

TESS CHAKKALAKAL

Program in Africana Studies
Department of English
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CURRENT POSITION

Associate Professor, Africana Studies and English
Bowdoin College, 2012- present

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

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

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

Assistant Professor, Department of English
Williams College, 2002-2007

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English
Bowdoin College, 2003-2004

Visiting Lecturer in English
Williams College, 2000-2002

EDUCATION

Ph.D, English, York University, 2003

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

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Faculty Fellowship
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute
“African American Literature and Social History”

2013

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| 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 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 |

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.

Articles / Reviews

- "Abolition in the Age of Obama," *American Literary History* 28.3 Fall (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*. University of Georgia Press, 2013.
- “‘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” (review essay), *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 Chesnutt’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.
- “Anita Rau Badami,” in *South Asian Literature in English: an Encyclopedia*, ed. Jaina C. Sanga (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2004), 20-22.
- “Rohinton Mistry,” in *South Asian Novelists in English: An A-to-Z Guide*, ed. Jaina C. Sanga (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2003), 162-168.
- “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: Beeing 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:

- *Imperium in Imperio: A Critical Edition*, co-editor (West Virginia University Press).
- *Charles Waddell Chesnut: A Legacy in Literature* (Rowman & Littlefield).

Articles:

- “Amiri Baraka’s Uncle Tom” in *Approaches to Teaching Amiri Baraka’s Dutchman* Eds. Gerald Early and Matthew Calihman (Modern Language Association)
- “Complicating the Relationship Between Literature and History: Slave Participation in Fact and Fiction” in *Teaching the Literatures of the American Civil War* Ed. Colleen Boggs (Modern Language Association)

COURSES TAUGHT

Reconstruction and Reunion (with Patrick Rael)
 Uncle Tom’s Afterlives (with Peter Coviello)
 Nineteenth-Century American Fiction
 Introduction to Africana Studies
 Literature of the Civil War Era
 Introduction to the Black Novel in the United States
 African-American Literature and the Law
 Reading *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*
 The Inter-Marriage Plot in American Fiction
 The American Novel and the Death of Jim Crow
 Fictions of Freedom
 Reconstructing the Nation
 Slavery and the Literary Imagination
 Interracial Marriage In American Literature
 Introduction to the Literature of Black Nationalism
 Introduction to African American Literature
 Witnessing: Slavery and Its Aftermath
 African American Literary Lives
 Black Heroes in American Culture
 The Black Auteur
 African American Thought and Culture

Fiction Without Borders
Black Texts of the Eighteenth Century

PROFESSIONAL / ACADEMIC SERVICE

Faculty Representative, Presidential Search Committee, Bowdon College, May 2014-
January 2015

Faculty Director, Alumni College, Bowdoin College, August 8-11, 2013

Conference Director, Harriet Beecher Stowe at 200, June 23-25, 2011
Bowdoin College

Manuscript Reviewer: *MELUS*, *ESQ*, *Studies in American Fiction*, *American Literary
History*

Working Group on Academic Honesty, 2010-11
Bowdoin College

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.

Director, Senior Theses:

- Reilly Hannah Lorastein, “Incarcerated Students and the New Prison Literature,”
Bowdoin College, 2013.
- Ikumi Crocol, “Mothering in Morrison and Alcott,” Bowdoin College, 2009.
- David E. Weimer: “Fictions of American Experience: Autobiography in Emerson,
DuBois and Ellison,” Williams College, 2006.
- Paige Contreras-Gould, “Queering Intimacies: The Sexual Narrative in Hanif
Kureishi’s Fiction,” Bowdoin College, 2004.

Supervisor, Independent Studies:

- Shamir Rivera, *Black Women in the Modern Civil Rights Movements*,” Bowdoin
College 2010.

- Maurice Robinson and Illunga Kalala, “Black Power and Hip Hop,” Williams College, 2004-2005.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures

“Writing African American Literary Biography”

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, February 5, 2015

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

University of Venice, Venice, Italy, December 13, 2014

“Uncle Tom, Then and Now”

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

“Color-Blindness and Hindsight: Tourgee’s Rhetoric of African American Rights”

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

“Stowe’s *Dred*”

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

“The Slave-Marriage Plot”

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

“The Slave-Marriage Plot”

University of New Hampshire, Manchester, NH, Feb. 3, 2012.

“The Slave-Marriage Plot”

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

“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, MA, 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, OH, 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, MA, 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, CA, May 22-25, 2006

“Heart Matters: *The Garies and Their Friends* and the Antislavery Novel”

ALA Conference, San Francisco, CA, May 22-25, 2006

“A Refuge From the Mob: Frank Webb and the Project of Black Domesticity.”

NEMLA (North East Modern Language Association), Cambridge, MA, April 2005

Panel Organizer “Literary Fellows: James Weldon Johnson and Brander Matthews.”

MLA Convention, Philadelphia, PA, 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, England, 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, NC, 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, NC, April 5, 2000