

# SONDRA BICKHAM WASHINGTON, PH.D.

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## APPOINTMENT

2020-present

Assistant Professor of American Literature, Harriet Wilkes Honors College of Florida Atlantic University

## EDUCATION

2020

Ph.D. in African American Literature, University of Alabama

Dissertation Title: ““(Re)Consider Me’: Black Girl-Women in African American Literature”

**Committee:** Drs. Trudier Harris (Chair), Cassander Smith, Yolanda Manora, Andy Crank, Hilary N. Green

**Areas of Specialization:** Early and Twentieth Century African American Literature, Black Girlhood Studies, Afrofuturism, Women’s Literature

2014

M.A. in Literature, University of Alabama at Birmingham

1998

M.S. in Public Relations, University of Southern Mississippi

1997

B.A. in English, Louisiana State University, Minor in Asian Studies (Japanese)

## PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming “Sister Saviors: Adultified and Exploited Black Girl-Women in *The Darkest Child.*” *Black Girls, Black Girlhood, and the Stories We Tell: Black Girls’ and Black Women’s Coming-of-Age Narratives*, University Press of Mississippi.

2018

“Who Will Deliver Me?: Black Girlhood in a Man’s World in *Salvage the Bones*,” *Xavier Review*, 38.2, Fall 2018: 85-93.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2019

“Project C: The Birmingham Campaign, 1963,” *50 Events that Shaped African American History: An Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic*, vol. 1, edited by Jamie J. Wilson, ABC-CLIO, 2019, pp. 432-448.

2015

“Walking While Black,” *Aura Literary Arts Review*, Spring 2015, pp. 10-11 (creative nonfiction).

2006

*The Story of Nannie Helen Burroughs*, Woman’s Missionary Union, SBC, 2006, 183 pages (biography of the African American woman who founded the National Training School for Women and Girls in Washington, D.C., in 1909).

## DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECT

**The Black Girlhood Project**, [www.blackgirlhoodproject.com](http://www.blackgirlhoodproject.com)

This project is my website, which is designed to encourage further academic and artistic consideration of black girls in literature, as well as to offer black girlhood scholars and

researchers a centralized location for networking and project discussions. Currently, the site comprises a blog on black female children and adolescents in literature, an increasing list of creative and scholarly texts portraying or analyzing black girls, and a forum for interested parties. In the future, the project will include an interactive map of black girl characters in literature and a webpage where emerging writers may post/publish short fiction or excerpts of larger works featuring black girls.

### **FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2019-2020 National Alumni Association Fellowship, University of Alabama (\$15,000).
- 2019 Boone Fellowship, University of Alabama (\$1,000).
- 2012-2014 English MA Program Diversity Fellowship, University of Alabama at Birmingham (\$16,000).

### **SUMMER RESIDENCY PROGRAM AND INSTITUTE**

- 2019 National Humanities Center Summer Residency Program for PhD Students, "Objects and Places in an Inquiry-based Classroom: Teaching, Learning, and Research in the Humanities," National Humanities Center, North Carolina.
- 2018 UNCF/Mellon Teaching and Learning Institute, "Black Girls Write/Right the Future," Hampton University.

### **OTHER DISTINCTIONS**

- 2014 English Department candidate for the Samuel B. Barker Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies, University of Alabama at Birmingham.
- 2014, 2015 Faculty Appreciation Night honoree, University of Montevallo women's soccer and basketball teams.
- 2000-2014 Recipient of national and state writing awards for numerous investigative journalism and feature stories published in a statewide Alabama newspaper.

### **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

#### **Panels Organized**

- Upcoming "Backdrops No More: Alternative Visions of Black Girlhood in Afrofuturistic Literature," College Language Association, Memphis, Tennessee. To be presented March 2021.
- 11/2/18 "Discipline, Dignity, and Decorum': Literary Depictions of Black Respectability Politics," South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Birmingham, Alabama.
- 11/2/18 "Thematic Intersections in African American and European American Literature," South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Birmingham, Alabama.

#### **Papers Presented**

- Upcoming "Expanded Existences: Envisioning Black Girl Potential in Afrofuturistic Literature," College Language Association, Memphis, Tennessee. To be presented March 2021.

- 9/7/19 “Over-adapting Richard Wright’s ‘Long Black Song’: How to Mutilate a Short Story in 30 Minutes or Less,” Society for the Study of the American Short Story, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 1/31/19 “Revisionist Futures: (Re)Considering Black Girlhood in Ava Duvernay’s Adaptation of *A Wrinkle in Time*,” Collegium for African American Research, Orlando, Florida.
- 11/2/18 “Storytelling and Stagnation in *Getting Mother’s Body* and *The Secret Life of Bees*,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Birmingham, Alabama.
- 11/2/18 “Revolt or Re-up: Black Girlhood and Respectability Politics in *The Coldest Winter Ever*,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Birmingham, Alabama.
- 4/7/18 “Toxic Masculinity and Motherhood as Impetus to Migration in *The Darkest Child*,” College Language Association Convention, Chicago, Illinois.
- 11/11/17 “Literary Black Girl Magic: Visualizing Underrepresented Female Adolescents in African American Literature,” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- 11/4/17 “‘She is No Longer a Child’: Black Girl-Women in *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* and *Our Nig*,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 4/7/17 “Print vs. Pulpit: Religious Ambivalence as Migration in Harlem Renaissance Literature,” College Language Association Convention, Columbia, Missouri.
- 9/12/15 “‘Cellar Crazy’: The Basement that is Black Society in Ann Petry’s *The Street*,” American Literature Association Symposium on The City in American Literature, New Orleans, LA.
- 2/27/14 “Passing into Blackness: Masking White Skin in African American Society,” English Graduate Student Association Mardi Gras Conference, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 2/8/14 “Beyond Washington and Du Bois: Black Utopias in Late Nineteenth Century African American Literature,” Southern Studies Liberal Arts Conference, Auburn University at Montgomery. Montgomery, AL.

### UNIVERSITY TALKS

- 11/20/19 “The Black Girlhood Project,” Alabama Digital Humanities Center Brown Bag Luncheon, Gorgas Library, University of Alabama.
- 2/13/19 “Fumbling Towards Effectiveness in the English 102 Classroom,” Creative Composition, English Department, University of Alabama.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### Instructor of Record

- 2019 African American Literature II
- Survey of African American literature from 1935 to the present including poetry, drama, autobiography, fiction, and nonfiction.
  - One section taught at University of Alabama.
- 2018 African American Literature I

- Survey of African American literature from its earliest expressions to 1935 including the vernacular tradition, slave narratives, poetry, drama, autobiography, fiction, and nonfiction.
- Three sections taught at University of Alabama.

2015, 2016 Introduction to Literature

- Introductory American literature survey course which includes poetry, short fiction, and drama from various cultures and historical periods.
- Two sections taught at University of Alabama at Birmingham.

2017 Honors English Composition

- Composition course with the theme “Race and Cuba,” in which students critically engaged and analyzed rhetorical texts, literature, and films about Cuba using race as a lens.
- One section taught at University of Alabama.

2013-2019 English Composition I and II

- Several sections taught at University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and University of Montevallo.

2014-2016 Introduction to College English

- Two sections taught at University of Alabama at Birmingham.

2010-2011 Developmental English

- Several sections taught at Jefferson State Community College, Clanton, AL.

### **Special Appointments**

2014-2017 English Composition Instructor, Alabama Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Summer Bridge Program (ALSAMP), University of Alabama at Birmingham.

2014 Lecturer, undergraduate/graduate level Black Literary Realism course, University of Alabama at Birmingham.

### **ARCHIVAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2006 Library of Congress archives, Washington, D. C.

2005-2006 Samford University archives, Birmingham, AL

2010-2013 The Code of Alabama and Alabama Legislative Information System On-Line (ALISON)

### **RELEVANT COURSEWORK**

Trudier Harris African American Literature in the 1980s

Trudier Harris Evolution of African American Literary Theory

Trudier Harris Known and Unknown Shadows: Transracial Thematics in American Literature

Cassander Smith Intimacy and Interracial Contact in the Early Americas

Cassander Smith (Some) Black Lives Matter: African American Culture and the Literary Origins of Respectability Politics

Yolanda Manora 20<sup>th</sup> Century African American Women Writers

Cajetan Iheka Postcolonial Theory and Criticism  
Michelle Robinson African American Rhetoric  
Andy Crank "A Much-Loved City Drowned": Reading Katrina/Losing NOLA

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

2016-current College Language Association (CLA)  
2018-current Modern Language Association (MLA)  
2018-current Collegium for African American Research (CAAR)  
2019-current Society for the Study of the American Short Story  
2017-current South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLMA)  
2017-2018 Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA)  
2016-current English Graduate Association (EGO), The University of Alabama  
2011-current Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society (Vice-President, 2012-2013)

### **REFERENCES**

Dr. Trudier Harris  
University Distinguished Research Professor  
Department of English  
University of Alabama  
Box 870244  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0244  
(205) 348-5065  
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