

CHRISTOPHER S. LEWIS

Western Kentucky University
Department of English

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, The Ohio State University, 2012.

M.A., English, The Ohio State University, 2008.

B.A., English, *summa cum laude*, University of Cincinnati, 2006.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Western Kentucky University, 2014-present.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, Franklin & Marshall College, 2013-2014.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, The Ohio State University, 2012-2013.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

African American literature, queer studies, U.S. ethnic literature, U.S. literature, gender and sexuality studies, popular culture studies.

PUBLICATIONS

"Queering Personhood in the Neo-Slave Narrative: Jewelle Gomez's *The Gilda Stories*." *African American Review* 47.4 (2014): 447-459.

"Cultivating Black Lesbian Shamelessness: Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*." *Rocky Mountain Review* 66.2 (2012): 158-175.

"Gerbillings Reconsidered: Comparing Talk of Foodways and Sexways." *Folklore Forum* 39.1 (2009): n. pag. Web. 1 September 2013. <<http://folkloreforum.net/2009/03/24/gerbillings-reconsidered-comparing-talk-of-foodways-and-sexways/>>.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

"Dunbar's Maternal Masculinities: Mama's Boys and Mothering Men," American Literature Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, May 2016.

"Queerness and the Supernatural in Antebellum African American Slave Narratives," American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, March 2016.

- “Related by Herself; or, The Legacy of Janie’s Tongue in Pheoby’s Mouth,” College Language Association Annual Conference, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, April 2015.
- “James Baldwin *français*” panelist, College Language Association Annual Conference, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, April 2015.
- “Looking for Lafayette: Vampires and Other Monsters in African American Archives,” Queer Places, Practices, and Lives Conference, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, May 2014.
- “Can Black Queer Sexuality and Lynching Share Dramatic Space?: James Baldwin’s Lynching Narratives,” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Harrisburg, PA, April 2014.
- “Neuter-Bound/Neuter-Freed: Reconsidering Antebellum Black Sexuality and Gender,” Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, March 2013.
- “Honey Boo Boo Meets Jim Crow: Racial Segregation and the Politics of Cuteness,” Ray Browne Conference on Popular Culture, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, February 2013.
- “Neo-Slave Narratives, Social Monsters, and Queering Human Rights,” Global Queerness: Sexuality, Citizenship, and Human Rights in the Twenty-First Century Conference, College of Wooster, Wooster, OH, October 2012.
- “‘An Organization to Save My Life’: AIDS and Black Communities in the Writing of Essex Hemphill and Assotto Saint,” Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Scottsdale, AZ, October 2011.
- “Genre-Bending: African American Gay and Lesbian Writers of the 1980s,” Celebrating African American Literature’s Race, Sexuality and African American Literature Conference, Penn State University, State College, PA, September 2011.
- “Generic Queerness, Generic Blackness: Audre Lorde, Alice Walker, and the Critique of Canonization,” Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Annual Conference, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, April 2011.
- “Resisting the Literary, Resisting the Canon: Audre Lorde’s *Zami*,” Defining the New: Experiments and Innovations in English Studies Conference, Ohio University, Athens, OH, October 2010.
- “Gerbillig, Reconsidered: Comparing Talk of Foodways and Sexways,”

Translation/Transformation Conference, Indiana University and The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, May 2008.

LOCAL PRESENTATIONS

Introduction to screening of So Yong Kim's *In Between Days*, International Year of South Korea Film Festival, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY, September 2016.

Introduction to screening of Dee Rees's *Pariah*, Gender and Women's Studies Gender Images Film Series, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY, February 2016.

"Dirty Mouths: Shameless Expression and African American LGBT Literature," Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility Faculty Brown Bag, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY, March 2015.

"James Baldwin, Eldridge Cleaver, and Black Queer Literary Analysis," Queer of Color Critique Roundtable Discussion, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, February 2010.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Western Kentucky University

African American Literature, Fall 2014-present.

LGBTQ Literature, Spring 2016.

African American Film, Fall 2015.

U.S. Ethnic Literature, Spring 2015 and Spring 2017.

Introduction to English Studies, Fall 2016.

Introduction to Literature, Fall 2014-present.

Franklin & Marshall

English Special Topics, "Queerness and Normality in U.S. Literature and Culture," Spring 2014.

English Special Topics, "African American Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror," Spring 2014.

Studies in African American Literature, "Music in African American Literature: Blues, Jazz, Rock & Roll, Hip Hop," Fall 2013 and Spring 2014.

Studies in African American Literature, "The Slave Narrative and Its Legacies," Fall 2013.

Ohio State

Introduction to Queer Studies, Fall 2012 and Winter 2012.

Introduction to African American Literature (1746-Present), Fall 2009 and Fall 2011.

Introduction to U.S. Literature (1865-Present), Fall 2010 and Winter 2011.

Introduction to Reading Popular Culture, Summer 2011.

Second-Year Writing about the U.S. Experience in Literature, "Race and Sex in Contemporary U.S. Literature, 1977-Present," Spring 2011.

Second-Year Writing about the U.S. Experience in Literature, "Borders and Boundaries: (Im)Migration in American Literature, 1865-Present," Fall 2008 and Spring 2009.

Second-Year Writing: African American Voices, "Positive and Negative Images: Arguments about Public Respectability in African American Literature," Spring 2010.

Second-Year Writing: African American Voices, "History and Memory in African American Culture," Spring 2008.

Second-Year Writing about the U.S. Experience, "Race and Sex in Contemporary U.S. Culture," Spring 2012.

Second-Year Writing about the U.S. Experience, "Bridges and Borders: Debates about Immigration in American Popular Culture," Winter 2009.

First-Year Writing about Literature, "Storytelling Practices and Problems," Winter 2010.

First-Year Writing about Literature, "The Rhetoric of Race and Ethnicity in American Literature," Fall 2007 and Winter 2008.

First-Year Writing, "The Rhetoric of Self-Presentation: Autobiographies, Self-Portraits, and Other Ways We Represent Ourselves," Spring 2007.

First-Year Writing, "The Rhetoric of Race and Ethnicity," Fall 2006 and Winter 2007.

AWARDS

Wood Professorship, Department of English, Western Kentucky University, 2016-2017.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute Award, "Paul Laurence Dunbar and American Literary History," Ohio History Society, Columbus, OH, July 2015.

Muste Award, Best Dissertation of the Year (*Black Shamelessness: African American LGBT Writing, 1982-1991*), Department of English, Ohio State, 2013.

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Ohio State, 2012-2013.

Estrich Award nominee, Best Graduate Seminar Paper of the Year (“Homosexuality and the Lynching Narrative: James Baldwin’s *Blues for Mister Charlie*”), Department of English, Ohio State, 2010.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Manuscript reviewer, *PMLA*, 2016.

Manuscript reviewer, *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 2016.

Western Kentucky University

Executive Committee, Department of English, 2014-present.

Alternate, Curriculum Committee, Potter College of Arts and Letters, 2015-present.

Minority Postdoctoral Fellowship Search Committee, Department of English, 2016.

Judge, Student Research Conference, Western Kentucky University, 2016.

Co-organizer, 15th Annual Undergraduate Conference on Literature, Language, and Culture, Department of English, 2015.

Organizer, Black History Month reading groups and presentation from Ayesha Hardison, 2015.

Liaison, Department of English, Focus on WKU Academic Expo for Prospective Students, 2014.

Co-organizer, 14th Annual Undergraduate Conference on Literature, Language, and Culture, Department of English, 2014.

Ohio State

Co-organizer, LGBTQ Career Development Forum, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, 2013.

Member, Assessing LGBT Student Wellness Committee, Office of Diversity and Inclusion and Office of Multicultural Affairs, Ohio State, 2012-2013.

Co-organizer, LGBTQ Film Series, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, 2012-2013.

Co-chair of publicity committee and member of planning committee, “Queer Places, Practices, and Lives: A Symposium in Honor of Samuel Steward,” 2011-2012.

Vice President and founding member, U.S. Ethnic and Postcolonial Studies Association, Department of English 2010-2012.