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Business Contact

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1996, English.

Dissertation: *Liminal Status and Carnival States in the Novels of Hurston, Alvarez, Wiseman, Laurence, and Erdrich*, directed by Dr. Fran Kaye.

Working with the theories of Bakhtin, Judith Butler, Mary Russo, Stallybrass and White, and others, in combination with various anthropological studies of liminality, this dissertation theorizes the uses of laughter, irony, and the grotesque in the work of five contemporary, culturally diverse women writers, expanding the concept of carnival as a tool for feminist writers and readers.

Major Areas of Concentration: Twentieth Century American Literature, Women's Literature, Plains Literature, Composition Studies.

M.A. Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, 1986, English.

Major Areas of Concentration: Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century American Literature, Romantic and Victorian British Literature.

B.A. Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, 1981, English.

Minors: History and Philosophy.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania Center for East Asian Studies, 2001. "Faculty and Curriculum Development Seminar on Japan."

Japanese Studies Institute/AASCU, Summer 2000. "National Faculty Development Institute for Incorporating Japanese Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum." San Diego, CA

Fulbright Hays Scholarship, Summer 1998. "Seminar on Modern Kenya for Colorado Faculty" Nairobi, Kenya.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching

Mesa State College, Professor. 1997 - present

Basic Composition, English 090

English Composition, English 111 (in the classroom and on-line)

English Composition, English 112
Honors English, English 129
Introduction to Literature, English 150
Contemporary Non-Western Literature, English 232
American Literature II, English 262
Women in World Thought and Literature, English 330
Major Authors (Topics: Erdrich and Dorris, Morrison and Johnson), English 370
Special Topics (Women Writers of the Caribbean), English 396
American Literature 1945-Present, English 436
Ethnic Experiences in U. S. Literature, English 438
Advanced Writing, English 492
Senior Seminar (Topics: Native American Renaissance, National Allegory in
Postcolonial Literature), English 494
Graduate Course, Multicultural Narratives, English 579 (Adams State College)

Virginia Commonwealth University, Instructor. 1996-1997

Composition and Rhetoric I, English 101
Advanced Composition, English 304
American Literature Survey: 1865-Present, English 206
Composition and Rhetoric II, English 200

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Teaching Assistant. 1991-1996

Composition and Literature I, English 101
Composition and Literature II, English 102 and 102 Honors
Composition I, English 150 and 150 Honors
Composition II, English 151
Twentieth Century Women's Literature, English 215J
Approaches to Literature, English 271G
Introduction to Women's Literature, English 215E
Advanced Composition, English 254
Composition Practicum for new T. A's, English 995
(co-taught with Professor Joy Ritchie)
Nebraska Writing Project, English 450
(co-taught with Professors Robert Brooke and Judy Slater)

Creighton University, Instructor/Teaching Assistant. 1989-91/1984-86

Introduction to Literature I -- Poetry and Drama, English 121
Introduction to Literature II -- Short Story and Novel, English 131
Composition I, English 150
Composition II, English 151

Administrative

**Mesa State College, Department Head, Languages, Literature and Mass Communication
(2003-2008)**

--design schedule
--evaluate staff
--represent department on Academic Council
--develop and monitor budgets
--observe staff
--mediate complaints/problems for faculty and students
--assess department needs long and short term

- oversee periodic program reviews
- review graduation petitions
- assist in development and oversight of recruitment and retention programs
- assist in design and implementation of assessment process for programs and general education courses

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Associate Coordinator of Composition, 1994-95.

- review texts for composition classes
- chair composition staff meetings and workshops
- co-teach T. A. workshop
- found & foster teaching circles and reading groups
- consult and counsel junior staff, especially T. A. s
- assist coordinators as needed

SCHOLARSHIP

Publications

Articles

"Blurs, Blends and Berdaches: Gender Mixing in the Novels of Louise Erdrich." *Studies in American Indian Literature*. 8.3 (Fall 1996): 49-62.

"Negotiating the Swamp: Fact and Fiction in Rosario Ferre's *The House on the Lagoon*." *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association*. 31.2 (Winter 1998): 31-38.

"'Turning and Turning in the Widening Gyre': A Second Coming into Language in Julia Alvarez's *How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*." *MELUS* 23.1 (Spring 1999): 159-176.

"Literary Nationalism and its Intersections with Gender, Class and Ethnicity." In *Modern Kenya: Social Issues and Perspectives*. Ed. Mary Ann Watson. Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, Inc., 2000. 163-195.

"Kenyan Literature: 'Read in America, Met in Nairobi.'" *Souvenir: Journal of African Literature*. 1.1 (2000): 9-13. Issue Editor: G. Odera-Outa. In print and On-line at <http://www.wits.ac.za/aflit/souvenir>.

"Unbecoming White: Identity Transformation in Louise Erdrich's *The Antelope Wife*." *Studies in American Indian Literatures*. 13.4 (Winter 2001) 1-23.

Book Reviews

Review of *Approaches to Teaching Louise Erdrich*. Greg Sarris, Connie A. Jacobs, and James R. Giles. *Great Plains Quarterly* 26.3 (Summer 2006) 222-223.

Review of *Going Native: Indians in the American Cultural Imagination*. Shari M. Huhndorf. *MELUS* 30.1 (Spring 2005) 237-239.

Review of *Dispatches from the Ebony Tower: Intellectuals Confront the African American Experience*. Manning Marable, Ed. *Rocky Mountain Review* 55.1 (2001): 134-136.

Review of *Contemporary African American Novelists: A Bio-Bibliographical Critical Sourcebook*. Emmanuel S. Nelson, Ed. *Rocky Mountain Review* 54.2 (Fall 2000):141-142.

Proceedings

"Reading Kenyan Literature from a Western Perspective: Meditations on a Kenyan Search for Nation through Literature." 1998-1999 Proceedings of the Red River Conference on World Literature: 1 (1998-1999). <http://www.ndsu.edu/RRCWL/V1/Reading1.html>.

Reviewer

Regular reviewer of articles for the *Journal of Multi Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)*. (2004-present)

Conferences

International/National

"Forgive Us Our Trespasses...: Transgression and Forgiveness in Louise Erdrich's *The Painted Drum*." 12th Annual Red River Conference on World Literature. North Dakota State University, Fargo. 4/17/2009.

"Interpreting Non-western Literature in Western Classrooms." 10th Annual Red River Conference on World Literature. North Dakota State University, Fargo. 4/22/07.

"Whites on Edge: Priests in the Fiction of Erdrich and Dorris." 7th Annual Red River Conference on World Literature. North Dakota State University, Fargo. 4/23/05.

"Invention in the Multi-Ethnic Literature Classroom." 55th Annual Conference on College Composition and the Classroom." Session Title: "Where Does Invention Go after First-Year Composition?" San Antonio. 3/24-28, 2004.

"Who's passing for Whom: Taking Responsibility for Another's Racial Identity." MELUS Convention. Session Title: The Borderlands of Race and Law: Legal and Illegal Crossings. San Antonio. 3/10-13, 2004.

"'You got tuh go there to know there': Searching for Home in the Novels of Charles Johnson." MELUS Convention. Session Title: Home-Places and African American Identities. Boca Raton, FL. 4/10-13, 2003.

"Rewriting Racism: Whiteness Studies in the Composition Classroom." 54th Annual Conference on College Composition and the Classroom." New York, NY. 3/19-22, 2003.

"An Aversion to Whiteness: Teaching Whiteness" 16th Annual Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States Conference. Seattle, WA. 4/11-14, 2002.

"Becoming Indian, Unbecoming White: A Postcolonial Reading of Louise Erdrich's *The Antelope Wife*." 4th Annual Red River Conference on World Literature. North Dakota State University, Fargo. 4/27/01.

"Composing Interludes: Writing Intervals in Busy Lives." Women's Journeys. University of Nevada, Reno. 10/6/00.

"Partners in Post-Colonial Protest--Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Toni Morrison." Eighth National American Women Writer's of Color Conference. Ocean City, MD 10/31/99

"Reading Kenyan Literature from a Western Perspective." 2nd Annual Red River Conference on World Literature -- Mapping Territory: Reinscriptions, Retellings, Revisions. Fargo, ND, 4/24/99

"Saying the Unsayable: The Madness of the Inarticulate in Cofer, Alvarez, Garcia and Ferre." 1st International Conference -- Madness, Illness and Bodies: The Hispanic Woman Writer and Her Fragmented World. Washington D.C., 10/16/98

"Writing on the Body: Fostering Feminist Thinking in Conservative Classrooms." Women Writing, Women Teaching. Reno, NV. 10/2/98

"The Other/Self Dilemma in Writing Hypertext and Teaching Research Writing." Conference on College Composition and Communication. Chicago, IL 4/3/98

"Navigating the Swamp: Fact and Fiction in Rosario Ferre's *The House on the Lagoon*." Seventh National American Women Writer's of Color Conference. Ocean City, MD 10/31/97

"Turning and Turning in the Widening Gyre: A Second Coming Into Language in Julia Alvarez's *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*." Fourth International Conference on the Short Story in English. Cedar Falls/Iowa City, IA 6/11/96.

"Feminism and the Fruit Lady: Carnival at Work." Twentieth Century Literature Conference. University of Kentucky, Louisville, KY 2/24/95.

"Criss-Crossing Cultural Borders in the Classroom." National Women's Studies Association Conference. Iowa State University, Ames, IA 6/16/94.

Regional

"Theory is Dangerous: Revis(ion)ing Margaret Oludhe Macgoye's Oeuvre" Rocky Mountain Modern Language. Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. 10/20/2005.

"White Passing Right/Rite: Race Traitors in the Fiction of Louise Erdrich." Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association. Boulder, CO. 10/2/2004.

"Reinterpreting Contact Zones: Two Pedagogical Approaches for 'Getting in Touch' with the Other." Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association. Boise, Idaho. 10/13/00.

"Authoring Nation in Kenya: Ngugi, Ogola and Macgoye." Divided Nations at the Millennium Conference. Metropolitan State College, Denver, Co. 10/27/99.

"Turning the Inside Out: Border Negotiation in Adele Wiseman's *Crackpot*." Mid-West Modern Language Association, Minneapolis. 11/9/96.

“Phoeby’s Hungry Listening: Carnival Laughter in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, Albuquerque. 10/28/96.

“The García Girls’ Rebellion in Julia Alvarez’s *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*.” Missouri Western State College Symposium on Race and Gender. Missouri Western State College. 4/3/96.

“Sister-Mothers.” (Creative Non-Fiction.) Twenty-First Annual Meeting of the Missouri Philological Association. Southwest Missouri State University. 3/15/96.

“A Feminist Study of Edith Bernard Delano’s Mass-Media Fiction.” Midwest Women’s Studies Association and Popular Culture/American Culture Association. University of Nebraska at Kearney. 3/18/94.

Sacrificing Love on the Altar of Success: The All or Nothing Philosophy of Ibsen’s Brand in O. E. Rolvaag’s Trilogy.” Midland’s Conference on Language and Literature. Dana College and Creighton University. 3/91.

“Elizabeth Temple: The Woman Behind the Men in James Fennimore Cooper’s *The Pioneers*.” Midland’s Conference on Language and Literature. Dana College and Creighton University. 3/90.

Local

“When the Fat Lady Laughs: Contextualizing Carnival in Adele Wiseman’s *Crackpot*” Women’s Voices. University of Nebraska, Lincoln 3/4/95.

“Multi-Cultural Issues in the College Classroom.” English Graduate Student Conference. University of Nebraska, Lincoln. 3/10/94.

“How it Gets to be a Dissertation.” Panel Discussion. English Graduate Student Conference. University of Nebraska, Lincoln. 3/10/94.

“The Possession of Edna Pontellier: Cultural and Economic Influences on Edna Pontellier’s Fantasies in *The Awakening*.” No Limits Conference sponsored by the Women’s Studies Association. University of Nebraska, Lincoln. February, 1994.

MEMBERSHIPS

MELUS

National Council for Teachers of English

Rocky Mountain MLA

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