issue) of *Cahiers ivoiriens d'études comparées* (CIEC) / *Ivorian Journal of Comparative Studies* (IJCS) 2.2 (2015) [published in January 2017] (pp. 6-18).
<http://ciec-ijcs.org/vol2Num2.php>
<http://ciec-ijcs.org/vol2Num2/ART1%20%5bAfrican%20Popular%20Music%5d%20Rita%20%20%20KERESZTESI.pdf>
- “The Business of Becoming a People’: Rebellion and Revolution in Earl Lovelace’s *Is Just a Movie*.” *Critical Perspectives on Conflict in Caribbean Societies of the Late 20th and Early 21st Centuries*. Eds. Patricia Donatien and Rodolphe Solbiac. Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015 (pp. 101-119).
<http://www.cambridgescholars.com/critical-perspectives-on-conflict-in-caribbean-societies-of-the-late-20th-and-early-21st-centuries>
- ”Introduction: The Western in the Global South.” *The Western in the Global South*. Eds. MaryEllen Higgins, Rita Keresztesi, and Dayna Oscherwitz. New York, NY: Routledge Publishers, 2015 (pp. 1-8).
- “Cowboys and West Indians: Decolonizing the Western in Perry Henzell’s *The Harder They Come*.” *The Western in the Global South*. Eds. MaryEllen Higgins, Rita Keresztesi, and Dayna Oscherwitz. New York, NY: Routledge Publishers, 2015 (pp. 110-126).
- “Hurston in Haiti: Neocolonialism and Zombification.” *Race, Oppression and the Zombie: Essays on Cross-Cultural Appropriations of the Caribbean Tradition*. Eds. Christopher M. Moreman and Cory James Rushton. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2011 (pp. 31-41).
- “Black Power in the Diaspora.” Proceedings of the *Rethinking the Mangrove*, Second International Symposium of Critical Perspectives in Caribbean Cultural Studies, digital publication (peer reviewed), University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, 2010.
- “Ethnic Modernism.” *Blackwell’s Companion to the Modern American Novel*. Ed. John Matthews. Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing, 2009 (pp. 324-352).
- “George Schuyler’s *Black No More* (1931).” *Teaching the Harlem Renaissance*. Afro-American Literature and Culture Series. Ed. Michael Soto. New York, NY: Peter Lang Publishing, 2008 (pp. 177-185).
- “Romancing the Borderlands: Josephina Niggli’s *Mexican Village* (1945).” *Doubled Plots: Romance and History*. Eds. Susan Strehle and Mary Paniccia Carden. Jackson, Miss.: University Press of Mississippi, 2003 (pp.107-126).
- “Writing Culture and Performing Race in Mourning Dove’s *Cogewea: The Half-Blood* (1927).” *Literature and Racial Ambiguity*. Eds. Neil Brooks and Teresa Hubel. Amsterdam: Rodopi Press, 2002 (pp. 187-208).

Translation (from the Hungarian to English):

György Lukács, “Aesthetic Culture.” Edited and with an Introduction by Tyrus Miller. *Yale*

Journal of Criticism 11 (1998): 365-379.

Book Reviews:

Review: Ernest Harsch, *Burkina Faso: A History of Power, Protest, and Revolution*. London, UK: Zed Books, 2017. *Africa Today* (Indiana University Press). Volume 64, Number 4 (Summer 2018): 122-123.

https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/africatoday.64.4.12?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

Review: Steven S. Lee, *The Ethnic Avant-Garde: Minority Cultures and World Revolution* (Columbia University Press, 2015), *MELUS Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States* (2016) 41 (4): 228-230.

<http://melus.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2016/10/24/melus.mlw038.full.pdf+html>

Review: *Literary Sisters: Dorothy West and Her Circle, A Biography of The Harlem Renaissance*, edited by Verner D. Mitchell and Cynthia Davis (Rutgers UP 2012), published in *Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly* 36.2 (Spring 2013): 404-407.

AWARDS/HONORS:

National/International

- Fulbright Scholar Fellowship, University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Africa: Teaching/Research, American Literature, September 2010-July 2011, \$54,100.

University of Oklahoma

- Senior Faculty Summer Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences, \$7,500 (Summer 2019)
- Junior Faculty Research Program Grant, \$6,000 each (2001, 2004)
- *• Ed Cline Faculty Development Award, \$2,500 (2012, 2015, 2020)
- Presidential International Travel Fellowship, \$1,300 each (2007, 2009, 2012, 2015)
- Research Council Grants, \$1,200 each (2005, 2008, 2012)
- Faculty Enrichment Grant, \$1,200 each (2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 March and September; 2010 March; November 2011, March 2012)

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS:

International

- [*• Sixth European Congress on World and Global History, Turku, Finland, June 25-28, 2020. Paper: "Global Color Line: Black Power in Caribbean Films." – conference cancelled.
- [*• Caribbean Studies Association, Georgetown, Guyana, June 1-5, 2020. Panel: "Films for Change: Identity and Representation in Caribbean Cinema." – conference cancelled.
- African Studies Association (ASA), Boston, November 21-23, 2019. Annual Conference: "Being, Belonging and Becoming in Africa." Papers: "Global Africa: Black Power in the Caribbean"; "Returning the Gaze: Manthia Diawara on Jean Rouch"; and "Political Advocacy and the ASA" session.
- African Studies International Conference, University of Vienna, Austria, May 16-17, 2019. "The Long History of Pan-African Intellectual Activism – More Than a Centenary, 1919-2019." Paper: "Pan-Africanism in the Caribbean: Debating Black Power."
- Caribbean Studies Association, Havana, Cuba, June 4-8, 2018. Paper: "Caribbean 1968: Writing Black Power."
- Caribbean Studies Association, Nassau, Bahamas, June 5-10, 2017. Roundtable discussion organizer and presenter: "Bahamian Literature Today." Interview with author Ian G. Strachan.

- African Studies Association (ASA), Washington, D.C., December 1-3, 2016. Paper: “Fictions of Dictatorship: Jean Pierre Bekolo’s *Le Président* (2013).”
- Turning Tides: Caribbean Intersections in the Americas and Beyond Conference. University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, February 18-20, 2016. Paper: “Rethinking the ‘Post-colony’ through Film and Music.” Also: Interview with author Earl Lovelace at the conference.
- PostCo-Antilles 2015: What is Postcolonial Thought / *Qu’est-ce-que la pensée postcoloniale?* – Colloque international. Université des Antilles, Campus de Schoelcher, Martinique, November 23-25, 2015. Paper: “Theorizing the ‘Postcolony’ in West African Cinema and Music.”
- 6th European Biannual Conference on African Studies (ECAS), Sorbonne University, Paris, July 8-10, 2015. Paper: “From Hip Hop to Nollywood: Archiving Resistance in West African Cinema.”
- Caribbean Studies Association (CSA), New Orleans, May 25-30, 2015. Paper: “The Shower Posse – Literal and Imagined: Marlon James, *A Brief History of Seven Killings* (2014).” Also: Interview with Marlon James at the conference.
- 15th Annual Africa Conference, University of Texas, Austin, April 3-5, 2015. Paper: “Agitation Through Film and Music in West Africa: Hip Hop Politics.”
- African Studies Association (ASA), Indianapolis, Indiana, November 20-23, 2014. Paper: “Hip Hop Politics.”
- Caribbean Studies Association (CSA), Mérida, México, May 26-30, 2014. Paper: “Songs of Freedom – From the Caribbean to West Africa.” Chair of Panel: “Sites/Sights and Sounds of Blackness.”
- Rastafari Studies Conference and General Assembly: Rastafari, Coral Gardens and African Redemption: Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities, organized by the University of West Indies, Mona Campus; Kingston, Jamaica, August 12-17, 2013. Paper: “Songs of Freedom: West African Reggae and Hip-Hop.”
- Association of Cultural Studies (ACS), “Crossroads in Cultural Studies,” 9th biannual international conference organized by Sorbonne Nouvelle University and UNESCO; Paris, France, July 2-6, 2012. Paper: “Black Power in the Caribbean.”
- Caribbean Studies Association (CSA), Le Gosier, Guadeloupe, May 28-June 1, 2012. Paper: “Participation and Belonging in Earl Lovelace’s *Is Just a Movie* (2011).”
- Attended and filmed for future project: FESPACO, Pan-African Cinema Festival, February 26-March 5, 2011, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.
- Caribbean Studies Association (CSA), St. Peter, Barbados, May 24-29, 2010.” Panel: “The Discourse of Violence in Caribbean Literature and Culture.” Paper: “Cowboys and Indians in the Caribbean.” Organizer/Chair of panel.
- Second International Symposium of Critical Perspectives in Caribbean Cultural Studies, “Rethinking the Mangrove.” October 15-17, 2009, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. Paper: “Black Power in the Diaspora.”
- Caribbean Studies Association, Kingston, Jamaica, June 1-5, 2009. Panel: “Literary Caribbean”; Paper: “Black Power in the Caribbean.” Organizer and chair of panel, presenter.
- Walter Rodney Commemorative Lectures and Celebrations, UWI at Mona, Jamaica, October 16-19, 2008. (Attended events.)
- Association for Cultural Studies (ACS) International Conference, Kingston, Jamaica, July 3-7, 2008. Paper: “Carnival: Business or Resistance? — Performance and Critique in Earl Lovelace’s Fiction and David Rudder’s Calypso.” Chair of panel.

- Caribbean Studies Association, San Andres Island, Colombia, May 26-30, 2008. Paper: “George Schuyler’s Africa.”
- Caribbean Studies Association, Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, May 28-June 1, 2007. Paper: “Earl Lovelace and David Rudder: Resistance in Motion.” Panel: “Culture and Politics in the Postcolonial Circum-Caribbean.” Rita Keresztesi, chair and panel organizer.
- Caribbean Studies Association, Port of Spain, Trinidad, May 29-June 2, 2006. Paper: “Harlem Renaissance and Diaspora: Claude McKay’s Black Atlantic.”
- Modernist Studies Association (MSA), Vancouver B.C. Canada, October 20-24, 2004. Paper: “Hurston’s Ethnographic Writing on Haiti in *Tell My Horse* (1938).”
- Modernist Studies Association, “Modernist Cultures,” Birmingham, UK, September 25-29, 2003. Paper: “Hurston’s Ethnographic Writing.”
- Society of Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas (MESEA), University of Padua, Italy, June 26-29, 2002. Paper: “The Concept of ‘Ethnic Modernism’: A Polemic.”

National

- Modern Language Association (MLA), New York City, NY, January 4-7, 2018. Paper: “Fictions of African Dictatorship: Jean-Pierre Bekolo’s *Le Président* (2013),” Chair of Panel: “Questioning Precarity in the Global South.”
- “Celebrating Sankofa, Honoring Africa.” Symposium, The African and African American Studies Program, The University of Oklahoma, Norman Campus, November 14, 2013. Paper: “Arts/Politics: Cultural Expressions and Political Protests in West Africa.”
- American Studies Association (ASA), Baltimore, MD, October 20-13, 2011. Paper: “Literary Black Power.” Panel: “Staging Black Power: Theatricality and Black Arts.”
- American Studies Association (ASA), Philadelphia, PA, October 11-14, 2007. Paper: “Transnational Harlem Renaissance: George Schuyler’s Africa.” Panel: “Transnational Harlem Renaissance,” William Maxwell (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), chair; Rita Keresztesi, panel organizer.
- American Studies Association, Oakland, California, October 12-15, 2006. Paper: “Transnational Harlem Renaissance: Claude McKay’s Black Atlantic.”
- Modernist Studies Association, Annual Conference (MSA), Chicago, Illinois, November 3-6, 2005. Paper: “Hurston in Haiti: Neocolonialism and Zombification.”
- American Studies Association, Atlanta, Georgia, November 11-14, 2004. Paper: “Of Zombies and Women.”
- Modern Language Association (MLA), San Diego, CA, December 27-30, 2003. Paper: “Gender–Culture–Text: Using Film in the Multiethnic Literatures Classroom.”
- Modernist Studies Association, Houston, TX, Rice University, October 12-15, 2001. Paper: “Writing Culture and Performing Race in Mourning Dove’s *Cogewea*.” [Paper read in absentia.]
- Modernist Studies Association, Philadelphia, PA, University of Pennsylvania, October 12-15, 2000. Paper: “Melodrama in the Borderlands: The Strange Familiarity of Josephina Niggli’s *Mexican Village* (1945).” Seminar: “Race and American Modernisms: Passing, Performance, and the Making of Identities.”

University of Oklahoma

- *• “Global BLM: African and African Diaspora Students Respond” – September 17, 2020, African Studies Institute, organizer of the roundtable.

- *• “Arts in Contemporary Africa: A roundtable discussion” – March 10, 2020, African Studies Institute, College of International Studies. Presentation: “Returning the Gaze: Manthia Diawara’s *Rouch in Reverse*.”
- Read-in Celebrating Toni Morrison and Wole Soyinka: Two Nobel Laureates of the African Diaspora – presenter on the Wole Soyinka roundtable, “Literature, Life, and African Magic,” February 14, 2018.
- Neustadt Festival Conference: Roundtable Discussion “Literature and Culture in Ghana and Beyond” – with Nii Ayikwei Parkes, October 23, 2015.
- Film screening and discussion with Nigerian filmmaker Kenneth Gyang on his film *Confusions Na Wa* (2013), February 16-19, 2015; Africa Studies Institute, Department of International Studies, and Film and Media Studies (I invited the filmmaker and led discussion with him for students and faculty).
- “The Ebola Crisis in Africa and Beyond: A roundtable discussion” – October 28, 2014, Africa Studies Institute, College of International and Area Studies. Presentation: “Burkina Faso.”

COURSES TAUGHT:

Fulbright Scholar Fellowship

University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 2010–2011 (11 months):

Poetry: The Harlem Renaissance (3rd year, Spring 2011)

Intro to Theory and Criticism: Power/Knowledge (4th year, Spring 2011)

University of Oklahoma (2000 to the present)

Sabbatical Leaves:

[Fall 2020 or Spring 2021]

Spring 2014

Spring 2007

Department of English

• Graduate seminars:

*20th-C. African American Literature: The Harlem Renaissance, ENGL 5803 (Fall 2020)

20th-C. American Literature: Modernisms, ENGL 5803 (Spring 2002, Spring 2005)

Black Arts/Black Power, ENGL 5833 (Fall 2012, Spring 2015, Spring 2018)

Harlem Renaissance and Négritude, ENGL 5803 (Fall 2006, Spring 2008, Spring 2010, Fall 2016)

Literary Theory and Criticism: Power/Knowledge, ENGL 5313 (Spring 2006, Spring 2009)

• Undergraduates courses:

American Novel Since 1920: Modernisms, ENGL 4823 (Spring 2001, Fall 2002, Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Fall 2004, Fall 2005, Fall 2006, Fall 2007, Fall 2008, Fall 2009)

Black Arts/Black Power, ENGL 4333 (Fall 2008, Spring 2012, Fall 2013, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2018, Spring 2019)

Capstone Senior Seminar–Caribbean Literature: ENGL 4853 (Fall 2009, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019)

Carnival Literature, ENGL 4203 (Spring 2008, Spring 2009)

Critical Methods: Caribbean Literature and Theory, ENGL 2283 (Spring 2020)

Ethnic Women Writing Culture, ENGL 3323 (Fall 2001, Fall 2002)

Films and Contexts – African Cinema: ENGL 3363 (Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Spring 2017, Spring 2019, Spring 2020)

*Harlem Renaissance, ENGL 4323 (Fall 2007, Fall 2011, Spring 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020)

Introduction to American Literature: After the Civil War to the Present, ENGL 2883 (Spring 2001, Spring 2005, Summer 2005, Summer 2006, Spring 2013)

Introduction to American Literature: Before the Civil War, ENGL 2773 (Fall 2000)

Introduction to Critical Reading and Writing, ENGL 2313 (Spring 2012)

Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies and Theory: Culture, Oppression, and Representation, ENGL 3313 (Spring 2002, Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Fall 2004, Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Spring 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2012)

Introduction to Literature: American Modernism, ENGL 2413 (Fall 2000)

Modernist Women Writers, ENGL 2033 (Fall 2001)

Spaghetti Western, Sienna in Arezzo, ENGL 3243.025, Italy (June 2010)

World Literature: The Caribbean, ENGL 2443 (Summer 2005, Summer 2008)

- New courses designed for English Department and the College of Arts and Sciences: ENGL 4293 Carnival Literature, ENGL 4333 Black Arts/Black Power (2008), ENGL 3363 West African Cinema (2013)

College of International and Area Studies

IAS 3810/5810 - Journey to Africa: Postcolonial African Cinema, Tanzania and Zanzibar, June/July 2018

IAS 3810/5810 - Journey to Africa: Postcolonial African Cinema, Tanzania and Zanzibar, June/July 2017

College of Arts and Sciences and International and Area Studies — Advanced Programs

CAS 5960-008-16 Special Topics/Seminar: African Postcolonial Contexts, Directed Reading, Fall 2015

CAS 5970 Special Topics/Seminar: African Postcolonial Contexts, Washington D.C., March 16-22, 2015

Education Abroad

*Italy – Pop Culture and Film Across Borders, Arezzo, Italy (July 2021)

French / West African Cinema, Clermont-Ferrand, France (June 2013)

Spaghetti Western, Arezzo, Italy (June 2010)

College of Liberal Studies Graduate Program

Introduction to Graduate Interdisciplinary Studies: Culture, Oppression, and Representation/The San People of the Kalahari Desert; with Betty Harris, Professor of Anthropology (Fall 2003)

Introduction to Research and Methodology of Inquiry: Globalization (Fall 2002)

Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program

Faculty Advisor for Demetria Martinez’s Poetry Workshop, “Political Activism” (February 2002)

OTHER RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Professional

- Fulbright Alumni Hour (webinar): “Experiences from Sub-Saharan Africa” (with 80 participants from the U.S.), May 21 2020 and June 16, 2020.
- *• Recipient of the ASA 2020 Advocacy Travel Award, on behalf of the African Studies Association: attend COSSA Social Science Advocacy Day “phone in” on Capitol Hill, Washington D.C, April 27-28, 2020.
- Recipient of the ASA 2019 Advocacy Travel Award, on behalf of the African Studies Association: attend COSSA Social Science Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill, Washington D.C, April 30-May 1, 2019.
- *• Board of Directors, West African Research Association (WARA), 2019-2020; reviewer of fellowship applications, 2019.
- Collaboration with Université Clermont Auvergne, France: invited lectures and workshop, June 15-30, 2019. Invited by: Professor Anne Garrait-Bourrier.
- Fulbright Alumni Ambassador – by invitation, Council for International Exchange of Scholars, Fulbright Scholar Program, Washington D.C. (2016 to the present)
<https://www.cies.org/alumni-ambassadors/rita-keresztesi>
- Partner University Fund (PUF) in the Humanities: invited to evaluate applications by French and American scholars to support educational and research partnerships between higher education institutions in both countries; April 2016.
- *• Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program, Scholar Exchange Division, Institute of International Education (IIE), Washington DC. Peer Reviewer, January 2016 to the present.
- CIES Fulbright Scholar Program West/Central Africa U.S. Regional Peer Review Committee, by invitation, October 23-24, 2014; and October 14-15, 2015, Washington DC
- International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) “Make a Better World”: Reader for the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, a new flagship program of the President’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Washington DC (2013-2014)
- Fulbright Peer Review Committee member, Fulbright Scholar Program, Sub-Saharan Africa, Washington DC (2011-2013)
- Caribbean Studies Association (CSA): Gordon K. and Sybil Lewis Best Book Award Committee (2011-present); Best Dissertation Award Committee (2008-present); Film and Visual Arts Track Committee (2014-2015); Literary Salon Committee Member (2014-2015); George Priestley Award in Digital Curation and Social Justice Committee (2018-present).
- Caribbean Studies Association (CSA): Program Committee member — organizing the conference in Grenada (2013)
- Norman Arts Council, Education seat for the Grants Review Panel (2015-2018)
- “Native American Voices: In Literature and Film.” Estudios Literarios, Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, Mexico (September 23-27, 2013).
- “Harlem Renaissance and the Deep Deuce.” Norman Public Library “Culture Talks” (February 8, 2013).
- Expert adviser for the “Harlem Renaissance Exhibit” at the Oklahoma City Art Museum, February 5-April 19, 2009.
- Leader of two book discussions at the Oklahoma City Downtown Library in connection with the Oklahoma City Art Museum’s “Harlem Renaissance” exhibit, March 7th and 28th, 2009.
- Tenure and Promotion Reviews:
 - Department of Sociology, Oregon State University, 2014
 - Departments of English, the University of Nebraska, 2006

-Department of English, Marquette University, 2006.

• Manuscript Referee/Peer Reviewer:

-Academic Journals:

Comparative Literature (2009), *African American Review* (2009), *Genre* (2001 and 2008), *African Studies Review* (2017), *West Africa Review* (2017), *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies* (2018).

-Book Manuscripts:

Oxford University Press

2013 – Brooks Hefner, *The Word on the Streets: American Vernacular Modernism*

2001 – Dennis Walder, ed. *Literature in the Modern World* (Oxford 2004)

University of Oklahoma

*OU Fulbright – interviewer for the College of International Studies, 2020 to the present.

*Africa Studies Institute, Executive Committee Member, 2020 to the present.

*African Studies Institute, “Art in Africa Roundtable,” presenter: “Returning the Gaze: African Documentary Film,” March 2020.

African Studies Institute, “Water in West Africa,” discussion and screening of *The Man Who Stopped the Desert* (Burkina Faso 2010), April 3, 2019.

Presentation and screening of Jean Rouch, *Petit à petit* (France/Niger 1971) for the “Tournées Film Festival: French Films on Campus.” March 6, 2019, Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Outside Committee Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Russian, Department of Modern Languages, Spring 2019.

Guest Lecture: “Queer Harlem Renaissance” – Student Programming Board dinner, April 5, 2018.

Neustadt Festival: Roundtable Discussion “Literature and Culture in Ghana and Beyond” – with Nii Ayikwei Parkes, October 23, 2015.

Arts & Humanities Faculty Fellowship (AHFF) program reviewer (2015-2018)

African Studies Institute, College of International Studies (CIS) (2014 to the present): I invited and hosted Nigerian filmmaker Kenneth Gyang to screen his film *Confusion Na Wa* (2013), followed by discussion with students and faculty, February 18-20, 2015.

Africa Regional Advisory Committee, International and Area Studies (IAS) (2013-2016)

Fulbright Internal Review Committee, Center for Research Program Development and Enrichment (2013-2016)

Fulbright Program Steering Committee Member, Center for Research Program Development and Enrichment (2012-2016)

Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, Hungarian Language Assessment Interviewer (2014 to the present)

Faculty Senate Member, Humanities (2011-2014), (2017-2018)

Faculty Appeals Board Member (2009-2013)

Copyright Committee Member (2009-2011)

Center for Teaching Excellence, iBook and iTunes U Training Program (May 2013)

Program Committee (responsible for the overview of faculty applications and guest speakers), Film and Video Studies Program (2005-2007)

Advisory Committee on Women’s Issues in the College of Arts and Sciences (2003-2004)

Department

Graduate Director, Department of English (May 2014 – May 2017)

Faculty Adviser for Student Association of Graduates in English Studies (S.A.G.E.S.) (2011-2014)

Search Committee Member:

-African American Literature faculty position, pre-1900 (2019-2020)

-Native American Literature faculty position (2008-2009)

-Writing Program Director position (2014-2015)

Presentation for New Graduate Assistants Workshop (August 2009, August 2011)

Graduate Committee Member: representing the American Studies Concentration, Department of English (2004-2009, 2018 to the present)

Undergraduate Committee—worked on the department’s multicultural non-Western literature requirement (2000-2004, 2019 to present).

Ph.D. and M.A. Committees (2000 to the present)

• Director/Chair of Committee:

Makenna Green, Ph.D. (defended May 2016):

“Silence of the Limbs: Dismemberment, Female Bodies, and Literary Pieces”

Kumi Ikoma, Ph.D. (co-director with Francesca Sawaya, defended November 2018)

“Sentimental Boundaries in Mark Twain’s Novels”

Mark Pickens, Ph.D. (defends May 2020)

“Staging American Constraint: From Containment to Confinement Post 1945”

Tatiana Viallaneix, Ph.D. (co-director with Anne Garrait-Bourrier), Université Clermont Auvergne, France (2018 to present)

“Vulnérabilité et résilience des groupes autochtones en « Territoire indien »: dépassement culturel des catastrophes naturelles et historiques en Oklahoma.”

Heather Arnott, M.A. (defended, April 2008)

Kyle Baker, M.A. (defended, April 2011)

Hayden Bozarth, M.A. (defended, May 2019)

Geneva Canino, M.A. (defended, April 2008)

Claire Cothren, M.A. (defended, April 2008)

Janson Jones, M.A. (defended, May 2005)

Heather Hayden-Lidowski, M.A. (defended, May 2005)

Charlie Potter, M.A. (defended, July 2005)

• Committee Member:

Patrick Bottiger, Ph.D., History, outside committee member (exam taken in 2006)

*Brittney M. Brown, Ph.D. (exam, Fall 2019)

Mary Carter, Ph.D. (defended, May 2010)

Nancy El Gendy, Ph.D. (defended, 2016)

Yaisa N. Mann, Ph.D. (exam, Spring 2009; left program 2014)

*Takahiro Seto, Ph.D. (exam, Spring 2020)

Michael Snyder, Ph.D. (defended, 2009)

LeAnn Stevens-Laré (Reeves), Ph.D. (defended, Aug. 2010)

Aaron Cerny, M.A. (defended, 2006)

Kristin Culver, M.A. (defended, April 2008)
 Julie Davis, M.A. (defended, 2004)
 April Flowers, M.A. (defended, 2006)
 Leah C. Kayajanian, M.A. (defended, May 2010)
 Samantha Mason, M.A. (defended Spring 2019)
 Allison Nepomnick, M.A. (defended, May 2018)
 Mark Pickens, M.A. (defended, 2007)
 Susan Pratt, M.A. (left the program)
 Orit Rabkin, M.A. (defended, 2004)
 Ryan Slesinger, M.A. (defended, 2009)
 Lacey Turner, M.A. (defended, June 2007)
 April Whitman, M.A. (defended, 2001)

• Honors College – Thesis Adviser:

Rachel Whitfield, Honors Research, “20th C. Women Writers’ Identity in Fiction” (Spring 2019)
 Samantha Stroup, Honors Thesis, “Lies or Free Expression: African Francophone and Anglophone Women Writers” (Spring 2016)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

ASA: African Studies Association
 ASA: American Studies Association
 CSA: Caribbean Studies Association
 MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States
 MLA: Modern Language Association
 WARA: West African Research Association

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

French (reading)
 Russian (reading)
 Hungarian (native language)

CITIZENSHIP

U.S. citizen since 1990

REFERENCES

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