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PREVIOUS POSITIONS:

Visiting Associate Professor, English
Texas A & M International University, Spring 2017

Assistant Professor, Africana Studies and English
Bowdoin College, 2008-2011

Assistant Professor, Ethnic Studies
Bowling Green State University, 2007-2008

Assistant Professor, English
Williams College, 2002-2007

Visiting Assistant Professor, English
Bowdoin College, 2003-2004

Visiting Lecturer, English
Williams College, 2000-2002

Visiting Scholar, English
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1999-2000

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in English, York University, 2003
Dissertation: "Uncle Tom in the Making of African American Literature"

M.A. in English, York University, 1996

B.A. in English, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, 1995

Current Book Project: *Charles Waddell Chesnut: A Life in Books*

Abstract:

At the turn of the twentieth century the American literary canon was defined by the prestigious publishing house of Houghton Mifflin Company which until 1899 published only white authors. That changed when Charles Waddell Chesnutt arrived on the literary scene. With the publication of *The Conjure Woman* in 1899, followed by *The House Behind the Cedars* a year later, and *The Marrow of Tradition* a year after that, Chesnutt launched the movement to end the color line in the American publishing world. This is the story of how Charles Chesnutt, through financial uncertainty, civil and family struggles, and racial violence became the first professional black author in the United States. Born in 1858 in Cleveland, Ohio, raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina, Chesnutt developed his literary career among the newly freed at the State Colored Normal School. He would go on to become the first black writer whose stories appeared in the Boston-based literary journal the *Atlantic Monthly* and whose five books were published by Houghton Mifflin. Through his literary work, as a writer, critic, and activist, Chesnutt transformed the publishing world by crossing racial barriers that divided black writers from white. This is the story of Chesnutt's life: how a schoolteacher from rural North Carolina without a formal education or money found his way into the upper echelons of American literary life without "passing" as white or "selling out" to white publishers.

PUBLICATIONS:

Books

- *Jim Crow, Literature, and the Legacy of Sutton E. Griggs* (Co-editor). University of Georgia Press, 2013.
- *Novel Bondage: Slavery, Marriage, and Freedom in Nineteenth-Century American Literature*. University of Illinois Press, 2011. Awarded the Robert K. Martin Best Book Prize, 2011.

Articles / Reviews

- "On First Looking into Charles Chesnutt's Homer," *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 7.2 (Fall 2019): 301-327
- "The Literature of Reconstruction: Not in Plain Black and White," Rev. *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* 4.1 (2019): 1-2.
- "Charles Chesnutt's European Journal," *Letterature d'America N.* XLII (42), 2018.
- "Amiri Baraka's Uncle Tom," *Approaches to Teaching Amiri Baraka's Dutchman*. Eds. Matthew Calihman and Gerald Early. New York: The Modern Language Association, 2018.
- "Complicating the Relation between Literature and History: Slave Participation in Fact

and Fiction,” *Teaching the Literatures of the American Civil War*, ed. Colleen Glenney Boggs. New York: The Modern Language Association, 2016.

- “Abolition in the Age of Obama,” *American Literary History* 28.3 Fall (2015)
- “Thoreau’s Maine Woods,” *Bowdoin Magazine* 87.3 Spring/Summer (2015)
- Review of *Help me to Find my People* by Heather Andrea Williams, *Journal of the Civil War Era* Vol. 4, No. 1 (July 2014).
- “Finding a Home for Equiano,” in *Approaches to Teaching Equiano’s Interesting Narrative*, ed. Eric Lamore. University of Tennessee Press, 2013.
- “Reading in Sutton E. Griggs,” in *Jim Crow, Literature, and the Legacy of Sutton E. Griggs*. eds. Tess Chakkalakal and Kenneth W Warren. University of Georgia Press, 2013.
- “Harriet Beecher Stowe at 200,” *History News Network*
<http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/140200>
- “‘Whimsical Contrasts’: Love and Marriage in *The Minister’s Wooing* and *Our Nig*,” *New England Quarterly* 84, no. 1 (March 2011): 159-171.
- “To Make an Old Century New,” *American Quarterly* 62, no. 4 (December 2010): 1001-1012.
- [“Wedded to Race,” reprinted in *Representing Segregation: Toward an Aesthetics of Living Jim Crow, and Other Forms of Racial Division*, ed. Brian Norman and Piper Kendrix Williams (Albany: SUNY Press, 2010), 43-56.]
- “Wedded to Race: Charles Chesnut’s *Stories of the Color Line*,” *Studies in American Fiction* 36, no. 2 (Autumn 2008): 155-76.
- “Making a Collection: James Weldon Johnson and the Mission of African American Literature,” *South Atlantic Quarterly* 104, no. 3 (Summer 2005): 521-541.
- “Uncle Tom and the Making of Modern African American Literature,” *Review of Black Political Economy* 33, no. 2 (Fall 2005): 74-87.
- “I, Hereby, Vow to Read *The Interesting Narrative*,” in *Captivating Subjects: Writing Confinement, Citizenship, & Nationhood in the Nineteenth Century*, eds. Jason Haslam and Julia M. Wright (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005), 86-109.
- “Making an Art out of Suffering: Bill T. Jones’s *Uncle Tom*,” in *Peering Behind the Curtain: Disability, Illness, and the Extraordinary Body in Contemporary Theater*, eds. Thomas Fahy and Kimball King (New York: Routledge, 2002), 35-46.

- “Being Reena in Canada: a Case of Reckless Eyeballing,” in *Rude: Contemporary Black Canadian Cultural Criticism* (Toronto: Insomniac Press, 2000), 159-167.
- [“Reckless Eyeballing: Being Reena in Canada,” reprinted in *Reena Virk: Critical Perspectives on a Canadian Murder*, ed. Mythili Rajiva and Sheila Batacharya (Toronto: Canadian Scholars’ Press Inc., 2010), 159-167.]
- Review of *Autobiography and Black Identity Politics: Racialization in Twentieth-Century America*, by Kenneth Mostern, *Biography: an Interdisciplinary Quarterly* 23, no. 3 (Summer 2000): 568-572.

FORTHCOMING:

Books

- Co-editor, *Imperium in Imperio by Sutton E. Griggs: A Critical Edition*, (Regeneration Series, West Virginia University Press, Fall 2022).

Articles

- “African Americans Writing in the Popular American Press” in *African American Literature in Transition*. Eds. Barbara McCaskill and Caroline Gebhardt (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022)
- “Disfranchisement,” in *Democracies in America: Keywords for the Nineteenth Century and Today* Eds. Bert Emerson and Greg Laski. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2023)
- “Sentimentality,” in *Nineteenth-Century American Literature in Transition, 1820-1860* Ed. Justine Murison (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2023).
- “The True Friendship of Charles Chesnutt and Albion Tourgée,” in *Literary Tourgee* Eds. Sandra Gustafson and Robert L. Levine (New York: Fordham University Press, 2023)
- “Charles Chesnutt and the Reconstructing of Black Education,” *A Cambridge Companion to the Literature of the American Civil War and Reconstruction*. Eds. Kathleen Diffley and Coleman Hutchinson (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2023)

ACADEMIC AWARDS

M. C. Lang Fellow in Book History, Bibliography and Humanities
Rare Book School University of Virginia

2021-2022

Bowdoin Faculty Research Fellowship	2015
Faculty Fellowship National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute “African American Literature and Social History”	2013
Humanities Writ Large Research Fellowship Duke University	2012
Meardis Cannon Fellow Emory University	2011
Summer Stipend National Endowment for the Humanities	2011
Fletcher Fund Fellowship Bowdoin College	2011
Mellon Foundation’s Collaborative Faculty Enhancement Grant	2010
Oakley Center Research Fellowship Williams College	2006
African-American Studies Research Fellowship Williams College	2005
Newberry Library Fellowship	2005
Summer Stipend National Endowment for the Humanities	2004
Social Science and Humanities Research Council Fellowship	1999
Ontario Graduate Scholarship	1998
Dean’s Fellowship York University	1997
ADMINISTRATIVE / ACADEMIC SERVICE	
Elected Member, Executive Committee of Modern Language Association Late-19 th and Early-20 th -Century American Forum	2022-2027

Appointed Member, National Writing Project Assessment Team	2021-22
Faculty Director, Untold: An Ongoing Collaborative History of Bowdoin College	2021-22
Humanities Advisor, The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center's Collections Digitization Project, funded through awards from NEH-Humanities Collections Reference Resources and CT Humanities,	2020-21
External Reviewer, Africana Studies Program at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA,	2020.
Trustee, Board of Directors, Chop Point School and Camp	2018-present
Faculty Director, The Stowe Writers Collective, Bowdoin College	2016-present
Chair, Nominations Committee, C19: Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists	2017-2019
Chair, American Literary Society Subcommittee on Integrating American Literature into K-12 curriculum	2017-present
Faculty Representative, Presidential Search Committee, Bowdoin College	2014- 2015
Director, "The Afterlife of the American Civil War," Alumni College, Bowdoin College	August 8-11, 2013
Co-Director, "Editing Early African American Literature," University of Toronto	November 9-10, 2012
Director, Harriet Beecher Stowe at 200, Bowdoin College	June 23-25, 2011
Chair, Working Group on Academic Honesty, Bowdoin College	2010-11
Secretary, Harriet Beecher Stowe Society	2006-2012
Curriculum Committee, Williams College	2004-2005
Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching Evaluations, Williams College, 2004-2005.	

Coordinator, Black History Month Lecture Series, Williams College, 2002-2003.

Manuscript Reviewer: *MELUS*, *ESQ*, *Studies in American Fiction*, *American Literary History*, *Broadview Editions*, *University of North Carolina Press*

PRESENTATIONS:

Invited Lectures

“The Strength of Her Emotions”: Sentimental Literature and the Dilemma of Women in Politics”

University of the Incarnate Word, February 20, 2019.

“The Other Side of America: How Realism Shaped American Literature”

Mahindra Institute, Harvard University, March 28, 2018.

“Was Charles Chesnutt Popular?”

Texas A& M International University, December 19, 2017

“‘Born with a Book in my Hand’: Charles Chesnutt and the Art of Reading”

Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH, October 5, 2017

“Why Save Literary Houses?”

The Mastheads, Pittsfield, MA, July 25, 2017

“Teaching Griggs”

Bates College, Lewiston, ME, November 11, 2015

“Writing African American Literary Biography”

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, February 6, 2015

“*The Atlantic Monthly* and the Black Book Market”

University of Venice, Italy December 13, 2014

“Uncle Tom, Then and Now”

Mid-Coast Senior College, Brunswick, ME, June 27, 2012

“Color-Blindness and Hindsight: Albion Tourgee’s Rhetoric of Civil Rights”

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, April 27, 2012

“After *Uncle Tom: Stowe’s Dred*”

University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, March 22, 2012

“The Slave-Marriage Plot” on *Novel Bondage*

Boston University, Boston, MA, February 1, 2012.

“The Slave-Marriage Plot” on *Novel Bondage*
University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, Feb. 3, 2012.

“The Slave-Marriage Plot” on *Novel Bondage*
University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC, Feb. 28, 2012.

“Of Making Many Books: Sutton E. Griggs and the Pleasure of Reading.”
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, November 15, 2010,

Conference Presentations

“Why Sutton E. Griggs Matters,” Modern Language Association Convention,
Washington, D.C., January 8, 2022.

"Charles Chesnutt's Kitchen Politics," Modern Language Association Convention, Virtual
Meeting, January 7, 2021

“William Wells Brown’s *Negro in the American Rebellion*”: A Readings Roundtable of
the Civil War Caucus, Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL,
November 14-17, 2019.

“Who are Tourgée’s Black Characters?” Literary Tourgée: Conference at the Chautauqua
Institution, September 27-29, 2019

“Reading and Realism: Charles Chesnutt’s Diary,” Reading Now: Practices, Pedagogy,
Profession Conference, Ben-Gurion University, Beersheva, Israel, June 26-28,
2018.

“Charles Chesnutt’s Homer,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists,
Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 21-25, 2018

“Charles Chesnutt: The Life,” American Literature Association Conference, Boston, MA,
May, 24-28, 2017

“Chesnutt’s Travel Writings,” Southern Association of American Studies, College of
William and Mary, March 3-5, 2017.

Roundtable Participant, “Genre and Worldmaking,” c19: Association of 19th-century
Americanists, Pennsylvania State University, March 17-21, 2016.

“Charles Chesnutt’s European Journal”
CAAR (Collegium for African American Research), Liverpool, England, June 24-
29.

- “The Novels of Sutton E. Griggs: A Critical Edition”
 MLA (Modern Language Association) Convention, Boston, January 3-6, 2013
- Chair, “African American Readers of the Past: Interpreting Traces of Margin and Center”
 ASA (American Studies Association) Convention, San Juan, Puerto Rico,
 November 15-18, 2012
- Roundtable Participant, “Colloquy on *'Til Death or Distance Do Us Part: Love and
 Marriage in African America*”
 Triumph in My Song: 18th and 19th Century African Atlantic Culture, History &
 Performance, College Park, MD, May 31-June 2, 2012
- “Telling it Like it Was: Tourgee’s Rhetoric of African American Rights”
 C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference, Berkeley, CA,
 April 12-15, 2012
- “Sutton E. Griggs and Black Readers at the Turn of the 20th Century.”
 CAAR Conference (Collegium for African American Research). Paris, France,
 April 6-9, 2011
- Roundtable Participant, “Slavery and its Legacies in 19th-Century Law and Literature”
 C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference, State College,
 PA, May 20-23, 2010
- Roundtable Participant, “Marriage in Early African American Culture,”
 PAMLA (Pacific American Modern Language Association) Convention, San
 Diego, CA, November 6-8, 2009
- Panel Organizer and Presenter. “*Dred* and the Freedom of Marriage.” SSAWW
 Conference (Society for the Study of American Women Writers), Philadelphia,
 PA, October 21-24, 2009
- “Sutton Griggs and the Politics of African American Fiction.”
 CAAR Conference, Bremen, Germany, March 25-29, 2009
- Roundtable Panel Organizer and Participant. “Recovering Sutton Griggs.” American
 Literature Association Symposium on American Fiction, Savannah, GA, October
 2-4, 2008
- “Strategies of Assimilation: Charles Chesnut’s Marital Fiction.” Mid-West Modern
 Language Association, Cleveland, Ohio, November 8-11, 2007
- “A Failure of Imagination: Sedgwick and the Limits of Antislavery Fiction.”
 Sedgwick Society Annual Symposium, Stockbridge, MA., May 31-June 1, 2007
- “Uncle Tom’s Descendants”

- ALA Conference, Boston, Mass., May 23-27, 2007. “Stowe, Marriage and the Ends of Slavery”
- Panel Organizer and Chair, Stowe, Colonization, and the Beginnings of Black American Domesticity”
ALA, San Francisco, Calif., May 22-25, 2006
- “Heart Matters: *The Garies and Their Friends* and the Antislavery Novel”
ALA Conference, San Francisco, Calif., May 22-25, 2006
- “A Refuge From the Mob: Frank Webb and the Project of Black Domesticity.”
NEMLA (North East Modern Language Association), Cambridge, Mass., April 2005
- Panel Organizer “Literary Fellows: James Weldon Johnson and Brander Matthews.”
MLA Convention, Philadelphia, Penn., December 2004
- “Secrets and Lies”: Fiction and Equiano’s *Interesting Narrative*.
Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Burlington, VT,
November 6-9, 2005
- “Making a Collection: James Weldon Johnson and the Mission of African American Literature.”
Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Pittsburgh, PA,
September 2004.
- “Equiano’s Economics.”
Olaudah Equiano: Representation and Reality, Kingston University, U.K., March 22, 2003
- “Uncle Tomming; or, The New Black Politics.”
Dialogues on Race and Identity: Uncle Tomming and Passing, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, April 22-26, 2002
- “From Behind the Other Veil: Gayl Jones’ Blues/Jazz Aesthetic.”
George Moses Horton Society of African American Poetry Annual Conference,
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, April 5, 2000

Selected Radio and TV Interviews:

- “Who Was Charles Chesnutt?” *C:19 Podcast* S01, E05 (2018)
- “The History and Renovation of The Harriet Beecher Stowe House” (“207” on WCSH/NBC – Channel 6 Portland, November 15, 2015)
- “Uncle Tom and Racism” (MPBN Radio, February 18, 2014)

“The Legacy of Uncle Tom” (BBC Radio 4, November 25, 2013)

“Harriet Beecher Stowe and Uncle Tom’s Cabin in Brunswick, Maine” (C-SPAN2, Book TV, September 10, 2012)