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Education:

Ph.D. English

The Graduate Center—CUNY, NY, NY. 2006
Certificate in American Studies, concentration in
African American Literature.

M.A. English

Fordham University, Rose Hill, The Bronx. 1999

B.A. English; B.A. Philosophy

Howard University, Washington D.C. 1997

Academic Awards and Honors:

Faculty Fellowship, The Futures Initiative, CUNY GC 2018-19.

Office for the Advancement of Research Senior Scholar Release Program, CUNY 2015-16.

Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities. Center for Humanities, CUNY GC.
Theme: Images and Information. 2013-14.

PSC-CUNY 44 Research Award, The University Committee on Research, CUNY, 2013-14 Academic Year.

Faculty Fellowship, “How to Fight: Transformational Politics and Culture” The Center for Place Culture and Politics, CUNY GC. 2011-2012 Academic Year.

PSC-CUNY 42 Research Award, The University Committee on Research, CUNY, 2011-12 Academic Year.

Writer in Residence, The Frederick Lewis Allen Room, The New York Public Library, 2010-2011.

PSC-CUNY 39 Research Award, The University Committee on Research, CUNY, 2008-09 Academic year.

CUNY Faculty Fellowship Publications Program. CUNY Office for Recruitment and Diversity, 2007-08 Academic year.

Publications:

Forthcoming: Illustrating the Race: Representing Blackness in American Comics.
Columbia University Press. 2019.

Forthcoming: “Race.” Keywords for Comics Studies. Ramzi Fawaz, Shelley Streeby and Deborah Whaley, eds. New York University Press. 2019.

“7.1 Bayou.” Black One Shot. Michael B. Gillespie and Lisa Uddin, eds. ASAP/J August 27, 2018.

<http://asapjournal.com/b-o-s-7-1-bayou-jonathan-gray/>

“Black Panther and Cold War Colonialisms in the Marvel Universe.” Black Perspectives Blog, African American Intellectual History Society, University of Pittsburgh. March 17, 2018.

<https://www.aaihs.org/the-black-panther-and-cold-war-colonialism-in-the-marvel-universe/>

Founding Editor, Journal of Comics and Culture. (1.1) Pace University Press, Spring 2016.

“‘Why Couldn’t You Let Me Die?’: Cyborg, Social Death, and Narratives of Disability” Disability in Comic Books and Graphic Novels. Palgrave MacMillan, February, 2016.

Co-editor, Disability in Comic Books and Graphic Novels. Palgrave MacMillan, February, 2016.

Editor, “Trayvon Martin in Popular Culture: A Roundtable.” MLS (45.1) Summer, 2015.

Civil Rights in the White Literary Imagination: Innocence By Association. The University Press of Mississippi. 2013.

“‘Commence the Great Work’: The Historical Archive and Unspeakable Violence in Kyle Baker’s Nat Turner.” Afterimages of Slavery: Essays on Appearances in Recent American Films, Literature, Television and Other Media. Marlene D. Allen and Seretha D. Williams eds. McFarland and Co, 2012.

“Harlem Modernisms.” The Oxford Handbook of Modernisms. Peter Brooker, Andrzej Gasiorek, Deborah Parsons and Andrew Thacker, eds. Oxford University Press, 2010.

“‘I’ll Be Forever Mackin’”: The Social Construction of Black Masculine Identity in Hip Hop’s Platinum Age.” Black Sexualities: Probing Powers, Passions, Practices and Policies. Sandra L. Barnes and Juan Battle, eds. Rutgers University Press, 2009.

Invited Talks:

“Long Live the King: Black Panther and African Super Sovereignty” Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio, October 26, 2018.

“Complicit Freedom” with Claudia Rankine, Jennifer Uleman, and Julia Elena. Pioneer Works, Brooklyn, New York, August 8, 2018.

“Black Panther and African Cosmopolitanism” Villanova University, March 19, 2018

“Descendants of Kings and Queens: Black Panther and Entangled African Cosmopolitanism” Gallatin School, NYU, February 22, 2018

“Circa 1985: Narratives of Race and Resistance” Africana Dialogue Series, James Madison University, Oct 20, 2017

“Superheroes and Super Athletes: Exceptional Blackness and the Contradictions of Race in Post-Civil Rights America.” Visiting Scholar Lecture, James Madison University, Oct 19, 2017.

“Cyborg, Social Death, and Black Disability: Exploring the Intersection of Race and Disability in Comic Books and Graphic Narratives.” The University of Mary Washington, February 11, 2016.

“New Faces under Old Masks: Race, Gender and the Future of the Superhero” Louisiana State University, September 22, 2015.

Keynote Speaker, Denver Comic Con. “From Understanding to Comprehension: The Future of Comics in the Academy.” Denver, Colorado, May 23-25, 2015.

“Heroes in Black: Image, Ideology and the Evolution of Cultural Studies.” Lecture in the Department of English’s Multi-ethnic Literature of the US Speaker Series, University of Utah, Oct 23, 2014.

“Machine Men: Race and Technology in American Superhero Comics.” The New York Comics & Picture-story Symposium. Parsons, The New School for Design. May 13, 2014.

Conferences and Presentations:

“From Woodcrest to the Hood: Boondocks and the Quandary of the Suburbs” Ground and Figure: Place, Race, and Structures of Habitation. Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present 10th Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, October 17-20, 2018.

“Descendants of Kings and Queens: Black Panther and Entangled African Cosmopolitanism” Spaces Between – Gender, Diversity and Identity in Comics. 13th Annual Conference of the German Society for Comics Studies (ComFor), University of Cologne, September 17-19, 2018.

Moderator, “Comics and Hip Hop” with Darryl “DMC” McDaniel, Eric Orr, Andre Leroy Davis, Ron Wimberly and Sole Rebel. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture’s 5th Annual Black Comic Book Festival, January 13-14, 2017.

Moderator, “Curating Comics: Creating Exhibitions in Galleries and in Digital Spaces” with Mark Gibson, Tim Fielder, John Jennings and Stacey Robinson. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture’s 5th Annual Black Comic Book Festival, January 13-14, 2017.

Moderator, "Race and Sexuality: A Conversation with Ta-Nehisi Coates, Tee Franklin and Steve Orlando." New York Comic Con, Javits Center, NY, NY, Oct 6, 2016.

Chair and Presenter, "Scholarship After Ferguson." Presidential Roundtable, Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Hartford, CT, March 17-20th, 2016.

Respondent, "Regenerating Comics in the 21st Century." Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Hartford, CT, March 17-20th, 2016.

"Invisible Comics: A Speculative Black Comics Counterpublic." Counterpublics of Underground Comix: a roundtable. The Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Austin, TX, January 6-10, 2016.

"Representing Black Folk: Jeremy Love's Bayou and African American Folk Culture" Fables, Folktales, Games, and Comics: Folklore and Visual Media. The Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Austin, TX, January 6-10, 2016.

"Alternative Futures in Black and Brown." Sôl-Con: The Brown and Black Comic Expo, Ohio State University, Oct 1-4, 2015.

"It Wasn't a Match...It was a lesson": Sport and Spectacle in Claudia Rankine's Citizen." ASAP/7: Art & the Public, Clemson University, September 24-27, 2015.

"Representing Reform: Sam Wilson, Luke Cage and Nixon's America." (Un)Civil Mediation: A Visual Culture and Civil Rights Symposium. Washington University in St. Louis, April 23-25, 2015.

Chair, "Still Standing: Trayvon Martin in Popular Culture." Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Toronto, Ontario, April 30-May 3rd 2015.

"'You Used to Tell Me I Could See the Future': Ab-Soul and the Autobiographical Self." Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Los Angeles Nov 6-9, 2014.

Chair, "Cyborgs, Freaks and Geeks: Overcoming Neuroses, Depression and Social Death in Graphic Novels, Comics and Web Comics." Graphic Medicine Conference, Johns Hopkins, June 26th-28th, 2014.

"Race in Neoliberalism's Televisual Imagination: a roundtable discussion." The Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, Jan 10-12 2014.

"Heroes in Black: Race, Image, Ideology and the Evolution of Comics Scholarship." New Directions in African American and African Diasporic Literary and Cultural Studies, The CUNY Graduate School and University Center, Nov 15, 2013.

"Representing Revolt in Graphic Media: Magdy El Shafee's Metro and the Arab Spring." ASWAD 7TH Biennial Conference: Transforming Visions: Confronting Change and

Creating Opportunity in Africa and the African Diaspora, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Oct 30-Nov 2, 2013.

“Birth of an Imperium: Tragedy, Comedy and the Graphic Representation of African American History.” The Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA, Jan 3-6, 2013.

“White Boy Shuffle: The Evasion of Analysis in Sudhir Venkatesh’s Gang Leader for a Day.” Dimensions of Empire and Resistance: Past, Present, and Future. Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, San Juan, PR, November 15-18, 2012.

“Representing Revolt in the Arab Spring: Madgy El Shafee, Martin Luther King, Jr, and the Arab Spring.” Transitions 3: Mapping New Directions in Comic Studies. Birkbeck, University of London, November 3, 2012.

“Enacting Innocence: Barack Obama’s Speech on Race in the Context of American Exceptionalism.” Public Lecture at the Steven A. Schwartzman Building of the New York Public Library, May 4, 2012.

Moderator, Cultural Politics. A New Vision of Black Freedom: The Manning Marable Memorial Conference. Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, April 26-29, 2012.

“Comic New York and the Academy.” Comic New York: A Symposium. Columbia University, March 24-25, 2012. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZeChT0G-XY>

“‘A Real Leap’: Luke Cage and the Post-Civil Rights Evolution of Black Masculinity.” Masculinity in Superhero Comic Books and Films. Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Rochester, NY. March 15-18, 2012.

Chair, “The Material History of Spider Man.” The Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA; Jan 5-8, 2012.

“Constructing History—The 9/11 Report and Graphic Representations of Historical Trauma.” The World Trade Center Attack: Consequences and Perspectives for Children and Youth, The Academy for Critical Incident Analysis at John Jay College, New York, NY; July 20-23 2011.

“The Spirit of ’86.” Teaching the Graphic Novel. American Literature Association Annual Conference, Boston MA, May 26-29, 2011.

“When We Were Kings: Representing Regime Change in Vaughan and Henrichon’s Pride of Baghdad.” Comics and Conflict in the Middle East. Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA, January 6-9, 2011.

“Obama in Four Colors: Comic Representations of the USA’s Heroic President.” Graphic Engagement: The Politics of Comics and Animation, Purdue University, Sept 2-4, 2010.

“Dust off the mask, whoever laugh give him a head up”: Marvel superheroes, Hip Hop Culture and Urban Identity.” Understanding Superheroes Conference, University of Oregon, Oct 23-24 2009.

Roundtable discussant. “Blacks, Jews, and the Post-Racial Candidate” 37th Annual National Jewish Student Journalism Conference, Center for Jewish History, May 28-30, 2008.

“Image, Text, Slave: Communicative Silence in Kyle Baker’s Nat Turner.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Atlanta, Georgia; November 9-11 2007.

“Destroying Silence: Leslie Pinckney Hill and the Poetics of Lynching.” Lynching and Racial Violence in America: Histories and Legacies. Emory University, October 2002.

“Facing the Center: Whiteness Studies and the Challenge to Dialectical Thought.” The Ground Together II—Assessing the State of Black Arts for 2000 and Beyond, Howard University, March, 2000.

“When ‘Life Is Hectic’: Hip Hop’s Autobiographical Discourses.” Interdisciplinary Studies: In the Middle, Across, or in Between? The American Comparative Literature Association, Yale University, February, 2000.

“‘The Bridge Brings Apocalypse’: Eschatological Notions in Nas’s Illmatic and Nietzsche’s Antichrist.” On the Edge: Borders, Literatures, and Cultural Practices. University of Montana, March 1999.

Campus Lectures:

“This Moment of Manumission: Representing Exceptional Blackness in Claudia Rankine’s Citizen and Marvel Comics’ Captain America” The CUNY Graduate Center, October 3, 2016.

Keynote speaker, Other/Wise: Contesting Knowledges, Inventing Cultures. The Second Annual Queens College English Graduate Conference. April 1, 2015.

“Black Cultural Artifacts and the Condition of Democracy.” Theorizing Blackness, CUNY Graduate Center; April 4, 2008.

“Text as History and Revolution in Recent Graphic Literature.” Hacking the Nation: Ten Years of American Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, CUNY Graduate Center; April 18, 2008.

Conference Chair and Organizer, Black Masculinities. The CUNY Graduate Center, February 4, 2005.

Selected Journalism:

“The Liberating Visions of the Black Panther.” The New Republic. Lake Avenue Publishing, February 13, 2018. Web

“John Lewis’s Long March.” The New Republic. Lake Avenue Publishing, October 17, 2016. Web.

“Pat Summitt Was...a Hero for Queer and Black Players.” Fusion.com. Univision Communications, June 28, 2016. Web.

“Son of the Black Panther.” The New Republic. Lake Avenue Publishing, April 26, 2016. Print & Web.

“A Conflicted Man: An Interview with Ta-Nehisi Coates” The New Republic. Lake Avenue Publishing, April 4, 2016. Web.

“John Lewis’ March Brings the Civil Rights Movement to Life.” Entertainment Weekly. Time Inc. August 14, 2013. Web.

“Last Resort: 24 in the Age of Obama.” Salon.com. Salon Media Group. September 29, 2012. Web.

“After The Dark Knight Rises.” Entertainment Weekly. Time Inc. August 6, 2012. Web.

Selected Media Appearances:

WNYC’s The Takeaway. “Black Panther Could Fundamentally Change Hollywood” February 23, 2018.

<https://www.wnycstudios.org/story/black-panther-could-fundamentally-change-hollywood/>

CBS News: Muslim-American Superhero Ms. Marvel Breaking Stereotypes. February 27, 2016.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/muslim-american-superhero-ms-marvel-breaking-stereotypes/>

CUNY TV: The Rise of Graphic Novels. February 19, 2015.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLtqafYMP90>

Arise America: New York Comic Con. October 10, 2014.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JMmIt9IMHw>

Independent Sources: Diversity in Comics. October 31, 2014.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grdGNtcv-WA>

Teaching Experience:

At the CUNY Graduate Center:

Afro-Futurism
 The Racial Imaginary
 Comics and Graphic Novels: Images and Ideology

At John Jay College:

African American Literature
 American Literature
 Literature as Witness
 Introduction to Literary Study
 Special Topics in 20th Century American Literature: African American Autobiography.
 Gender in Literature
 The African American Experience
 Comic Books and Graphic Novels
 Advanced Special Topics: Race and Comics
 Independent Study Honors Thesis: Critical Race Theory
 Senior Seminar: Afro-futurism

At NYU:

Topics in American Literature: Race in the Age of Obama.

Service and Activities:

Member, Africana Studies Certificate Program Steering Committee, CUNY Graduate Center, 2011

Executive Officer, Modern Language Association Discussion Group in Comics & Graphic Narratives, 2009—2011.

Member, English Major Advisory Committee, John Jay College 2008—2010.

Member, Gender Studies Committee, John Jay College/CUNY. 2007-8.

Member, Executive Committee, English Department, CUNY Graduate Center, 2003-5.

Member, Faculty Membership Committee, English Department, CUNY Graduate Center 2003-5.

Founding Co-Chair, The Africana Studies Group, The CUNY Graduate Center, 2000.

Memberships and Affiliations:

Modern Language Association—current.

American Studies Association—current.

African American Intellectual History Society—current.

Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP)—current.

North East Modern Language Association—past.

Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)—past.

Africana Studies Group, CUNY Graduate Center—current.

Scholarly and Teaching Interests:

African-American Literature and Culture

Post-WWII American Literature and Culture

Graphic Novels and Comic Books

Visual Culture and Contemporary Art

Popular Culture

Black Masculinity

Afro-futurism