Revised August 2018

# Curriculum vitae

# personal

Rebecka Rutledge Fisher, PhD

Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature

Adjunct Associate Professor of American Studies

Adjunct Associate Professor of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies

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# education

Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, Washington University, May 2001

A.M. in Comparative Literature, Washington University, May 1996

M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration, Ohio University, June 1992

A.B. in French, Ohio University, June 1987

School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, Summer 2000

Middlebury College, Summer Language Institute in Spanish, Summer 1995

L’Institut de Touraine, Study Abroad Course in French Literature and Culture, Spring 1985

# Professional experience

Associate Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2013 to present

Assistant Department Chair, Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2012 to 2014

Director, Program in Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2013 to 2014

Director, Graduate Studies and Graduate Admissions in Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2012 to 2014

Interim Director, Undergraduate Studies in Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Spring 2009

Assistant Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2006 to 2013

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2005-2006

Assistant Professor of Literature, Department of English, Miami University, 2001 to 2006 (on personal leave 2005-2006)

# Selected honors and Awards

University Research Council Grant, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Office of Research Devel-

opment, Spring 2018

Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Fall 2011

Residential Fellowship, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Summer 2010

Spray-Randleigh Award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Spring 2007

Outstanding Mentor Award, W.E.B. Du Bois Academy, Cincinnati, OH, Spring 2005

Leadership Award, Ohio University, 1987

Academic Excellence Award, Ohio University, 1986

**past leaves**

Fall 2018: Post-tenure leave

Spring 2007: Pre-tenure leave

Spring 2013: Post-tenure leave

**Bibliography**

**BOOKs**

*Understanding Natasha Trethewey*. Under contract and in process at the University of South Carolina Press. Contemporary American Writers Series. Forthcoming in 2019.

*12 Years a Slave and Other Slave Narratives*. Introduction. Fall River Press, 2015.

*Habitations of the Veil: Metaphor and the Poetics of Black Being in African American Literature.* 492

pages. Philosophy and Race Series. SUNY Press, May 2014.

*Retrieving the Human: Reading Paul Gilroy*. 375 pages. Eds. Rebecka Rutledge Fisher and Jay Garcia. With a new essay by Paul Gilroy and a critical introduction by the editors. Philosophy and Race Series. SUNY Press, October 2014.

*The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African*. *Written by Himself.* 242 pages. Text selected, introduced, and annotated by Rebecka Rutledge Fisher. New York: Barnes & Noble Publishing, December 2005.

**selected Refereed papers, articles, and book chapters**

“The Poetics of Black Being: Metaphor, Desire, and Doing.” 38 pages. *Black Intersectionalities: A Critique for the 21st Century.* Ed. Jean-Paul Rocchi and Monica Michlin. FORECAAST Series. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2013.

“The Poetics of Belonging in the Age of Enlightenment: Metaphors of Being in Olaudah Equiano’s *Interesting Narrative*.” 25 pages. *Early American Studies* 11.1 (Winter 2013): 72-97.

“Democracy’s Remains: The Hermeneutic Historiography of *Black Reconstruction*.” 21 pages. *The South Atlantic Quarterly* (*SAQ*) 112.3 (2013): 507-528. Special issue on W.E.B. Du Bois’s *Black Reconstruction*. Ed. Thavolia Glymph.

“Cultural Artifacts and the Narrative of History: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Exhibiting of Culture at the 1900 Paris Exposition Universelle.” Reprint. 33 pages. *Paris, Modern Fiction, and the Black Atlantic.* Eds. Jonathan Eburne and Jeremy Braddock.Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013.

“Dark Princess.” 2324 words. In *The Literary Encyclopedia* (litencyc.com). Eds. Robert Clark, Emory Elliott, and Janet Todd. Published online, 2012.

“Symbolic Wrights: The Poetics of Being Underground.” 28 pages. *Obsidian: Literature in the African Diaspora* 11.2 (Fall/Winter 2010): 14-42.

“Remnants of Memory: Testimony and Being in *Sketches of Southern Life*.” 29 pages. In *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance* 54.1-4 (2008): 55-74.

“The Anatomy of a Symbol: Reading W.E.B. Du Bois’s *Dark Princess: A Romance*.” 27 pages. *CR: The New Centennial Review* 6.3 (2006): 91-128.

“Cultural Artifacts and the Narrative of History: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Exhibiting of Culture at the 1900 Paris Exposition Universelle.” 33 pages. *Modern Fiction Studies* 51.4 (2005): 741-774.

**selected grants**

University Research Council Grant, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Office of Research Devel-

opment. $2916.50. July 2018 – June 2020. Primary investigator.

Resident Fellow, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. $2000.00. Summer 2010. Primary in- vestigator.

Junior Faculty Development Award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. $7,500.00. AY2008. Primary investigator.

Spray-Randleigh Fellow, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. $15,000.00. AY2007. Pri- mary investigator.

University Honors Program Core Course Development Award, Miami University. $1500.00. Summer 2005. Primary investigator.

Summer Research Award, Miami University. $5000.00. Summer 2003. Primary investigator.

Fellowship, School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, $1500. Summer 2000. Primary investigator.

Chancellor’s Graduate Fellow in Comparative Literature, Washington University. $250,000. 1994-2001. Primary investigator.

**Administrative service TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL**

Assistant Chair, Department of English and Comparative Literature, 2012 to 2014.

Director of the Program in Comparative Literature, Fall 2013 to 2014.

Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Admissions in Comparative Literature, Summer 2012 to 2014.

Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies in Comparative Literature, Spring 2009.

Coordinator, Group XI, African American Literature, Fall 2009 to present.

**Refereed unpublished oral presentations**

“W.E.B. Du Bois and Philosophy.” Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Philosophical Association. New York, New York, July 2017.

“W.E.B. Du Bois, *John Brown*, and the Consciousness of the Slave.” Triangle African American History Colloquium. “Defining Freedom in African American History and Culture.” University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. February 2012.

“The Poetics of Black Being: Metaphor, Desire, and Doing.” Ninth International Conference of the Collegium for African American Research. “Black States of Desire: Dispossession, Circulation, Transformation.” Université de Paris 7: Denis Diderot (France). April 2011. (Unable to present for medical reasons.)

“I Sing the Body Free: W.E.B. Du Bois, John Brown, and American Heroism.” 21st Annual Conference of the American Literature Association, San Francisco, May 2010.

“W.E.B. Du Bois and the Epistemology of Metaphor.” Eighth International Conference of the Collegium for African American Research. “Black Knowledges, Black Struggles, Civil Rights: Transnational Perspectives.” University of Breman (Germany). March 2009.

“Habitations of the Veil: Souls, Figure, Form.” The Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association. October 2008.

“Symbolic Wrights: The Poetics of Life Underground.” The International Centennial Conference at the American University of Paris: Celebrating 100 Years of Richard Wright. June 2008.

“Paperwhites” and “Beautyberries.” $100 juried poetry prize, Carolina Women’s Center, 2007.

“’Daughter of My Fathers Back to the Hundreth Name’: The Crisis of the Black Intellectual in Du Bois’s Dark Princess.” The Conference of the American Cultural Studies Association. May 2004.

“W.E.B. Du Bois’s Dark Princess: Gnosticism and the Black Feminine in an Allegory of Pan-Africa.” African-American Nationalism(s): An International Conference. The University of Tours (France). November 2003.

“A Literature of Belonging: *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, The African*.” The Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association. October 2003.

“A Love Called Democracy: Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*.” The Conference of the American Literature Association. May 2003.

“The Figure of the Veil: Metaphor and Form in W.E.B. Du Bois’ *The Souls of Black Folk*.” W.E.B. Du Bois and Frantz Fanon: Postcolonial Linkages and Trans-Atlantic Receptions: An International, Interdisciplinary Conference. The University of Stirling (Scotland). March 2002.

“Invisible Writing: African American and Caribbean Literature and the Seeds of the Postmodern.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, April 1997.

“Bridging the Abyss: The Future of African Diasporic Aesthetics.” 39th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, San Francisco. November 1996.

**Other non-refereed works and invited presentations**

“On the Soul and Spirit of Du Bois.” Invited presentation as part of the conference, “W.E.B. Du Bois and the Problems of the 21st Century.” The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, January 2013.

“Love’s Habitation: The Uncanny Maternal of Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*.” Invited lecture as part of the 2012 Furst Forum. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, November 2012.

“W.E.B. Du Bois: The Thinker as Poet.” Invited talk at Amherst College. Amherst, MA, October 2012.

“Toni Morrison’s *Sula*: Living Art.” Invited talk at the Ackland Art Museum. Chapel Hill, NC, June 2012.

“The Poetics of Black Being: The Example of Richard Wright.” University of North Carolina African and Afro-American Studies Department Colloquium Series. March 2012.

“What is this ‘Post’ in ‘Post-Racial’?” Invited response to a keynote lecture by the Honorable Julian Bond, Chairman Emeritus of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), “Post-Racial America: Fact or Fiction?” Washington University in St. Louis. March 2011.

“Between the Law and the Living Being: W.E.B. Du Bois, Black Reconstruction, and the Quest for a Radical Democracy.” Invited talk. W.E.B. Du Bois’s Black Reconstruction in America: 75th Anniversary Symposium. Duke University. November 2010.

“I Sing the Body Free: W.E.B. Du Bois, John Brown, and American Heroism.” A seminar invited by the Program in the Humanities and Human Values. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. February 2010.

Review of Robert Reid-Pharr, *Once You Go Black: Choice, Desire, and the Black American Intellectual*. In *Studies in the Novel* 41.2 (Summer 2009): 273-76.

Review of John K. Young, *Black Writers, White Publishers: Marketplace Politics in Twentieth-Century African American Literature*. In *The Southern Quarterly* 45.1 (Fall 2007): 186-89.

*“*Ralph Ellison’s *Juneteenth*.” A seminar invited by the Program in the Humanities and Human Values. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. October 2007.

“Habitations of the Veil: Two Instances of Autobiography.” W.E.B. Du Bois and the Question of Another World II: Second International Conference. The School of Global Studies, Tama University, Shinagawa Campus. Tokyo, Japan. June 2007.

“There is Confusion.” *Encyclopedia of African American Literature*. Ed. Wilfred Samuels. New York: Facts on File, 2007.

“Albert Murray.” *Encyclopedia of African American Literature*. Ed. Wilfred Samuels. New York: Facts on File, 2007.

*“’Daughter of My Fathers back to the Hundreth Name’: The ‘Immortal Child’ and the Genealogy of Motherhood in W.E.B. Du Bois’s Dark Princess: A Romance*.” W.E.B. Du Bois and the Question of Another World: An International Conference. The Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University, Kawauchi Campus. Sendai, Japan. June 2006.

“Gerald Early.” *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Literature*. Ed. Hans Ostrom and J. David Macey, Jr. 5 vols. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2005.

“Itabari Njeri.” *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Literature*. Ed. Hans Ostrom and J. David Macey, Jr. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2005.

“Metaphor.” *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Literature*. Ed. Hans Ostrom and J. David Macey, Jr. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2005.

“Poststructuralism.” *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Literature*. Ed. Hans Ostrom and J. David Macey, Jr. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2005.

“Postmodernism.” *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Literature*. Ed. Hans Ostrom and J. David Macey, Jr. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2005.

“’The Lord Has Made Me a Sign unto this Nation’: Notes on Image and Ideology in Representations of Sojourner Truth.” Washington University in Saint Louis. October 2004.

“The Sublime Ellison.” Review of Lawrence Jackson, *Ralph Ellison: Emergence of Genius*. *Belles Lettres: A Literary Review*. March-April, 2004. 12-14.

“That for which We Live: Democracy, Black Nationalism(s), and the Black Intellectual in Postmodern Times.” Washington University in St. Louis. January 2004.

“Le Blues et la démocratie Américaine.” The Université de Paris, Saint-Denis (Paris 8). Invited and sponsored by the Cultural Attaché of the American Embassy in Paris. December 2003.

“The Rule of Riffing.” Review of John F. Callahan and Albert Murray, eds. *Trading Twelves: The Selected Correspondence of Ralph Ellison and Albert Murray*. *Belles Lettres: A Literary Review*, November-December, 2002. 11-12.

Dissertation: *Metaphors of Mediation: Race and Nation in Black Atlantic Literature*. Chairperson: Gerald Lyn Early. Committee: Rafia Zafar, Paul Michael Lutzeler, Wayne Fields,

Stamos Metzidakis, Larry E. Davis. May 2001.

**Teaching record (Fall 2009– fall 2017)**

UNDERGRADUATE

Comparative Literature 132: “Identity in the African Diaspora”

Comparative Literature 251: “Introduction to Literary Theory”

English/FYS 086: “The Cities of Modernism” (First Year Seminar)

English 128: “Great American Authors”

English 129: “Literature and Cultural Diversity”

English 143: “Film and Culture”

English 261: “Introduction to Literary Criticism”

English 265: “Literature and Race: #BlackLivesMatter and the New Humanism”

English 293: “African American Autobiography”

English 367: “African American Literature to 1930”

English 368: “African American Literature 1930 to 1970”

English 369: “African American Literature from 1970 to present”

English 472: “Major American Authors: W.E.B. Du Bois”

GRADUATE

English 184: “African American Fiction and Poetry: Metaphor” (Graduate and Advanced Undergraduate Seminar)

English 785: Graduate Proseminar in African American Literature. Co-taught with Professor Trudier Harris

English 861: “Poetics and Aesthetics in African American Literature.”

English 868: “Race and Philosophy in African American Literature”

English 871: “The Third Space of the Text”

English 872: “Being and Race in African American Literature”

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

TO THE DISCIPLINE

Mellon Foundation/Duke University, Faculty Mentor, Summer Institute for Tenure and

Promotion (SITPA), 2017-2020.

Vanderbilt University, Board of Readers, Issues in Critical Investigation, 2008 to pre- sent.

Modern Language Association, Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, 2011- 2014.

Modern Language Association, Member, Delegate Assembly, 2009-2012.

American Studies Association, Constance Rourke Article Prize Committee, 2006-2007.

National Endowment for the Humanities, Comparative Literature and Literary Criticism Review Panel, 2006-2007.

Memberships: American Comparative Literature Association; American Studies Association; Caribbean Philosophical Association; College Language Association; Collegium for African American Research; Cultural Studies Association; Modern Language Association

Referee for a number of journals: *Callaloo, African American Review, Southern Cultures*, *American Literature, Journal of American Ethnic History, Criticism, Review of International American Studies, Studies in the Novel, The Southern Quarterly, ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance.*

TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Administrative service

Assistant Chair, Department of English and Comparative Literature, 2012 to 2014.

Director of the Program in Comparative Literature, Fall 2013 to 2014.

Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Admissions in Comparative Literature, Summer 2012 to 2014.

Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies in Comparative Literature, Spring 2009.

Coordinator, Group XI, African American Literature, Fall 2009 to present.

COMMITTEE WORK

Chair’s Advisory Committee, Department of English and Comparative Literature, 2016 to 2017.

Advisory Board of the Institute for African American Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2014 to present.

African American Research Consortium, 2007 to present.

Search Committee, Assistant Dean for the First Year Seminar Program, 2012-2013.

Planning Committee, W.E.B. Du Bois Memorial Symposium, 2012-2013.

Lecturer’s Promotion Committee, Department of English and Comparative Literature, 2012- 2013

Advisory Board of the Sonja Stone Center for the Study of Black Culture, 2008 to 2013.

Institute for African American Research, Study Group (appointed by Provost Bruce Carney), Spring 2012.

Curriculum Review Committee, Subcommittee on the Supplemental Education Requirement. College of Arts and Sciences, 2010.

Search Committee, Director of the Institute of African American Research, Spring 2008.

Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of English and Comparative Literature, 2006- 2008.

Polling Committee, internal search for Chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literature, Fall 2007.

Faculty Council, 2006-2007.

Dissertations: Director and committee Member

Director

Eddie Moore. PhD prospectus defense stage.

Hannah Skjellum. In coursework.

Patrick Horn. “Reading and Performing Empathy in American Literature, 1845-1945.” PhD Fall 2013.

Committee Member/Reader

Pyon, Kevin. PhD prospectus defense stage.

Bethany Lam. ABD, Spring 2013.

Sarah Barksdale. “Stationed in the Borderlands: Black Soldiers and Double Consciousness, 1940-1948.” PhD, Spring 2013. (History department dissertation)

Meredith M. Malburne-Wade. “Revision as Resistance in Twentieth-Century American Drama. PhD Fall 2013.

Benjamin Sammons. “Reforming Readers: Agency and Activism in the Long Progressive Era.” PhD Spring 2012.

Sarah Ficke. “Pirates, Runaways, and Long-Lost Princes: Race and National Identity in Transatlantic Adventure Fiction.” PhD Spring 2011.

Mary Alice Kirkpatrick. “The Present Elsewhere: Theorizing an Aesthetics of Displacement in Contemporary African American and Postcolonial Literatures.” PhD Summer 2010.

María Celina Bortolotto. “Blushing to Be: Shame and the Narrative of Subjectivity in Contemporary U.S.-Caribbean Fiction.” PhD Spring 2008.

Kinitra Dechaun Brooks. “The Black Maternal: Heterogeneity and Resistance in Literary Representations of Black Mothers in 20th Century African American and Afro-Caribbean Women’s Fiction.” PhD Spring 2008.

Senior Honors Theses: Director

Sarah “Gracie” Grant. “Deconstructing Representations: Black Women in Film and Litera

ture.” Fall/Spring 2018-2019. In process.

Amarachi Anakaraonye. “Through the Lens of Africana Womanism: Defining Personhood from Inter-Generational Trauma.” Fall/Spring 2012-2013. (Department of African, African

American, and Diaspora Studies.) External reader: Eunice Sahle.

Matthew Freeman. “Black Myths: Rape, Repression, and Revision in Texts by Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, and Amiri Baraka.” Fall/Spring 2011-2012. (Department of English and Comparative Literature.) Committee: William L. Andrews, James W. Coleman. *Award-*

*ed highest honors.*

Kara Scroggins. “Imaginative, Expressive, and Transcendent: The Spirituals in African Ameri

can Literature, from the Slave Narrative to the Neo-Slave Narrative.” Fall/Spring 2009-2010. (Department of English and Comparative Literature.) Committee: William L. Andrews, James W. Coleman. *Awarded highest honors*.

Erik Russ. “Consciousness Warriors: Maternalism, Sex and Gender Identity, and Spirituality in the Writings of Toni Morrison and Alice Walker.” Fall/Spring 2009-2010. (Department of English and Comparative Literature.) Committee: Mae G. Henderson, Danielle

Elliott.