Laura A. White

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EMPLOYMENT:

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

2020-present Professor, Department of English

Graduate Faculty; Women’s and Gender Studies Faculty;

Africana Studies Faculty

2016-2020 Associate Professor, Department of English

Graduate Faculty; Women’s and Gender Studies Faculty;

Africana Studies Faculty

2010-2016 Assistant Professor, Department of English

Graduate Faculty; Women’s and Gender Studies Faculty

Africana Studies Faculty

EDUCATION:

2005-2009 Ph.D. in English, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY

1997-1999 M.A. in English, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

1991-1995 B.A. in English*,* University of Scranton, Scranton, PA

Minors in History, Women’s Studies

Dissertation: “Fictions of Progress: The Eco-politics of Temporal Constructions in

Colonial and Postcolonial Novels.”

PUBLICATIONS:

Monograph:

*Ecospectrality: Haunting and Environmental Justice in Contemporary Anglophone Novels.*

Bloomsbury Academic, May 2020.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

“Recomposing the Slut: Feminist Taxidermic Practice in Charlotte Wood’s *The Natural Way of Things.*” *Configurations,* vol. 27, no. 2, 2019, pp. 139-161.

“Haunted Histories, Animate Futures: Recovering Noongar Knowledge through Kim Scott’s

*That Deadman Dance.” Commonwealth Essays and Studies*, vol. 41, no. 1, 2018, pp.63-

74.

“Spatial Anxieties: Tourists, Settlers and Tasmania’s Affective Economies of Belonging in *A*

*Terrible Beauty*, *Death of a River Guide*, and *Gould’s Book of Fish*.” *Richard Flanagan*: *New Critical Essays,* edited by Robert Dixon, U of Sydney Press, 2018.

“Images Matter: Richard Flanagan, Richard Wastell and Materializations of Tasmania.”

*Visualizing Australia,* edited by Kylie Crane and Renate Brosch, Wissenschaftlicher

Verlag Trier, 2014, pp. 119-34.

“Beyond the Eco-flaneur’s Footsteps: Perambulatory Narration in Zakes Mda’s *Ways of Dying.”*

*Ecoambiguity, Community and Development: Toward a Politicized Ecocriticism.* edited

by Vidya Sarveswaran, Scott Slovic and Swarnalatha Rangarajan,Lexington Books/

Rowman and Littlefield, 2014, pp. 99-112.

“Novel Vision: Seeing the Sunderbans through Amitav Ghosh’s *The Hungry Tide*.” *ISLE*:

*Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment,* vol. 20, no. 3, 2013, pp. 513-31.

“Re-imagining the Human: Ecofeminism, Affect, and Postcolonial Narration.” *International*

*Perspectives in Feminist Ecocriticism,* edited by Simon Estok, Greta Gaard and Serpil

Oppermann, Routledge, 2013, pp. 137-47.

“Submerging the Imperial Eye: Affective Narration as Environmentalist Intervention in Richard

Flanagan’s *Death of a River Guide*.” *Journal of Commonwealth Literature,* vol. 47, June

2012, pp. 265-79.

“Building on Gendered Ground: Space and National Identity in Brenda Walker’s *Wing of Night*.”

*Journal of Australian Writers and Writing,* May 2010, pp. 4-13.

“Renegotiating the Land Covenant in Marlene van Niekerk’s *Triomf.*” *Scrutiny 2* , vol. 12, no. 2,

2007, pp. 84-95.

Reference Articles:

Consultant for criticism collection on Zakes Mda’s *The Heart of Redness* for *Contemporary*

*Literary Criticism.* Gale, forthcoming 2020.

“Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.” *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Fiction,* edited by Geoff Hamilton.

Gale, 2009.

Manuscript in Development:

Literary Animals in the Affective Economies of Extinction.

This project operates at the intersections of postcolonial ecocriticism, animal studies, and affect studies to address the question: what do affects do in stories about extinction? Sara Ahmed develops the concept of affective economies to counter the idea that emotions are private, internal states. Instead, she contends, affects travel across borders and move among bodies, creating effects. They *do* things, aligning subjects with and against others. My study examines how literary representations of human and nonhuman animals both depict and participate in the movements of affect that inspire responses to extinction. However, by shifting the focus from specific environmentalist affects to the movement of affect itself, it also insists that the circulation of feeling about extinction must be understood not only in terms of generating alliances of love, protection, and preservation, but also in relationship to the work that it does to justify killing certain populations. By analyzing the movement of affects in Anglophone novels, the study builds on but also complicates conceptions of the circulation of affects, considering how literary representations simultaneously arrest the movement of affects and suspend the lives of animals in order to represent them, at times contributing to illusions of their stable presence and creating a consoling fiction that distorts the temporal dynamics of extinction.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

Presentations Delivered

“Aligning Rhetoric and Practice: Global Learning for All,” with Ann McCullough, AAC&U Global Citizenship for Campus, Community and Careers Conference, San Antonio, TX. October 2019.

“Literary Animals and the Affective Economies of Extinction,” Affective Ecocriticism Workshop, Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Biennial Conference, Davis, CA. June 2019.

“From the Ice Age to the Anthropocene: Human Responses to Global Change,” Featured Panel for MTSU Undergraduate Social Science Symposium, Murfreesboro, TN. February 2019.

“Taxidermic Temporalities and Artificial Animals in Henrietta Rose-Innes’s *Green Lion*,” African Literature Association Conference, Washington, D.C. May 2018.

"A Den of Wild Beasts:" Discourse and Deviance in Charlotte Wood's *The Natural Way of Things,* Modern Language Association Conference, New York, NY. January 2018.

“Re-composing the Taxidermic Nation: Charlotte Wood's *The Natural Way of Things*," Society for Literature, Science and the Arts Conference, Tempe, AZ. November 2017.

“Against Silence: Contextualizing Women’s Captivity in Charlotte Wood’s *The Natural Way of* *Things*,” British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference, Savannah, GA. February 2017.

“Mapping Modes of Inhabitance in Henrietta Rose-Innes’ Rock Alphabet,” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference, Detroit, MI. June 2016.

“Positioning Maps: Environmental Justice and the Cartographic Imagination.” African Literature Association Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA. April 2016.

“Mapping Modes of Inhabitance in Henrietta Rose-Innes’ *Rock Alphabet*.” British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA. February 2016.

“Spectral Toxicity in Michelle Cliff’s *No Telephone to Heaven*,” ASLE Sponsored Panel at the Northeast MLA. Toronto, Canada. May 2015.

“Ghostly Mother/ Land in Michelle Cliff’s *No Telephone to Heaven*,” British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA. February 2015.

“Guided by Ghosts: Haunting as Environmentalist Epistemology,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference. New York University, New York, NY. March 2014.

“Haunted by Matter: Kim Scott’s *That Deadman Dance,*” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference. Lawrence, KS. May 2013.

“Urban Hauntings: On Ghosts and Garbage in Chris Abani’s *GraceLand*,” African Literature Association Conference, Charleston, SC. March 2013.

Chair, Masculinity and Liberation in West African Literature. African Literature Association

Conference, Charleston, SC. March 2013.

“Beyond Anthropomorphism: Environmental Materialist Narration in Kim Scott's *That Deadman Dance,*” British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference, Savannah, GA. February 2013.

“Reframing Tasmania: Richard Flanagan, Richard Wastell and the Environmental Impact

of Affective Vision,” Visualizing Australia Conference, Stuttgart, Germany. September 2012.

“Disciplinary Dark Matter,” with Dr. Amy Kaufman. BABEL Conference, Boston, MA. September 2012.

“Walking in the South African City: Postcolonial Ecoflaneurs and Zakes Mda’s *Ways of Dying*,”

British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA. February 2012.

“Postcolonial Eco-flaneurs and Posthuman Subjectivities,” South Central MLA Conference.

Hot Springs, AK. October 2011.

“Re-Imagining the Human: Ecofeminism, Affect, and Postcolonial Narration,” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference. Bloomington, IN. June 2011.

“Green Affects: Affective Narration as Environmentalist Intervention,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference. Vancouver, BC. March 2011.

“Submerging the Imperial Eye: Green Narration in Flanagan’s *Death of a River Guide,*”

British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA. February 2011.

“Parasite Stigma in Chris van Wyk’s *Year of the Tapeworm,*” International Society for the Study of Narrative Annual Conference. Cleveland, OH. April 2010.

“Slow Alternative: Affective Temporalities and the Critique of Economic Rationalism

in Thea Astley’s *Drylands*,” MLA Conference. Philadelphia, PA. December 2009.

“The City, The Forest, and Evolutionary Time: An Ecocritical Reading of *The Voyage*

*Out*,” 19th Annual Virginia Woolf Conference. Fordham University, NY. June 2009.

“Arthur Conan Doyle’s Egypt: An Ecocritical Investigation,” African Literature Association Annual Conference. University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. April 2009.

“Time and Tide: The Eco-politics of Temporal Constructions in Amitav Ghosh’s *The Hungry Tide,*” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference. Harvard University, Boston, MA. March 2009.

“Critiquing the Cowboy: Multiple Masculinities in Ruth Ozeki’s *My Year of Meats*,” Rocky Mountain MLA. Reno, NV. October 2008.

Moderator, The Meaning of Food: Culinary Expressions of Cultural Values, Rocky Mountain MLA. Reno, NV. October 2008.

“Defending Tradition: The Military Language of Masculinity in *Lucky Jim*,” Fordham University Graduate Conference. New York, NY. October 2008.

“Imagining the Postcolonial Garden in Zakes Mda’s *Ways of Dying*,” The Keyboard in the Garden ASLE Symposium. Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, PA. June 2008.

“Regarding Working Class Masculinity: The Filmic Gaze and Rebellion in Sillitoe’s *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning,*” Northeast MLA. Buffalo, New York. April 2008.

“Ingestion and Ideology in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *Purple Hibiscus,*” Rocky Mountain MLA. Calgary, AB. October 2007.

“Building on Gendered Ground: Space and National Identity in Brenda Walker’s *Wing of Night*,” American Association of Australian Literary Studies Annual Convention. Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. March 2007.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

Courses Taught for English Department

ENGL 1010: Expository Writing

ENGL 1020: Research and Argumentative Writing

ENGL 2020: Outlaws in Australian Literature

ENGL 2020: Colonial Adventure Narratives: Mapping Gender, Race and Sexuality

ENGL 2020: Contemporary World Literatures in English

ENGL 3000: Introduction to Literary Studies (traditional and online versions)

ENGL 3450: Studies in Narrative: Contemporary African Literature

ENGL 4270: Contemporary British and Commonwealth Literature

ENGL 4425: Backgrounds of Modern Literature

ENGL 4435: Global English Literatures

ENGL 4900: Haunted Landscapes in Contemporary Global Literature

ENGL 4950: Contemporary Literature: Global Garbage, Wasted Worlds

ENGL 6/7320: Postcolonial Literature and Theory

ENGL 6/7401: Studies in Contemporary Literature: Re-Imagining the Human

ENGL 6/7500: Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature and the Environment

Undergraduate Level Directed Reading and Research

Racial Passing in Literature and Law, with Allison Lynch, Fall 2014.

Graduate Level Directed Reading and Research

Uses of Religious Discourse in Postcolonial Literature, with Majed Alenezi, Fall 2015.

Indigenous Australian and Pacific Island Writers, with Matthew Byrge, Summer 2015.

Ecocritical Approaches to Melville, with Dawn Copeland, Spring 2015.

Indo-Carribean Women Writers, with Jennifer Rideout, Spring 2014.

Courses Developed and Taught for Women’s and Gender Studies Program

WGST 3010: Sexuality Studies

WGST 3030: Topics in Sexuality: Sexualities in Contemporary Global Literature

WGST 4210: Gender and the Environment (revision of Ecofeminism)

WGST 4500: Feminist Theory

Thesis and Dissertation Committees

Undergraduate Honors Thesis

Director. Melinda Lewis. “Understanding Bengaluru: A Guide to the City and the Self.” Defended

Spring 2017.

M.A. Theses

Reader. Jess Bennett. “Queer Families in the Speculative Fiction of Octavia Butler.” Defended

Fall 2019.

Reader. Will Underland. “‘Throw Your Head to the World’: Inner Emptiness and ‘the Open Road’

in the Work of Dave Eggers.’ Defended Spring 2018.

Reader. Rebecca Lee Curry. “Sarah Scott: Religion in *Millenium Hall* and *The History of Sir*

*George Ellison.*” Defended Spring 2014.

Director. Debosree Banerjee. “Female Embodiment, Mother India and the Power of Matriarchy

in Shauna Singh Baldwin’s *What the Body Remembers* and Bapsi Sidhwa’s *Cracking*

*India*.” Defended Fall 2012.

M.A. Portfolios

Director. Rima Abdallah. Completed Spring 2019.

Director. Heather Listhartke. Completed Spring 2018.

Dissertations

Reader. Jency Wilson. “The Diorama of the Sublime: Pseudo-Nature and Fading Femininity in

American Literary Naturalism.” In progress.

Director. Majed Alenezi. “Shifting Paradigms of Postcolonial Theory: Internal Concerns of 21st

Century Anglophone Arab Novels.” Defended Spring 2019.

Director. Matthew Spencer. “Without Borders: The Postnational Imagination in Contemporary

Anglophone Literature.” Defended Spring 2019.

Director. Jennifer Rideout. “Middle Eastern Emigration in Culinary Fiction and Memoir: A Recipe

for ‘Citizen Culinary Diplomacy’.” Defended Spring 2018.

Reader. Lava Asaad. “Literature with a White Helmet: The Textual Corporeality of Being,

Becoming and Representing Refugees.” Defended December 2018.

Reader. Lama Alharbi. “The Nation Revisited: Examining Patriarchal Presence in Nuruddin

Farah’s *Maps* and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *Half of a Yellow Sun*.” Defended

Fall 2015.

Additional Teaching Experience

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Public Administration, Binghamton University 2007-2010

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of English, Binghamton University 2005-2010

Assistant Director of First Year Writing, Binghamton University Spring 2006 -Spring 2008

Coordinator of Teaching Assistant Development, Binghamton University 2006- 2007

Instructor, English Department, Archmere Academy, Claymont, DE 1999-2005

Educator, Philadelphia Zoo, Philadelphia, PA 2003-2005

Instructor, Literacy Project, Project HOME, Philadelphia, PA 2003-2004

Instructor, English Department, Neumann College, Aston, PA 2001

Graduate Teaching Assistant, English Department, University of Delaware,

Newark, DE 1997-1999

Tutor, Writing Center, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 1997

GRANTS, HONORS AND AWARDS:

Funded to facilitate Faculty Learning Community, “Incorporating Global Perspectives” (2018-

2019)

Phi Kappa Phi Inspirational Teacher Recognition (2019, 2012)

Ayne Cantrell Award for Outstanding Service to MTSU Women’s and Gender Studies

Program (2018)

Outstanding Teaching Award, Women’s and Gender Studies Program (2017)

Travel Award, German Association of Australian Studies, Stuttgart, Germany (2012)

President’s Commission on the Status of Women Curriculum Integration Grant (2012)

Access and Diversity Grant, College of Liberal Arts, MTSU (2011)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

English Department:

Graduate Student Advisor (Spring 2020-present)

Member, English Department Graduate Committee (Fall 2018-present; Fall 2013-Spring 2016)

Member, Faculty Governance Committee (Fall 2017-Spring 2020)

Member, Peck Awards Committee (Fall 2017-Spring 2020)

Faculty Mentor (Fall 2017-present)

Exam Writer and Evaluator, PhD Preliminary Examination in Criticism and Critical Theory (Spring 2019)

Exam Writer and Evaluator, PhD Qualifying Examination (Fall 2018, Fall 2014, Spring 2012, Spring 2011)

Member, Tenure and Promotion Committee (Fall 2016-Spring 2017)

Scorer, English Major Portfolio Assessment (Spring 2017)

Member, Graduate Teaching Assistant Observation and Awards Committee (Fall 2014- Spring 2017; Fall 2011-Spring 2013)

Member, Working Group for redesigning Literary Studies focus for the English major (Fall 2016)

Mentor, Graduate Teaching Assistant Shadow Program (Spring 2016, Spring 2011)

Exam Writer and Evaluator, PhD Preliminary Examination in Anglophone Literature (Spring 2016,

Fall 2015, Spring 2015, Spring 2013)

Grader, Assessment of English 1020 Essays (Summer 2015, Fall 2014)

Workshop Leader, EGSO Job Search Workshop, with Dr. Amy Kaufman (Spring 2014)

Judge, Ranked presentations at English Graduate Student Research Symposium (Spring 2014)

Reviewer, Proposals for English Graduate Student Research Symposium (Fall 2014, Fall 2013)

FTT/ Adjunct Observation and Evaluation Letter (Fall 2014, Fall 2012, Fall 2010)

Member, English Department Lower Division Committee (Fall 2010-Spring 2013)

Scorer, English 3000 Essays for Upper Division Assessment (Fall 2011)

Member, TESOL Hiring Committee (2010-2011)

University:

Member, University General Education Committee (2019-present)

Member, Women’s and Gender Studies Council (2011-present)

Co-Chair, Women’s and Gender Studies Curriculum Committee (Fall 2017-Spring 2020)

Member, Women’s and Gender Studies Graduate Committee (Fall 2015-present)

Panel Chair, Women’s and Gender Studies Conference (Spring 2019, Spring 2017, Spring 2015)

Member, University Awards Committee (Fall 2016-Spring 2018)

Panel Chair, Holocaust Studies Conference (Spring 2018)

Member, Instructional Evaluation and Development Grant Committee (Fall 2014-Spring 2016)

Member, Women’s and Gender Studies Curriculum Committee (Fall 2015-Spring 2017)

Member, Women’s and Gender Studies Sexuality Studies Track Committee (Fall 2012-Spring 2015)

Profession:

Reviewer for manuscript submissions to *Journal of Commonwealth Literature, Journal of the*

*Association for the Study of Australian Literature, Cultural Critique, ISLE: Interdisciplinary*

*Studies in Literature and Environment, PMLA, and* Routledge’s Environment and Sustainability Series

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:

Facilitator, Faculty Learning Community, “Incorporating Global Perspectives” (2018-19)

Attendee, Fostering Integrative Learning Across the Curriculum, LT&ITC (2019)

Participant, MT Engage Summer Institute (2018)

Attendee, AAC&U Webinar, “Engaging All Students in Global Learning from High-Impact

Practices to High-Impact Graduates (2018)

Attendee, Accessibility in the Online Classroom, ITD (2018)

Attendee, Gradebook and Quizzes on D2L Workshop, ITD (2018)

Attendee, Integrating Learning in the E-Portfolio, LT&ITC (2018)

Member, Faculty Learning Community, MT Engage Major Pathways (2017-18)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Modern Language Association, American Comparative Literature Association,

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, American Association for Australasian Literary Studies, African Literature Association