Curriculum Vitae

Isiah Lavender III

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**Education:**

Ph.D., English, University of Iowa, July 2004.

M.A., English, Louisiana State University, 1998.

B.A., English (honors), Southern University and A & M College, 1996.

# – University of Pittsburgh (one year, transferred)

# Academic Experience:

University Professor, Syracuse University, Fall 2025-Present

Sterling-Goodman Professor of English, Dept. of English, University of Georgia, Fall 2019-Summer

2025.

Associate Professor of English, English Dept., Louisiana State University, Fall 2016-Summer 2019.

Assistant Professor of English, English Dept., Louisiana State University, Fall 2013-Summer 2016.

Affiliate member of the African and African American Studies Program, Fall 2013-Spring 2019.

Associate Professor of English, English Dept., University of Central Arkansas, Fall 2011-Summer 2013.

Assistant Professor of English, English Dept., University of Central Arkansas, Fall 2004-Spring 2011.

**Administrative Experience:**

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of English, University of Georgia, Fall 2023-Summer 2025.

# Director of African and African American Studies Program, University of Central Arkansas, Fall 2006-

# Summer 2010.

# Research and Teaching Interests:

African American Literature, Twentieth Century American Literature and Culture, Science Fiction, and

Trickster Studies

**Books and Edited Volumes:**

*Race, Law, and Speculative Fiction: Future Pasts*, University of Pennsylvania Press, forthcoming June

2026.

*The Routledge Handbook of CoFuturisms*, co-edited with Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay, Grace Dillon,

and Taryne Jade Taylor, Routledge, 2023.

*Conversations with Nalo Hopkinson*. Edited collection with intro. UP of Mississippi, 2023.

*Literary Afrofuturism in the Twenty-first Century*, co-edited with Lisa Yaszek, Ohio State UP, 2020.

[*CHOICE* Outstanding Academic Title, 2021; 2020 Locus Recommended Reading List;

2020 Locus Award Nominee for Best Work of Non-fiction]

*Beyond Afrofuturism*, special double issue of *Extrapolation*, co-edited with Lisa Yaszek, vol. 61, nos. 1-2,

Spring/Summer 2020.

*Afrofuturism Rising: The Literary Prehistory of a Movement*. Ohio State UP, 2019.

*Dis-Orienting Planets: Racial Representations of Asia in Science Fiction*. Edited collection with intro.

UP of Mississippi, 2017. Re-release in paperback, November 2021.

*Speculating Futures: Black Imagination & the Arts*, special double issue of *Obsidian: Literature & Arts*

*in the African Diaspora*, edited by Sheree Renée Thomas, Nisi Shawl, Isiah Lavender III, Krista Franklin, vol. 42, nos. 1-2, 2016. [edited the Criticism & Essays section pp. 190-255] Winner of the Council of Editors of Learned Journals’ Parnassus Award for Significant Editorial Achievement, 2018.

*Black and Brown Planets: The Politics of Race in Science Fiction*. Edited collection with intro. UP of

Mississippi, 2014.

*Race in American Science Fiction*. Indiana UP, 2011.

# Refereed Articles:

“‘It was all so white’: Mat Johnson’s Afrofuturist Retelling of Poe,” *African American Writers Respond*

*to Poe*, special issue of *Poe Studies: History, Theory, Interpretation*, vol. 56, 2023, pp. 83-101.

“Incendiary Dramas: Black Theatre Classics and Afrofuturism,” *Afrofuturism*, special issue of *The*

*Black Theatre Review*, vol. 2, no. 1, July 2023, pp. 12-22, *University of Arizona Libraries*, <https://doi.org/10.2458/tbtr.5674>. Accessed 8 Aug. 2023.

“Tangible Black Joy and Beyond: An Interview with Isiah Lavender III.” By Shelby L. Crosby and Terrence Tucker. *Afrofuturism*, special issue of *College Language Association Journal*, vol. 65, no. 1, 2022, pp. 175-180.

“Science Fiction and Racism: Decolonizing the White Problem.” *Decolonising Science Fiction*, special

issue of *Foundation: The International Review of Science Fiction*, vol. 50, no. 2, 2021, pp.106-

120.

“The *First* Death of Afrofuturism.” Co-authored with Lisa Yaszek, *Beyond Afrofuturism*, special double

issue of *Extrapolation*, vol. 61, nos. 1-2, Spring/Summer 2020, pp. 1-5.

“Considering Automation; or, the Origin of Technologically Derived Ethnicities.” *ASAP/Journal*, vol. 4,

no. 2, 2019, pp. 300-303. [special forum]

“Tricknology: Theorizing the Trickster in Afrofuturism.” Co-authored with Amandine Faucheux,

*Afrofuturism*, special issue of *MOSF Journal of Science Fiction*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2018, pp.

31-46, <http://publish.lib.umd.edu/scifi/article/view/433>. Accessed 2 Feb. 2018.

“Of Alien Abductions, Pocket Universes, and Slave Narratives.” *Speculating Futures: Black Imagination*

*& the Arts*, special issue of *Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora*, vol. 42, nos. 1/2,

2016, pp. 191-203.

“An Afrofuturist Reading of Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” *LIT: Literature-*

*Interpretation-Theory*, vol.27, no. 3, 2016, pp. 213-33.

“Reframing Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness* as Science Fiction.” *Extrapolation*, vol. 56, no. 1,

2015, pp. 15-39.

“Black Grit: or, Why I Study Race and Racism in Science Fiction.” *Deletion: The Open Access Online*

*Forum in Science Fiction Studies*, vol. 7, 2014, n. pag, <http://www.deletionscifi.org/episodes/>

black-grit-study-race-racism-science-fiction. Accessed 6 Oct. 2014.

“Invisible Women in *Invisible Man*.” *ANQ: A Quarterly Journal of Short Articles, Notes and Reviews*,

vol. 27, no. 3, 2014, pp. 146-51.

“Lebert Joseph to the Rescue: a Positive Trickster in Paule Marshall’s *Praisesong for the Widow*.”

*Journal of Caribbean Literatures*, vol. 6, no. 1, 2009, pp. 109-24.

“Ethnoscapes: Environment and Language in Ishmael Reed’s *Mumbo Jumbo*, Colson Whitehead’s *The*

*Intuitionist*, and Samuel R. Delany’s *Babel-17.*” *Afrofuturism*, special issue of *Science Fiction*

*Studies*, vol. 34, no. 2, 2007, pp. 187-200.

“Technicity: AI and Cyborg Ethnicity in *The Matrix*.” *Extrapolation*, vol. 45, no. 4, 2004, pp. 436-57.

# Book Chapters:

“‘Fresh’: A Second Conversation with Nalo Hopkinson on Life, the Academy, Race, and the Science Fiction Community.” *Conversations with Nalo Hopkinson*, UP of Mississippi, 2023, pp. 232-240.

“Breakdown or Breakthrough: A Conversation with Nalo Hopkinson.” *Conversations with Nalo*

*Hopkinson*, UP of Mississippi, 2023, pp. 111-130.

“Tochi Onyebuchi, *Riot Baby* (2020) / The Hyperreal Violence Loop’s Impact on Black Lives Matter,”

*UNEVEN FUTURES: Strategies for Community Survival from Speculative Fiction*, edited Gerry Canavan, Sean Guynes, and Ida Yoshinaga, MIT Press, 2022, pp. 265-274.

“Steven Barnes: Black Cyberpunk,” *50 Key Figures in Cyberpunk*, edited by Anna McFarlane, Graham J.

Murphy, and Lars Schmeink, Routledge, 2022, pp. 14-19.

“Author Roundtable on Afrofuturism.” Co-authored with Lisa Yaszek, *Literary Afrofuturism in the*

*Twenty-First Century*, edited by Isiah Lavender III and Lisa Yaszek, Ohio State UP, 2020, pp. 23-36.

“Coda: Wokeness and Afrofuturism.” Co-authored with Lisa Yaszek, *Literary Afrofuturism in*

*the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Isiah Lavender III and Lisa Yaszek, Ohio State UP, 2020, pp. 231-233.

“Introduction: Imagining Futures in Full Color.” Co-authored with Lisa Yaszek, *Literary Afrofuturism in*

*the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Isiah Lavender III and Lisa Yaszek, Ohio State UP, 2020, pp. 1-18.

“Critical Race Theory.” *The Routledge Companion to Cyberpunk Culture*, edited by Anna McFarlane,

Graham J. Murphy, and Lars Schmeink, Routledge, 2019, pp. 308-316.

“Afrofuturism.” Co-authored with Graham J. Murphy, *The Routledge Companion to Cyberpunk Culture*,

edited by Anna McFarlane, Graham J. Murphy, and Lars Schmeink, Routledge, 2019, pp. 353-

361.

“Jordan Peele’s *Get Out* (2017) and Ryan Coogler’s *Black Panther* (2018) – Afrofuturism.” *SCI-FI: A*

*Companion*, edited by Jack Fennell, Peter Lang, 2019, pp. 97-106.

“Teaching *Parable of the Sower* through Afrofuturism.” *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Octavia*

*Butler*, edited by Tarshia Stanley, MLA, 2019, pp. 129-135.

“Contemporary Science Fiction and Afrofuturism.” *The Cambridge History of Science Fiction*, edited by

Gerry Canavan and Eric C. Link, Cambridge UP, 2019, pp. 565-579.

“Delany Encounters: or, Another Reason Why I Study Race and Racism in Science Fiction.” *Stories for*

*Chip: A Literary Tribute to Samuel R. Delany*, edited by Bill Campbell and Nisi Shawl,

Rosarium, 2015, pp. 37-49.

“Digging Deep: Ailments of Difference in Octavia Butler’s “The Evening and the Morning and the

Night.” *Black and Brown Planets: The Politics of Race in Science Fiction*, edited by Isiah

Lavender III, UP of Mississippi, 2014, pp. 65-82.

“Critical race theory.” *The Routledge* *Companion to Science Fiction*, edited by Mark Bould et al.,

Routledge, 2009, pp. 185-93.

**Essays and Interviews:**

“Thoughts on My Friend John Lowe,” *MELUS*, vol. 49, no. 1, 2024, pp. 219-220.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/melus/mlae016>.

“Guest of Honor: Nalo Hopkinson,” Boskone 60 Souvenir Book, New England Science Fiction

Convention, February 17-19, 2023, pp. 12-13.

“SFF Writing for White Goblins: Decolonising your Defaults?,” co-authored with Nick Wood, *FOCUS:*

*The British Science Fiction Association’s Magazine for Writers*, no. 74, Summer 2022, pp. 34-35.

“SFF Writing for White Goblins: Decolonising your Defaults?,” co-authored with Nick Wood,

*Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America*, 5 Oct. 2021,https://www.sfwa.org/2021/10/05/sff-writing-for-white-goblins-decolonising-your-defaults/.

“Spooling Out: A Thousand and One Reading Experiences Professed by a Black Bookworm.” *Narrative*

*Encounters with Ethnic Literatures*, Universität Klagenfurt, 2 Oct. 2021,

https://narrativeencounters.aau.at/how-reading-shapes-us-isiah-lavender/.

Preface: Black Satirical Science Fiction. *Koontown Killing Kaper*, by Bill Campbell, 2012, Graphic

Audio, 2021. MP3 file.

“Racism in the Time of COVID-19.” *Science Fiction Studies*, vol. 47, no. 3, 2020, pp. 355-357.

“Event Horizon(s).” *Extrapolation at Sixty*, special section *Extrapolation*, vol. 60, no. 2, 2019, pp. 109-

110.

**Review Essays:**

“Getting all of It: Review of *Jordan Peele’s Get Out: Political Horror*,” edited by Dawn Keetley,

*Science Fiction Film and Television*, vol. 15, no. 2, 2022, pp. 219-226.

“Dat Black Girl Magic!: Diana Adesola Mafe’s *Where No Black Woman Has Gone Before: Subversive*

*Portrayals in Speculative Film and TV* and Sami Schalk’s *Bodyminds Reimagined: (Dis)ability, Race, and Gender in Black Women’s Speculative Fiction*.” *Science Fiction Studies,* vol. 46, no. 3, 2019, pp. 595-602.

“Further Deliberations on Black SF Criticism: Anderson/Jones’s *Afrofuturism 2.0: The Rise of Astro-*

*Blackness*, Carrington’s *Speculative Blackness: The Future of Race in Science Fiction*, and Hampton’s *Imagining Slaves and Robots in Literature, Film, and Popular Culture: Reinventing Yesterday’s Slave with Tomorrow’s Robot*.” *Science Fiction Studies*, vol. 44, no. 1, 2017, pp. 164-171.

**Reviews:**

Review of *Africa Risen: A New Era of Speculative Fiction*, edited by Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki,

Zelda Knight, and Sheree Renée Thomas, *Locus: The Magazine of the Science Fiction & Fantasy*

*Field*, vol. 89, no. 5 [issue 742], Nov. 2022.

Review of *The Sound of Culture: Diaspora and Black Technopoetics*, by Louis Chude-Sokei, *Journal of*

*the Fantastic in the Arts*, vol. 29, no. 2, 2018, pp. 302-305. [Spring 2019].

Review of *Conjuring Moments in African American Literature: Women, Spirit Work, and Other Such*

*Hoodoo*, by Kameelah L. Martin. *Callaloo*, vol. 38, no.5, 2015, pp. 1183-1185. [Spring 2016]

Review of *Africa SF* (*Paradoxa* 25), edited by Mark Bould, *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, vol. 26,

no. 1, 2015, 170-73. [Spring 2016]

**“Neo-Slavery and Science Fiction.” Review of *Afterimages of Slavery: Essays on Appearances in Recent***

***American Films, Literature, Television and Other Media*, edited by Marlene D. Allen and Seretha**

**D. Williams,** *Science Fiction Studies*, vol. 40, no. 2, 2013, p. 373.

“Reading African American SF in Germany.” Review of *Race, Aliens, and the U.S. Government in*

*African American Science Fiction*, by Elisa Edwards, *Science Fiction Studies*, vol. 39, no. 3,

2012, pp. 531-33.

Review of *The Postnational Fantasy: Essays on Postcolonialism, Cosmopolitics and Science Fiction*,

edited by Jason W. Ellis, Masood Raja, and Swaralipi Nandi. *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*,

vol. 23, no. 1, 2012, pp. 134-37.

Review of *Changing Bodies in the Fiction of Octavia Butler: Slaves, Aliens, and Vampires*, by Gregory

Jerome Hampton. *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, vol. 23, no. 1, 2012, pp. 131-33.

“Delany Exchanges.” Reviews of the revised edition of *The Jewel-Hinged Jaw: Notes on the Language of*

*Science Fiction*, by Samuel R. Delany, and *Conversations with Samuel R. Delany*, edited by Carl

Freedman, *Science Fiction Studies*, vol. 37, no. 3, 2010, pp. 502-04.

Review of *Chaotic Justice: Rethinking African American Literary History*, by John Ernest. *Arkansas*

*Review: A Journal of Delta Studies*, vol. 41, no. 2, 2010, pp. 136-37.

“Another Race Dialogue in SF.” Review of *The Subject of Race in American Science Fiction*, by Sharon

DeGraw, *Science Fiction Studies*, vol. 35, no. 2, 2008, pp. 323-5.

“Black Male Techno Geeks.”Review of *Color Monitors: The Black Face of Technology in America*, by

Martin Kevorkian, *Science Fiction Studies*, vol. 34, no. 2, 2007, pp. 314-6.

“Hallelujah: A Review of James W. Coleman’s *Faithful Vision*.” Review of *Faithful Vision: Treatments*

*of the Sacred, Spiritual, and Supernatural in Twentieth-Century African American Fiction*, by

James W. Coleman, *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies*, vol. 37, no. 2, 2006, pp. 138-9.

“Occult Gambling with Loaded Bones.” Review of *Dark Matter: Reading the Bones*, edited by Sheree R.

Thomas, *Science Fiction Studies*, vol. 31, no. 3, 2004, pp. 473-6.

“A Century of Black SF.” Review of *Dark Matter: A Century of Black Speculative Fiction from the*

*African Diaspora*, edited by Sheree R. Thomas, *Science Fiction Studies*, vol. 28, no. 2, 2001, pp.

140-3.

**Reference Works:**

“Battlestar Galactica,” “Tananarive Due,” and Sheree R. Thomas.” *Women in Science Fiction and*

*Fantasy: Vol. 2: Entries*, edited by Robin Anne Reid, Greenwood, 2008, pp. 33-4, 90-91, 298-99.

**Media Appearances:**

Film Chapel Speaker, “Why I Study Race in Science Fiction,” Harding University, February

22, 2024, https//:thelink.harding.edu/hu16/show/department-of-communication-film-chapel-

speaker-dr-isiah-lavender-2-22-2024/.

Interviewee and consultant. “Black characters and stories are finally in the sci-fi and horror spotlight. It’s

been a long time coming for fans.” Radhika Marya, *CNN*, 6 Aug. 2023,

[https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/06/entertainment/black-horror-sci-fi-television-movies- cec/index.html](https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/06/entertainment/black-horror-sci-fi-television-movies-%09cec/index.html).

Interviewee and consultant. “22 Afrofuturist books that reimagine worlds from a Black perspective.”

Yoonji Han, *Insider*, 28 Feb. 2023, [https://www.insider.com/22-afrofuturism-books- recommendation-black-writers-authors-science-fiction-fantasy-2023-2](https://www.insider.com/22-afrofuturism-books-%09recommendation-black-writers-authors-science-fiction-fantasy-2023-2).

Interviewee. “On science fiction & Afrofuturism: Q&A with Isiah Lavender III.” Interview by Allison

Harris Keepers, Office of Research, University of Georgia, 21 Feb. 2023,

<https://research.uga.edu/news/on-science-fiction-afrofuturism-qa-with-isiah-lavender-iii/>.

Interviewee and consultant. “Netflix’s ‘My Dad the Bounty Hunter’ Is an Afrofuturist Marvel.” Meagan

Jordan, *Rolling Stone Magazine*, 14 Feb. 2023, [https://www.rollingstone.com/tv-movies/tv- movie-](https://www.rollingstone.com/tv-movies/tv-%09movie-)features/my-dad-the-bounty-hunter-netflix-animated-afrofuturism-black-family- 1234675186/.

Interviewee. “Afro-futurism with Dr. Isiah Lavender III Part II.” Paradigm Radio Show: Insights into

Relationships and you, Interview by Toby Jenkins, 13 Apr. 2022.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/223433/10492821-afro-futurism-with-dr-isiah-lavender-iii-part->2.mp3?download=true.

Interviewee. “Afro-futurism with Dr. Isiah Lavender III Part I.” Paradigm Radio Show: Insights into

Relationships and you, Interview by Toby Jenkins, 6 Apr. 2022.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/223433/10492733-afro-futurism-with-dr-isiah-lavender-iii->part-1.mp3?download=true.

Interviewee. “Afrofuturism.” Interview by Brandy J. Pettijohn, *Earthseed Lab, Afrofuturist Podcast*,

Georgia Tech, 18 Feb. 2022. earthseed.lmc.gatech.edu/podcast/.

Invited Panelist. “Afrofuturism in 21st Century Black Science Fiction.” *Book Bungalow*, St. George, Utah,

and *Brain Lair Books*, South Bend, Indiana, Zoom, 22 June 2021.

<https://youtu.be/JQDcEWjwULU>.

Interviewee and consultant. “A Dictionary of Science Fiction Runs From Afrofuturism to Zero-G.” Livia

Gershon, *Smithsonian Magazine*, 12 Mar. 2021, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/dictionary-science-fiction-runs-afrofuturism-zero-g-180977224>.

Interviewee. “High Sci-Fi: Afrofuturism with Isiah Lavender III.” Wax Radio podcast, Interview by

Alexandre Stipanovich, 18 Feb. 2021, <http://wax.radio/#/episodes/afrofuturism-with-isiah->lavender-iii?t=00%3A00%3A00.

Interviewee. “Afrofuturism.” *Every Tongue Got to Confess*, the podcast of the Zora Neale Hurston

Festival, 31 January 2020.

Interviewee. “Voices of the Black Imaginary.” Interview by Kimberly Williams. Voices of the Black

Imaginary Collection, Michigan State University, 30 January 2020, <https://d.lib.msu.edu/vbi/5>.

Interviewee. “Pelicans Flock to New Film.” Interview by Breanna Smith. *The West Side Journal*, 21

March 2018, <http://www.thewestsidejournal.com/pelicans-flock-new-film/>.

Interviewee. “What’s Next for the Afrofuturist Movement? Coloured Wave.” Interview by Tola Onanuga.

*Huck Magazine*, 13 Mar. 2018, <http://www.huckmagazine.com/art-and-culture/whats-next-afrofuturist-movement/>.

“Pan African Response Panel to *Black Panther*.” *MF Galaxy* podcast, 5 March 2018,

<https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/patreon-posts/COARFOX6vdXzLu95TmmaxAEbcMeBwEl0VQPQCMAc-hv7Ur4jJLKM-mm7R6HGMrEV.mp3>.

Interviewee. “Analyzing the ‘Black Panther’ Phenomenon.” LSU Division of Strategic Communications,

23 Feb. 2018, www.lsu.edu/mediacenter/news/2018/02/23LavenderInsightonBlackPanther.php.

Interviewee. “Isiah Lavender: Dangerous Games With Artificial People.” Interview by Joseph Hurtgen.

*New Rural*, 18 Dec. 2017, <http://newrural.org/isiah-lavender.html>.

Guest Appearance. “sci-fi-and-people-of-color.” Hosted by Gregory Abdur-Rasheed. The Root and Roots

Show Online Radio. 20 Aug. 2016. <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/rootandroots/2016/08/20/the-notorious-godfather-of-the-music-industry-sci-fi-and-people-of-color>.

Guest Appearance. “How ‘Star Wars” And Fantasy Movies Handle Race.” Hosted by Marc Lamont Hill

with Nnedi Okorafor, Ytasha Womack, and Sigal Samuel. HuffPost Live. 2 Dec. 2014.

<http://huff.lv/1vZretm>.

**Forthcoming Works:**

“‘The Era in which We Now Live Feels Unhinged’: A Conversation with Isiah Lavender III.” *Teaching*

*Science Fiction in the Literature Classroom*, edited by Gerry Canavan, MLA, under contract and forthcoming in 2025.

“Imaginary Amendments and Executive Orders: Race in United States Science Fiction,” forthcoming in

*Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, vol. 35, no. 2, 2025.

“The *Noirum* in Science Fiction,” *Realities of Science Fiction*, LUMA Arles, forthcoming in 2026.

“Phillis Wheatley Peters and Afrofuturism,” 4000-word essay commissioned by Wendy Roberts and

April Langley for *Phillis Wheatley (Peters) in Context*, Cambridge UP, forthcoming in 2026.

**Works in Progress:**

“Black Zombies: A Referendum on the Living Death Penalty,” submitted to *Science Fiction*

*Film & Television*, accepted for publication, pending minor revisions, on July 21, 2025.

*Survival Mode: Anticiapting Social Problems through Science Fiction*, with Will Slocombe of the

University of Liverpool, proposal under review at University of Liverpool Press as of May 28, 2025.

“Why Did *They Cloned Tyrone*?: Afrofuturism and Social Justice,” essay manuscript in progress with

intention to submit to *Science Fiction Film & Television*.

Otherhood(s), book series proposal submitted to the University of Georgia Press, November 11,

2023.

“An Additional Reflection on the *Noirum*” essay manuscript in progress with intention to submit to

*Science Fiction Studies*.

“The Cassandra Complex in SFF&T,” essay idea

“Black Generation Starships” essay manuscript in progress with intention to submit to *Extrapolation*.

“Is There Such a Thing as White-Authored Afrofuturism?” essay manuscript in progress with intention to submit to *Science Fiction Studies*.

“Afrofuturism in Three Works by Ishmael Reed” essay manuscript in progress with intention to submit

to *African American Review*.

*The Science Fiction of John A. Williams*, in progress

*First Encounters with Science Fiction: Academics, Authors, and Scientists Speak*, collection idea

*Fear of a Black Planet: Further Considerations of the African Diaspora and Science Fiction*, collection

idea

*Africa in Science Fiction’s Imagination*, book treatment

# Keynotes and Invited Lectures:

Guest Panelist, SFRA Executive Committee Sponsored Panel “Vision and Support Session,” 56th Science

Fiction Research Association Conference, Rochester, New York, July 30, 2025.

Invited Presentation, “Solving Social Problems through Science Fiction,” Faculty Summit between the

University of Georgia and the University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom, November 17-23, 2024.

Invited Lecture, “*Noirum*: A Critical Race Theory for Afrofuturism,” African American Studies

Department, Syracuse University, October 30, 2024.

Invited Lecture, “Black Zombies,” BIPOC Scholar Mentor Program, Florida Atlantic University, Zoom,

June 11, 2024.

Keynote Speaker, “Imaginary Amendments and their Possible Meaning in American Science Fiction,” “(Re)Generation,” English Graduate Student Organization 2024 Symposium, University of Kentucky, March 21, 2024.

Keynote Speaker, “Black Zombies in Literature, Film, and TV,” Visiting Writers Series, Harding University, February 22, 2024.

Keynote Speaker, “Imaginary Amendments in American Science Fiction,” The Dean Family Speaker Series, Wake Forest University, January 24, 2024.

Invited Lecture, “The American Supreme Court in Space: Samuel R. Delany’s *The Ballad of*

*Beta-2*,” Réalités de la Science-Fiction III, LUMA Arles, France, December 15-17, 2023.

[The American Supreme Court in Space: Samuel R. Delany’s "The Ballad of… (luma.org)](https://www.luma.org/en/live/watch/conference-isiah-lavender-III-b4c668f1-16db-4e4f-bd08-775799c69423.html)

Guest Lecture, “A Referendum on the Living Death Penalty in Black-authored Zombie Fiction,” Lesley

Feracho’s graduate course AFAM 7500, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, April 18, 2023.

Distinguished Scholar Keynote Address, “Imaginary Amendments and Executive Orders: Race in United

States Science Fiction,” 44th International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 17, 2023.

Distinguished Scholar Reading, “A Referendum on the Living Death Penalty in Black-authored

Zombie Fiction,” 44th International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL,

March 15, 2023.

Guest Panelist, “Afrofuturism and African American Science Fiction,” Carnegie Hall Afrofuturism

Festival, New York City, March 27, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DpezBG8KPA>.

Invited Speaker, “Afrofuturism and Octavia E. Butler,” Library and Student Engagement Lecture Series,

Lord Fairfax Community College (soon to be Laurel Ridge CC), Zoom February 17, 2022.

# Invited Lecture, “Critical Race Theory and Science Fiction,” Literary Studies Lecture Series, University

# of Alabama, Zoom, February 4, 2022.

# Invited Lecture, “Decolonizing Science Fiction: a Lecture in Three Parts.” Recording Complete. Series

# releasing sometime in 2022. Imagination and the Future Video Lecture Series. Center for Science

# and the Imagination, Arizona State University, and CoFUTURES, University of Oslo. March 20, 2022.

Invited Lecture, “Black and Blue: Racism and Policing in Science Fictional America,” Master’s

programme in English Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland, Zoom, November 18, 2021.

Guest Lecture, “*Riot Baby* and the Advent of BLM Science Fiction,” Lesley Feracho’s graduate course

AFAM 7500, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, October 28, 2021.

Invited Lecture, “Racism and Policing in Science Fictional America,” Africana/Black Studies

Colloquium, University of Maryland, Zoom, October 1, 2021.

# Invited Panelist, “Race, Bias & Belonging in the Academy,” 52nd Science Fiction Research Association,

# Toronto, Ontario, Canada, CISCO WEBEX, June 18, 2021.

Invited Speaker with author Minister Faust, “Black Side of the Moon 1: Literature,” Eaglecon at

California State University, Los Angeles, ZOOM, March 11, 2021.

Guest Lecture, “Riot Baby and The Hyperreal Violence Loop,” Western Washington University, Zoom,

November 19, 2020.

Keynote Speaker, “Black and Blue: Racism and Policing in Science Fictional America,” “The Possible

and Impossible Worlds of Science Fiction,” St. Andrew’s College of Arts, Science, & Commerce (Mumbai), Zoom, September 11, 2020.

Guest Panelist, “Policing Blackness: Incarceration, Resistance, and Respectability Politics,” EVX: Race

and Resistance in Science Fiction, Museum of Science Fiction, Interactive Web Broadcast, August 26, 2020, <https://escapevelocity.events/evx/>. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdTe9btFlWE>

Guest Panelist, “Petite Planets,” Undergraduate Summer Seminar, Yale School of Architecture, Zoom,

June 26, 2020.

Keynote Speaker, “Black Bodies in Space: Zora Neale Hurston’s Their Eyes Were Watching God,” 31st

Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, January 30-31, 2020.

Guest Lecture, “Of Alien Abductions and Slave Narratives,” Lesley Feracho’s graduate course AFAM

7500, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, January 16, 2020.

Invited Speaker, “Like Lil’ Wayne, I, too, am a Martian: Afrofuturism, Science Fictional Blackness, and

the Hyperreal Violence Loop,” History Seminar on Contemporary Science, Technology, and

Culture, the Smithsonian Institute, National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC, December

19, 2019.

Invited Speaker, “Black Panther and Afrofuturism,” LSU Upward Bound at Southern University, April

21, 2018.

Featured Presenter, “Welcome to Wakanda: Intro to Afrofuturism and Afro-Fantasy, Mid-City Micro-

Con, East Baton Rouge Public Library, February 10, 2018.

Invited Lecture, “Frankenstein Dissected,” Science Fact, Science Fiction 2017-18 Lecture Series,

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, November 15, 2017.

Guest Lecture, “Afrofuturism,” Skype with Marek C. Oziewicz’s graduate class in Young Adult

Speculative Literature, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, April 13, 2017.

Keynote Speaker, “Of Alien Abductions, Pocket Universes, Trickster Technologies, and Slave

Narratives,” History of the Future Series, Stony Brook University, February 2, 2017.

Invited Speaker, “Science Fiction and Race,” Eaglecon at California State University, Los Angeles, May

14, 2015.

Invited Speaker, “Science Fiction and Race,” Science Fiction and Technoculture Studies Program,

University of California, Riverside, May 13, 2015.

Invited Panelist, “Science Fiction and Race,” “Astroblackness: Remaking and (Re)Mixing Black

Identity Before, Now and Beyond” Colloquium, Loyola Mary Mount University, Los Angeles, CA, February 12-13, 2014.

# Conference Presentations:

“Between Social Movements: Samuel R. Delany’s *The Ballad of Beta-2*,” 56th Science Fiction Research

Association Conference, Rochester, New York, July 30-August 2, 2025.

“Afrofuturism’s Impact on the Genres of the Fantastic,” 44th International Conference of the Fantastic in

the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 18, 2023.

Panelist, “Global Methods/Knowledges Toward Rethinking SF/Fantastic Theory,” 44th International

Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 18, 2023.

Panelist, “Co-Futurisms: Toward a Unified Future,” 44th International Conference of the Fantastic in the

Arts, Orlando, FL, March 18, 2023.

Panelist, “Writing and Research Workshop,” 44th International Conference of the Fantastic in the

Arts, Orlando, FL, March 17, 2023.

Panelist, “Equiano, Crafts, Wilson, Brent/Harris, Till and the Central Park Survivors: Racially

Integrated Education and the Continued Censure of African and Diaspora Experience,” 44th International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 16, 2023.

“Introducing the Noirum: CRT and SF/F,” 53rd Science Fiction Research Association Conference, Oslo,

Norway, ZOOM, June 30, 2022.

“Science Fiction Theory Roundtable: Reading, Isiah Lavender III, excerpts from *Afrofuturism*

*Rising: The Literary Prehistory of a Movement* (2019),” 43rd International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 16-20, 2022.

“CRT and the SF Double Novum,” 43rd International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando,

FL, March 16-20, 2022.

Panelist, “Science Fiction, Inequality, and Social Justice in the Georgia Classroom,” 52nd Science Fiction

Research Association Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, CISCO WEBEX, June 19, 2021.

“Gimme My Respect: Steven Barnes the Black Cyberpunk,” 42nd International Conference of the

Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, ZOOM, March 18-21, 2021.

Panelist, “Indigenous Sciences, BIPOC SF, and Environmental/Restorative Justice,” BIPOC Caucus

roundtable, 42nd International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, ZOOM, March 18-21, 2021.

Panelist, “Literary Afrofuturism in the Twenty-First Century” roundtable, 5th Annual City Tech Science

Fiction Symposium: Race & Science Fiction, New York City College of Technology, Zoom, November 19, 2020. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyCeOUuPPV0&feature=emb\_title.

“Critical Race Theory, SF and Zombies,” abstract submitted to 41st International Conference of the

Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 18-21, 2020. [**CANCELLED COVID-19**]

Panelist, “Ishmael Reed,” 31st Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities,

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, January 31, 2020.

“Mapping Afropunk with Critical Race Theory,” 40th International Conference of the Fantastic in the

Arts, Orlando, FL, March 13-17, 2019.

“Alchemizing Cyberpunk into Afropunk with Critical Race Theory,” Embodiment in Science Fiction and

Fantasy Interdisciplinary Conference, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, May 18-19, 2018.

“Afrofuturism, as of Late: Butler, Okorafor, Jemisin, and Shawl,” 38th International Conference of the

Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 22-26, 2017.

Panelist, “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story,” Science Fiction Division roundtable, 38th International

Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 22-26, 2017.

“Radical Afrofuturism, Racial Warfare, and John A. Williams’s *Captain Blackman*,” 134th Modern

Language Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA, January 5-8, 2017.

Panelist, “Star Wars 7: The Force Awakens,” Science Fiction Division roundtable, 37th

International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 19, 2016.

“Reloading Afrofuturism: Networked Black Consciousness in 19th Century Slave Narratives,” 37th

International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 16-20, 2016.

“1619-1877: The Afrofuturist Vista and the Possibility of Freedom Technologies,” 46th Science Fiction

Research Association Conference, Stony Brook, NY, June 26-28, 2015.

“‘Metallically black’: Bigger Thomas and the Black Apocalyptic/Dystopian Vision of Richard Wright’s

*Native Son,*” the 44th National Popular Culture Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, April

1-4, 2015.

“Trickster Technologies in Butler’s *Wild Seed* and Hopkinson’s ‘Ganger (Ball Lightning),’” 36th

International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 18-22, 2015.

“S/he’s: Examples of a Trickster Technology in *The Left Hand of Darkness*, *Wild Seed*, and

‘Ganger (Ball Lightning),’” 45th Science Fiction Research Association Conference, Madison, WI, May 22-25, 2014.

“Zora Neale Hurston’s Planetary Romance: An Afrofuturist Reading of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*,”

74th College Language Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, March 26-30, 2014.

“Apocalyptic Africa: Reading Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness* as if Science Fiction,” 35th

International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 19-23, 2014.

“Lynn Mortimer, What are You? A Question of Race in Octavia Butler’s “The Evening and the Morning

and the Night,” 33rd International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 21-25, 2012.

“Digging Deep: Ailments of Race in Octavia Butler’s “The Evening and the Morning and the

Night,” 38th Arkansas Philological Association Conference, Conway, AR October 6-8, 2011.

“Paradigm Shift: on Black Presidents and Science Fiction,” 31st International Conference on the Fantastic

in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 17-21, 2010.

“Trickster Migrations: Helga Crane’s Crash Landing in Nella Larsen’s *Quicksand*,” 36th Arkansas

Philological Association Conference, Eureka Springs, AR October 10-12, 2009.

“Stranger than Strange: Jim Crow Extrapolations in Bradbury and Schuyler,” 40th Science Fiction

Research Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, June 11-14, 2009.

“Invisible Women in *Invisible Man*,” 34th Arkansas Philological Association Conference, Little Rock,

AR, October 11-13, 2007.

“On the Brink: the Technic Threat to Humanity in *Battlestar Galactica*,” 28th International Conference

on the Fantastic in the Arts, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, March 14-18, 2007.

“Technologically Derived Ethnicity: Cylons in *Battlestar Galactica*,” 36th National Popular Culture

Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 12-16, 2006.

“Crossing Color Lines: David Brin’s *Kiln People* and Walter Mosley’s “Angel’s Island,” 26th

International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, March 16-20, 2005.

“Coming Home: Avey Johnson’s Spiritual Journey in Paule Marshall’s *Praisesong for the Widow*,” 31st

Arkansas Philological Association Conference, Fayetteville, AR, October 8-9, 2004.

“Fusion Cartography: Representations of Race in Clifford Simak’s *A Choice of Gods*, Samuel Delany’s

*Dhalgren*, and Maureen McHugh’s *China Mountain Zhang,*” 25th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, March 24-28, 2004.

“Technicity: AI and Cyborg Ethnicity in *The Matrix*,” 44th Midwestern Modern Language

Association Conference, Minneapolis, MN, November 8-10, 2002.

“Trickster Migrations: Helga Crane’s Crash Landing in Nella Larsen’s *Quicksand*,” 61st College

Language Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, April 18-20, 2001.

“The Inner City: Trickster Sightings and Survival,” 60th College Language Association Conference,

Baltimore, MD, April 6-8, 2000.

**Grants, Honors, and Awards:**

University of Georgia

International Association of the Fantastic in the Arts Distinguished Scholarship Award, Spring 2023

[The IAFA Distinguished Scholarship Award is a career award, presented annually since 1986, that recognizes distinguished contributions to the scholarship and criticism of the fantastic. Awarded at ICFA 44 on March 18, 2023]

Special Guest, Distinguished Scholar, 44th International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts:

Afrofuturism, Orlando, FL, March 15-18, 2023.

Willson Center Research Fellowship, awarded for “Critical Race Theory and Science Fiction,” Spring

2023

The Uplifter Award, BIPOC Caucus of the IAFA, ICFA 43, March 19, 2022 [In recognition of

Outstanding Service to the Black, Indigenous and People of Color Caucus of the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts]

Teaming for Interdisciplinary Research Pre-Seed Program, $5000 awarded for “UGA Space and

Planetary Science and Engineering Program,” Co-I with PI Phillip Stancil and his 10-person team, Fall 2021

Locus Science Fiction Foundation Award Finalist, 2021

Willson Center Grant for Guest Lecturer [Sharon Weltman Spring 2020]

Louisiana State University

Regents Research Grant, Summer 2018

Manship Summer Research Fellowship, Summer 2017

Manship Summer Research Fellowship, Summer 2016

LSU Alumni Association Rising Faculty Research Award, 2016

Phi Kappa Phi Untenured Faculty Award, Spring 2015

Regents Research Grant, Summer 2014

University of Central Arkansas

University of Central Arkansas Sabbatical, Fall 2012

NEH Summer Institute – Contemporary African-American Literature, 2012

Faculty Enhancement Grant, Spring 2007

Title III Grant, Summer 2006 [Video editing equipment training]

Title III Grant, Summer 2006 [DyKnow Vision Software training]

University Research Council Summer Stipend, Summer 2005

Faculty Enhancement Grant, Spring 2005

Sherman Paul/Prairie Lights Summer Scholarship Award, 2004

Graduate Merit Fellowship Dissertation Award, 2003-2004

**Invited Lecturers and Sponsored Talks:**

Heather A. Love, “Modern(ist) Mothers in/and the Media: Rhetorical Constructions of Medicalized

Maternity across Literary Texts, Popular Magazines, and Hospital Reports” (March 27, 2025)

Lisa Yaszek, “A Brief History of Sustainability in Women’s Science Fiction” (October 25, 2023)

Sharon Aronofsky Weltman, “Victorians on Broadway” (February 20, 2020)

**Courses Taught:**

University of Georgia

FYOS 1001: Freshman Odyssey Seminar [Zombies…’Nuff Said! (2 sections) and Classics SF Films (2

sections)]

ENGL 2340: American Literature Since 1865 [3 sections]

ENGL 3460: Literature and Utopia [Perils of Utopia]

ENGL 4630: African American Fiction [Black Gems]

ENGL 4880/4897/6770: Crash Course in Afrofuturism and Crash Course in Africanfuturism

ENGL 4880: Topics in African American Literature [Feminist Afrofuturism and Crash Course in

Afrofuturism]

ENGL 4897: Science Fiction [Technologically Derived Ethnicities, Contagious Science Fictions in a

Science-Fictional Moment, and Police and Science Fiction]

ENGL 4899: Topics in Science Fiction (Science Fiction Short Stories)

ENGL 6770: African American Topics [Crash Course in Science Fiction]

ENGL/AFAM 8720: Seminar in African American Literature

[Critical Race Theory and Science Fiction, Afropessimism vs. Afrofuturism, Police and Afrofuturism, and Crash Course in Afrofuturism]

ENGL 8730: Multicult Seminar [Alternative Futurisms: Colored Waves of Science Fiction]

Louisiana State University

HNRS 2000: Critical Analysis

ENGL 2025: Fiction [4 sections]

ENGL 2085: Science Fiction [5 sections: Dystopian Futures, Artificial Persons, Climate Fictions,

Alternate Histories, Cyberpunk]

ENGL 3070: American Literature I [7 sections]

ENGL 3072: American Literature II

ENGL 3674: Survey of African American Literature

ENGL 4104: Literature Capstone Seminar [Afrofuturism]

ENGL 4674: Topics in African American Literature [3 sections: Interracial Love Narratives, Black

Uprisings in SF, Afropunk]

ENGL 7975: Topics in African American Literature – Afrofuturism, Novels of the Harlem Renaissance,

Critical Race Theory and Science Fiction

Independent Study:

WGS 4900: The Mulatta in Black Women’s Fiction [Jian Massucco spr. 2016]

ENGL 8900: Women’s Alternative Futurisms [Amandine Faucheux spr. 2016]

University of Central Arkansas

FYFS 1301: Mythologies of the Future: Science Fiction

AFAM 1330: Introduction to African and African American Studies [multiple sections]

ENGL 1350: Introduction to Literature [multiple sections]

ENGL 2305: World Literature I [multiple sections]

ENGL 2306: World Literature II [multiple sections]

ENGL 2312: American Literature I [multiple sections]

ENGL 2313: American Literature II [multiple sections]

ENGL 2370: Introduction to Fiction [multiple sections]

ENGL 3325: Advanced Studies in World Literature (Global Science Fiction)

ENGL 4314/5314: American Fiction since 1900 (joint undergrad/grad course)

ENGL 4380/5380: Survey of African American Literature (joint undergrad/grad course)

ENGL 4381/5381: Major African and African American Writers (joint undergrad/grad course)

Fall 04 – Ernest J. Gaines and Toni Morrison

Fall 05 – Buchi Emecheta, Nadine Gordimer, and Ngugi Wa Thiong’o

Fall 06 – Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison

Spring 07 – Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison (MSCC)

Fall 07 – Octavia E. Butler and John A. Williams

Spring 09 – Gwendolyn Brooks and Walter Mosley

Fall 11 – Toni Morrison

ENGL 4382/5382: Race in American Literature (joint undergrad/grad course)

Spring 05 – The Evolving Slave Narrative

Spring 06 – Interracial Love Narratives

Spring 07 – Inner City Blues

Summer 07 – Race Wars & American Literature(s)

Spring 08 – Black Gems: Classics in American Literature

Fall 09 – AAAH! Murder Mystery Thrillers in Race Fiction

Spring 11 – Interracial Love Narratives

ENGL 6307: Seminar in American Literature 1900 to Present [Selected Novels of the Harlem

Renaissance]

**Professional Servic**e:

Editor, *Extrapolation*, Spring 2018-present.

Evaluator, MacArthur Fellows Program, December 2018.

Consultant, *Space is the Place: Afrofuturist Tales, Classic and Contemporary*, Library of America,

Spring 2017.

Review Panelist, NEH Enduring Questions Grant Program, 2012.

“Race and the Fantastic,” Conference theme proposal, written with Patricia Melzer of Temple University

and Kim Surkan of MIT, 31st International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 17-21, 2010.

Advisory Boards:

J. Wayne and Elsie M. Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction, University of Kansas, Fall

2022-2023. [https://sfcenter.ku.edu/advisory-board]

CoFutures: Pathways to Possible Presents, University of Oslo, Spring 2020-present.

[https://cofutures.org/people/]

Editorial Boards:

University of Georgia Press, Fall 2020-Summer 2023.

*Journal of Posthumanism*, Spring 2021-present.

*Science Fiction Studies*, Fall 2020-present.

Studies in Global Genre Fiction series, Routledge Press, Spring 2020-present.

*Science Fiction Film and Television*, Fall 2019-present.

*Journal of the Fantastic in Arts*, Fall 2019-present.

New Dimensions in Science Fiction series, University of Wales Press, Spring 2016-present.

Book Manuscript Reviewer:

Bloomsbury Publishing on andre carrington’s *The Bloomsbury Handbook to Black Speculative*

*Fictions*, Summer 2025.

Routledge Press on Cassandra Scherr’s *An Introduction to Black Speculative Fiction*, Summer 2023.

Stanford University Press on Quincy T. Stewart’s *Race in the Machine: An Account*, Summer

2021.

Ohio State University Press on Joy Sanchez-Taylor’s *Diverse Futures: An Examination of*

*Science Fiction and Fantasy by Authors of Color*, Summer 2020.

MIT Press on Gerry Canavan, Sean Guynes, and Ida Yoshinaga’s *Uneven Futures: Strategies for*

*Community Survival from Speculative Fiction*, Summer 2020.

University Press of Mississippi on Terrence McSweeney’s *Black Panther: Interrogating a*

*Cultural Phenomenon*, Summer 2020.

Rutgers University Press on Matthew Goodwin’s revised proposal *The Latinx Files:* *Race,*

*Migration, and the Space Alien*, Spring 2019.

Rutgers University Press on Mathew Goodwin’s proposal *Latinx Science Fiction and the*

*Future of Solidarity*, Spring 2018.

University Press of Mississippi on Stefan L. Brandt, Michael Fuchs, and Stefan Rabitsch’s

edited collection proposal *Fantastic Cities: American Urban Spaces in Science Fiction,*

*Fantasy, and Horror*, Summer 2016.

University Press of Mississippi on Marc DiPaolo’s *Fire & Snow: Climate Fiction from the*

*Inklings to Game of Thrones*, Summer 2016.

University Press of Mississippi on Leif Sorensen’s book proposal *Worlds of Difference: Race and*

*Ethnicity* *in Science Fiction*, Fall 2015.

University Press of Mississippi on reprint proposal of Darko Suvin’s *Metamorphosis of Science*

*Fiction*, Fall 2014.

Routledge Press on Helen Young’s book proposal *Diverse Fictions: Race and Popular Fantasy*,

Summer 2014.

University Press of Mississippi on Elyce Rae Helford’s collection proposal *Engaging the Woman*

*Fantastic in Contemporary Media Culture*, Summer 2014.

University Press of Mississippi on Edward Chan’s book proposal *The Racial Horizon of Utopia:*

*Unthinking the Future of Race in Late-Twentieth-Century American Utopian Fiction*,

Summer 2014.

Ohio State University Press on Jerry Rafiki Jenkins’s *Black Vampires in America:* *Identity,*

*Difference and African American Vampire Novels*, Fall 2011.

Ohio State University Press on Marleen S. Barr’s edited collection *Afro-Future Females: The*

*Blackness of Outer Space Fiction*, Fall 2006.

Journal Manuscript Reviewer:

*African American Review*

*ANQ*

*Ariel: A Review for International English Literature*

*Bulletin of* *Science, Technology & Society*

*Journal of Caribbean Literatures*

*LIT: Literature-Interpretation-Theory*

*PMLA*

*Topia: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies*

*Utopian Studies*

Florida Atlantic University BIPOC Scholar Mentor Program, for Taryne Taylor, Fall 2023-Summer 2025.

Promotion and Tenure Review:

Promotion to Professor, Department of English, University of California, Riverside, 2025.

Promotion to Associate Professor, Department of English, Wake Forest University, 2025.

Tenure to Professor, Department of English, Emory University, 2023.

Mid-Tenure Evaluation, Department of English, University of Utah, 2022.

Promotion to Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Communication, Embry-Riddle

Aeronautical University, 2021.

Promotion to Professor, African American Studies and English Departments, The College of New

Jersey, 2021.

Promotion to Professor, English Department, University of Maryland, 2020.

Promotion to Associate Professor, Humanities Division-English, University of Houston,

Victoria, 2012.

External Dissertation Examiner:

Omara Samirah Dyer-Johnson, “Imagining a Better World: Black Futurity in Contemporary Afrofuturism and Speculative Fiction,” University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, April 29, 2022. (Zoom)

Päivi Väätänen, “Narrating Alien Encounters: Race, Identity, and Generic Change in Science

Fiction,” Helsinki, Finland, November 19, 2021. (Zoom)

Lisa Dowdall, “Possible things: Utopianism in postcolonial women’s Science Fiction and

Impossible Things: A Novel,” University of New South Wales, Australia, Summer 2016.

Committees:

BIPOC Committee, International Association of the Fantastic in the Arts, Fall 2020-Summer

2021. [Chair, 2020-2021]

Lead BIPOC Representative election June 4, 2021.

Instituted BIPOC Caucus with a written constitution and bylaws, May 26, 2021.

Chair, Inaugural BIPOC Meeting, 42nd International Conference on the Fantastic in the

Arts, Orlando, FL, March 18, 2021.

Science Fiction Research Association Award for Lifetime Contributions to SF Scholarship

Committee, 2020-2023. [Chair 2023]

Science Fiction Research Association, Mary Kay Bray Award Committee Member, 2014-2017.

[Chair 2017] SFRA gives this award for the best, essay, interview, or extended review

that appears in the *SFRA Review* in a calendar year.

**Panels Chaired:**

Moderator, “The Politics of the Fantastic Panel,” 43rd International Conference on the Fantastic in the

Arts, Orlando, FL, March 17, 2022.

“Octavia Butler,” 43rd International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 17,

2022.

“Reaction and Interaction: Human Relationships with Apocalypse,” 42nd International Conference on the

Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 21, 2021. [Sterling Goodman Endowment supported

presentations of UGA grad students Chanara Andrews-Bickers, Julia Lindsay, and Hannah

Warren]

“Translation and Adaptation,” the 37th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando,

FL, March 18, 2016.

“Race as Technology,” the 36th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando,

FL, March 22, 2015.

“Reading Octavia Butler,” the 74th College Language Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, March

27, 2014.

“Disrupting the Colonial Gaze,” the 35th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando,

FL, March 20, 2014.

“Feminism, Foucault, and Freud: The Works of Toni Morrison,” the 6th Annual English Graduate

Conference, Conway, AR, March 30, 2012.

“Postcolonial Voices: Achebe, Lahiri, and Soyinka Decolonize Our Minds,” the 4th Annual English

Graduate Conference, Conway, AR, April 16th, 2010.

“Black and/or Brown Planets: Politics and Race in Science Fiction,” the 31st International Conference on

the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 17-21, 2010.

“Spirits and Spaces: Searching for the Divine,” 3rd Annual English Graduate Conference, Conway,

AR, April 10th, 2009.

“Freeing Their Minds, Finding Their Voices: Women of Color in America and the World,” 1st Annual

English Graduate Conference, Conway, AR, April 5th, 2007.

“Myths of the Body, Legends of the Mind: Exploring the Self and Other Worlds,” 1st Annual English

Graduate Conference, Conway, AR, April 5th, 2007.

“Science Fiction & Fantasy X: Battlestar Galactica: Technology, Minorities, & Racism,” 36th National

Popular Culture Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 12-16, 2006.

“From Cold Equations to Capitalism: Fifties SF,” 26th International Conference on the Fantastic in the

Arts, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, March 16-20, 2005.

“Future Identities Now: Representing Artificial Persons,” 44th Midwestern Modern Language Association

Conference, Minneapolis, MN, November 8-10, 2002.

# University Service:

University of Georgia

Reviewer, Presidential Graduate Fellow Award, Spring 2025.

Reviewer, SEC Emerging Scholars Award, Graduate School, Spring 2024 & 2025.

Reviewer, Dissertation Completion Awards, Graduate School, Spring 2024 & 2025.

Reviewer, Summer Research Grants for Doctoral Students, Graduate School, Spring 2024 & 2025.

Reviewer, Graduate School Master’s Fellows Award competition, Graduate School, Spring 2024 & 2025.

Reviewer, Diversity Research and Scholarship Grant (DRSG) program, Fall 2020-Spring 2021.

Louisiana State University

Pre-Doctoral Scholars Institute Mentor, Summer 2018. (Diana Valenzuela of Loyola U)

Pre-Doctoral Scholars Institute Advisory Board Member, January 2014-May 2015.

Panelist, “Oscar Night,” 2016 Film and Media Program, presentation on The Martian, February

24, 2016.

Panelist, “Yesterday’s Fiction, Today’s Fact: Technological Offspring,” 2015 Undergraduate Research

Conference, LSU Office of Strategic Initiatives, November 6, 2015.

Panelist, LSU Digital Media Arts & Engineering Program Panel Discussion on *The Matrix*, May 7, 2014.

University of Central Arkansas

Faculty Salary Review Committee, Fall 2011-Spring 2013.

Sabbatical Leave Review Committee, Fall 2010-Spring 2012.

Mentor, Minority Mentorship Program, Fall 2008 – Spring 2012.

African and African American Studies Forum, Fall 2006-Spring 2010:

Moderated talk “Does African/African American Studies have a future at UCA?

NO!! Why Not???” on February 23, 2010.

Introduced Dr. Garry Powell who presented the talk “Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. vs.

General Robert E. Lee” on January 22, 2009.

Introduced Dr. Gary Wekkin who presented the talk “Is America Ready for a Black

President? Is Obama Ready to be President?” on September 30, 2008.

Introduced Dr. Charles Bane, who presented the talk “HillaracK: Is America Ready for a Black

President? Or, a Woman for that Matter?” on March 12, 2008.

Presented talk “Black Hair Politics” on February 20, 2008.

Introduced Tiffany Shumpert, who moderated talk “Stirring the Pot: Black Americans and Black

Africans, Part II” on November 14, 2007.

Introduced Tiffany Shumpert, who moderated talk “Black Africans and Black Americans: a Pot

and Kettle Conversation” on October 11, 2007.

Moderated talk “RESPECT OR LEAVE ME BE: Black Female and Black Male Relations” on

February 27, 2007.

Introduced Dr. Charles Bane, who presented the talk “What’s Wrong with the Confederate Flag?

Every DAMN THING!!!” on November 29, 2006.

Presented talk “Can a Thug Be A Student? Yes or No? Why?” on October 25, 2006.

Admissions Committee, Fall 2005-Fall 2007.

**College Service:**

University of Georgia

# Willson Center Research Fellowship Selection Committee, Fall 2023

# Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Tenure and Promotion Committee, Fall 2022-Fall 2024.

Despy Karlas Professorship in Piano Search Committee, Fall 2021.

Louisiana State University

Faculty Senate, English Representative Fall 2016-Spring 2019.

# Academic Oversight Committee, Fall 2016-Spring 2019.

# AAAS Affiliate Committee, Fall 2016-Spring 2019.

University of Central Arkansas

# College of Liberal Arts Tenure and Promotion Committee, Fall 2011.

College of Liberal Arts Interdisciplinary Minors Coordinating Committee, Fall 2007-Spring 2010.

College of Liberal Arts Grants and Fund-Raising Committee, Fall 2007-Spring 2009.

College of Liberal Arts Research Committee, Fall 2006-Spring 2009.

College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Student Award Committee, Spring 2006-Spring 2008.

Chaired Spring 2008

**Department Service:**

University of Georgia

Administrative Leadership Council, Fall 2023-Spring 2025.

Graduate Committee, Fall 2019-Spring 2023.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Literary Studies Search Committee, Fall 2022-Spring 2023. [hired Joseph Wei]

Post-Tenure Review Committee, Spring 2022. [Jonathan Evans]

Third-Year Review Committee, Spring 2022. [Jason Payton]

Post-Tenure Review Committee, Spring 2021. [Bill Kretzschmar]

Environmental Humanities Hiring Committee, Spring 2020.

Major Professor:

Laurie Norris, Fall 2024-Spring 2025.

Jamie Lewis, Fall 2023-Spring 2025.

Ruth Myers, Fall 2020-Spring 2025.

Julia Lindsay, Spring 2020-Spring 2024.

Ph.D./M.F.A. Comprehensive Exam Committee:

Cassandra Aigbogun, Fall 2023-Fall 2024. [Comp. Lit]

Ruth Myers, Fall 2022-Spring 2023.

Zhiwen Hu, Fall 2021-Spring 2022. [Comp. Lit]

Justine Oluitan Aremu, Spring 2022. [MFA Studio Art]

Hannah Warren, Fall 2020-Spring 2022

Julia Lindsay, Fall 2020-Spring 2021

Dissertation/Thesis Director:

Jamie Lewis, Fall 2023-Spring 2025

Thesis: “Romancing the Robot: Exploring Personhood and Simulacral

Relationships in Posthumanist Novels.”

Ruth Myers, Summer 2023-Spring 2025

Dissertation: “Beloved Communities: Relational Resistance in Contemporary Black

Women’s Speculative Fiction”

Laurie Norris, Fall 2024-Spring 2025

Dissertation: “The Watcher: Cinematography in the Age of Prestige Television”

Julia Lindsay, Summer 2021-Spring 2024

Dissertation: “Afrofuturist Pasts in the American South”

Dissertation/MFA Committees:

Chanara Andrews-Bickers, Spring 2022-2025

Dissertation: “The Practice is the Product: Black Women’s Communities of Care in Life

and Literature”

Zhiwen Hu, Spring 2022-Spring 2024

Dissertation: “Cofutures of Creativity: Posthuman Creation in Science Fiction”

Hannah Warren, Spring 2022-Spring 2024

Dissertation: “Aesthetic Shock”

Justine Oluitan Aremu, Spring 2023

MFA: “Survival Pending Resolution”

Louisiana State University

Personnel Committee, Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Panelist, “Difficult Subjects: Confronting Controversy in the Classroom”: Second Session of the Advanced Pedagogy Workshop Series, March 31, 2017

Adhoc Diversity Committee, Summer 2016- Fall 2016

Partial Year Dissertation Fellowship (Spring/Summer 2016), Fall 2015

Works in Progress Series, Organizer, Fall 2015-Spring 2016

Undergraduate Committee, Fall 2015-Spring 2016; Fall 2017-Spring 2018

Executive Committee, Fall 2014-Spring 2015; Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Publication and Professionalization Graduate Workshop, presenter, February 18, 2015.

Regents Research Committee, Fall 2014.

Graduate Committee, Fall 2013-Spring 2014; Fall 2016-Spring 2018.

Gayle Carrithers Outstanding Critical Essay Award, Judge, Spring 2014.

HSS Outstanding GTA Award, Chair, Spring 2014.

MELA Search Committee Consultant, Fall 2013-Spring 2014.

Graduate Admissions Recruiting Workshop, participant, November 20, 2013.

Dissertation Director:

Steven Monk, Summer 2018-Summer 2019.

Dissertation: “Intimate Fictions: The Rhetorical Strategies of Obscene Violence in Four

Novels”

Dissertation Committee:

Amandine Faucheux, Fall 2017-Sping 2019.

Dissertation: “Carceral Dreams: Punishment in Contemporary Utopian Fiction”

Taylor Orgeron, Fall 2018-Spring 2019.

Dissertation: “Intertwined Markings: Metafiction in the Digital Age”

Jack Mallard, Spring 2018-Spring 2019 [was not finished at time of my move]

Ph.D. Academic Course Plan:

Carly Rubin, Spring 2017

Jack Mallard, March 4, 2016

Tim Jones, February 19, 2016

Amandine Faucheux, February 19, 2015

Sarah Webb, January 23, 2015

Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam Committee:

Amandine Faucheux

Sarah Webb

Steven Monk

Jack Mallard

Mathew Tougas

Tim Jones

M.A. Thesis Portfolio Committee:

Philip Smith, Spring 2018

Honors Thesis Exam Committee

Charity Ringel, April 11, 2019

“‘A Body Knows:’ Time, Affect, and Change in Post-Civil War African American

Literature”

Nellie Yelvington, March 12, 2019

“Uramissa”

Camille Boechler, April 10, 2017

University of Central Arkansas

American Literature Generalist Search Committee, Spring 2011. Chaired. [hired Lori Leavell]

Assessment Committee, Fall 2010-Spring 2013

Children’s Adolescent Literature Search committee, Spring 2010. [hired Sonya Fritz]

English Department Banned Book Week Committee, Fall 2008-Fall 2010

English Department New Media Committee, Fall 2008-Spring 2010

Children’s Adolescent Literature Search committee, Fall 2007-Spring 2008

M.A. in English Comprehensive Exam Committee, Fall 2010-Summer 2011

M.A. in English Comprehensive Exam Committee, Fall 2006-Summer 2007

English Education Program Coordinator Search Committee, Fall 2006-Spring 2007. [hired Charles Bane]

Nolte-Behrens Lecture Committee, Fall 2004-Spring 2007

African and African American Studies Committee, Fall 2004-Summer 2013

Chair Fall 2006-Summer 2010

Honors thesis advisor/director/reader:

Fall 2011 Honors College Thesis Reader – Adrea Walker

Fall 2010 Master’s Comprehensive Exam Mentor – Thomas O’Banion

Spring 2010 Honors College Thesis Reader – Timothy Turner

Spring 2008 Honors College Thesis Director – Tiffany Shumpert

Fall 2006 Honors College Thesis Director – Beth Post

Fall 2004 Honors College Thesis Director – Ashlie Alexander

Fall 2004 Honors College Thesis Reader – Candy Massey

**Community Service:**

Judge, Athens Academy Literary Magazine Creative Writing Contest, April 10, 2023.

Moderator, Honors College Book Club, Octavia Butler’s *Kindred*, Fall 2018.

[guided extracurricular reading for 8 students]

Moderator, Honors College Book Club, Octavia Butler’s *Parable of the Sower*, Spring 2018.

[guided extracurricular reading for 11 students]

Memorial Oak Grove Rededication Service, LSU Campus, November 10, 2017.

I helped to plan the event spearheaded by Professor Gary King of Biological Sciences.

Louisiana State University

Participant, Miltonpalooza: *Paradise Lost* Reading Marathon, March 30, 2015.

Participant, Geaux Big Baton Rouge, March 28, 2015.

English Department Liaison, BlinkJar Media Internship, July 2014-Spring 2019.

Judge, Annual Pinkie Gordon Lane Poetry Contest, March 27, 2015.

Judge, Annual Pinkie Gordon Lane Poetry Contest, March 10, 2014.

University of Central Arkansas

“Quilting in the Jim Crow Era/ ‘My Mother’s Secret Garden,’” Lecture presented to Faulkner and Pulaski

County Students at UCA’s Humanities Fair, November 10, 2011.

“From a Frog to a Prince,” Lecture presented to Conway High Students at UCA’s Humanities Fair,

November 11, 2010.

Invited Speaker, “The Coleman Project: Promoting Healthy Relationships,” Delta Sigma Theta

Sorority, Inc, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc, November 4th, 2010.

“Ray Bradbury’s *The Martian Chronicles*,” public reading for Banned Book Week at the University of

Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, September 27, 2010.

Judge, All Greek Step Show, UCA, April 15th, 2010.

Invited Speaker, “From a Frog to a Prince,” Theta Mu chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc,

January 21, 2010.

“Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*,” public reading for Banned Book Week at the

University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, September 30, 2009.

“Black Hair Politics,” Lecture presented to Conway High Students at UCA’s Humanities Fair,

November 6, 2008.

Humanities Fair Short Story Contest Judge, November 6, 2008.

Panelist, “Colorism,” Minority Student Services: Molding Successful Student Series, November 6, 2008.

“Richard Wright’s *Black Boy*,” public reading for Banned Book Week at UCA, October 2, 2008.

Panelist, “Don’t Mean to Offend, But…Does Political Correctness Inhibit Academic Freedom?”, UCA

English Department, October 1, 2008.

Panelist, “Getting Ready for Graduate School,” UCA Department of Writing, September 2, 2008.

Invited Speaker, “The Poetry of Hip-Hop,” Students for the Propagation of Black Culture, February 6,

2008.

Invited Speaker, “Black Hair Politics,” Griot Society, November 5, 2007.

“Richard Wright’s *Black Boy*,” public reading for Banned Book Week at UCA, October 5, 2007.

Invited Speaker, “Reaping the Crop: Sources of Creativity in Repressed Black Women,” Alpha Kappa

Alpha Sorority, Inc, February 27, 2007.

Moderator, “Colors Program,” Alpha Phi Alpha and Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternities February 20, 2007.

Africa in America Week, April 17, 2006: Introduced *Dutchman* (1964)

In-Service presenter, “Development of the Diverse Literatures in Education Program,” Arkansas Council

of Teachers of English and Language Arts Festival, February 19, 2005.

Judge, Martin Luther King, Jr. Banner Competition, January 18, 2005.

Invited Speaker, “Time Management and Setting Goals,” Conway High Keystone Program,

October 28, 2004.

**Professional Organizations:**

College Language Association, International Association of the Fantastic in the Arts, Popular Culture Association, Science Fiction Research Association, and Modern Language Association