
MOIRA MARQUIS

Department of English
400 Magnolia St.
Claflin University
Orangeburg, SC 29115

mmarquis@claflin.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. English, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, 2020
Bread Loaf School of English, Middlebury College, 2011, 2012

M.L.A. Humanities, University of North Carolina Asheville, 2010

B.A. History, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, 2006

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Environmental Humanities, Decolonialism, Ecocriticism, Critical Theory, Critical Race Theory, Contemporary Anglophone Literature, Myth, Folklore, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, the Enlightenment

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2021-present Assistant Professor, Claflin University, Department of English
2020-2021 Postdoctoral Fellow, UNC Chapel Hill, Department of English and Comparative Literature

PUBLICATIONS

Co-editor, *Books Through Bars: Stories from the Prison Books Movement*, University of Georgia Press, forthcoming Spring 2023

“Pumzi” in *Lexicon of Global Melodrama*, ed. Heike Paul, Sarah Marak, Katharina Gerund, Marius Henderson. Bielefeld/ Columbia University Press, 2022.

“Human to Humus: Máirtín Ó Cadhain’s *Cré na Cille* and Eco-linguistics as a Decolonialist Strategy,” *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities*, vol. 9 no. 1, 2022

“The Alien Within: Divergent Futures in Nnedi Okorafor’s *Lagoon* and Niell Blomkamp’s *District 9*,” *Science Fiction Studies*, vol. 47 no. 3, 398-425. DOI: [10.5621/sciefictstud.47.3.0398](https://doi.org/10.5621/sciefictstud.47.3.0398)

IN PROGRESS

“Otherworld Here: The Ecological Possibilities of Faeries,” revision resubmitted to *Green Letters: Studies in Ecocriticism*

“Dendrography: *The Overstory* and Listening to Versus Speaking for the Trees,” revision resubmitted for special issue “Arboreal Imaginaries” in *Green Letters: Studies in Ecocriticism*

“Conjuring Worlds: Magic, the Magical Realist Genre and Literary Legacies of Colonialism,” invited submission for a special issue on Post-Magical Realism, under review with *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*

ESSAYS, PODCASTS, INTERVIEWS & REVIEWS

2021 “An Interview with Moira Marquis” *Antigone*, no. 5

2018 “Real/Fantastical—Fantastical/Real” CQ Speaks from *The Carolina Quarterly* 12 Dec. <https://soundcloud.com/cq-speaks/episode-3-realfantastical-fantasticalreal>

2017 “Not Bread Alone” Counterpunch. 22 Dec.

2015 “Love Between the Lines” *Ethos: A Digital Review of the Arts and Humanities*, Feb.

2014 “The Storyteller” Review of *This Is Not Your City*. *Ethos: A Digital Review of the Arts and Humanities*, 2 Dec. *Forum: Cultural Interventions*.

2013 “School-to-Prison Pipeline: School Reform as a Civil Rights Issue” Truthout. 14 Jan.

2013 “On the Merits of Reading *Fahrenheit 451*” Truthout. 8 Jan.

GRANTS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Research Based

2021 Colby College Summer Institute in the Environmental Humanities, August 1-7

2019 NeMLA Graduate Student Travel Award

2019 Arts Everywhere Fellowship, UNC Chapel Hill

2019 Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant, UNC Chapel Hill

2019 Summer Dissertation Research Fellowship, UNC Chapel Hill

2019 NeMLA Summer Research Fellowship Award

2011, 2012 Middlebury College Graduate scholarship

2007 Buyers Scholarship, UNC Asheville

Teaching Based

2020 Collaborative Online International Learning Grant

2020 Online Course Design Support Grant

2020 Professional Development Award for *PIT* Journal, English Department, UNC Chapel Hill

2020	Grant for High-Impact Online Teaching and Learning Practices Course for Faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities
2019	Equity in Teaching Institute, Center for Faculty Excellence, UNC Chapel Hill
2017	Senior Teaching Fellowship, Department of English, UNC
2016	Erika Lindemann Award for Excellence in Teaching Literature, UNC
2015	Future Faculty Fellowship, Center for Faculty Excellence, UNC
2015	Professional Development Award, English Department, UNC
2014	Presidential Scholars Program Distinguished Teacher Award
2013-2020	UNC Chapel Hill Teaching Fellowship
2011	ACS Foundation Innovation Grant
2011	TAPAS Grants for Teaching Artists in my Classroom
2011, 2010, 2009	ACS Mini-Grant for books
2009	ACS Foundation Fellowship: Bringing Our History to Our Schools
2008, 2009	Asheville City Schools Teacher Scholarship

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Claflin University

Decolonizing Gender (Fall 2021)

This course examines conceptions of gender identity in Yoruba, Celtic, Gikuyu, Anishinaabeg and African diasporic communities with the goal of unsettling gender binaries. Course materials include films, novels, music videos and short stories.

Composition (Fall 2021)

An introduction to college-level writing and research, this course engages students in four main assignments that represent major assignment types encountered in classes across the university. Emphasis is placed on process rather than product through a workshop classroom model.

UNC Chapel Hill

Ecocriticism (Spring 2021)

A Collaborative Online International Learning course in conjunction with Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg, we will examine narratives of climate skepticism, minimization and inevitability, in the US and Germany to better understand how narrative framing encourages or discourages action on climate change.

Decolonialism in Art and Culture (Fall 2020)

This course introduces students to the ongoing legacies of colonialism through film, fiction and theory in order to understand the benefits and methods of reviving the ways of knowing that colonialism subjugated.

Myth in Contemporary Anglophone Fiction (Summer 2021, Fall 2017)

This course explores how people and our communities are shaped by stories. We read a collection of contemporary, Anglophone novels that retell traditional myths in order to tell new stories about the contemporary world.

Afterlives of Colonialism in Novel Form (Fall 2018)

In this class, we read novels from formerly and currently colonized cultures that challenge the traditional novel form through alternative conceptions of “reality.”

Rhetoric and Composition (2013-2021)

In today’s world—with the vast amount of information and the dearth of thoughtful discourse—literacy and critical thinking are essential for the maintenance of a just society. To this end we will be studying various contemporary issues and you will be responding to these in a variety of rhetorical formats designed to increase your understanding of discourse communities (genres).

Basic Writing (Project Uplift Section, Summer 2015)

This course is designed to introduce you to college-level writing, which demands certain skills you may not have been exposed to in your high school careers.

Writing in the Social Sciences (Fall 2014)

In this class, you will analyze the rhetorical and stylistic conventions that govern professional and academic writing in the social sciences.

Shaw University

College English and Composition (Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

This course is an introduction to expository writing: what college professors assign and expect to read.

High Point University

College Writing and Public Life (2015-2020)

This course takes up the question of how we bring our individuality to bear on the problems we share as a public.

Alamance Community College

Professional Research and Reporting (2014-2015)

This course will teach you professional communication skills. Emphasis is placed on research, listening, critical thinking, analysis, interpretation, and design used in oral and written presentations.

UNC Chapel Hill, Teaching Assistant

British Travel Literature (Spring 2014)

19th Century British Novel (Fall 2015)

Western Carolina University

Writing and Critical Inquiry (2012-2013)

This class is designed to foster written skills in your chosen field. To this end, you will be completing assignments that will enhance your ability to convey your ideas, in writing, in your major discipline.

INVITED TALKS

2021 "Fewer Trees Everyday: COVID, *Wolfwalkers* and Decolonizing for a Different Future," The Claflin Literary Arts and Film Series

CONFERENCES

Panels Organized

2020 "Beyond Ruination: Climate Change and Contemporary Caribbean Novels," Northeast Modern Language Association, Boston March 5-8

2019 "Otherworlds, Different Humans: Indigenous and Traditional Myths as Ecological Knowledge," Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, UC Davis, June 25-30

2019 "Local and Global? Representations of Climate Change in Contemporary Anglophone Novels," Northeast Modern Language Association, Washington, D.C. March 21-24

Papers Presented

2022 "This Future Sucks: The *MaddAddam* Trilogy and the Perils of Eliding Colonial Destruction," Modern Language Association, Washington, D.C., January 6-9

2021 "Black Magic: Magic as Knowledge in *Lovecraft Country*," Canadian Comparative Literature Association, University of Alberta in Edmonton, May 29-June 4

2021 "Speaking for the Trees: Richard Powers' *The Overstory*, Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax* and Eco-Fascism," Modern Language Association, Online, January 7-10

2020 "Magic as Structure, Not Event: Magic, the Realist Novel and the Legacies of Colonialism," Canadian Comparative Literature Association, University of Western Ontario (hosted virtually), May 31-June 2

2020 "Speaking For, or Listening To, the Trees: *The Overstory* and Human Narratives of Trees," Northeast Modern Language Association, Boston March 5-8

2019 "Being With' and the Capitalocene: Hanya Yanagihara's *The People in the Trees* and Nature's Finitude," Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment UK and Ireland, University of Plymouth, September 4-6

2019 "Our Fluid Natures: Afrofuturism, Mami Wata and Water Spirit Myths," International Society for the Study of Religion Nature and Culture, University College Cork, Ireland, June 13-16

2017 "Gods are for Stories: Yanagihara's *The People in the Trees*, Apocalypse and Social Meaning," Modern Language Association, Pittsburgh, PA January 5-7

2016 "We Need Vision First: Margaret Atwood's Church of PetrOleum, God's Gardeners and the role of religious ideas in humanity's future," American Comparative Literature Association, Harvard University, March 17-20

2015 "Remembering the Future: Metempsychosis in David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas* and *The Bone Clocks*," South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Durham, NC November 13-15

2015 "This Future Sucks: The Cruel Optimism and Continuing Appeal of Liberal Political Philosophy in David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas*," Thinking Serially: An Interdisciplinary conference, Graduate Center CUNY, April 22-24

2014 "The Savage and Personhood: Freud's Archeology Metaphor, *Heart of Darkness* and the Pre-historic Psyche of the Modern Person" Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, University of Houston, March 28-30

2013 "Injunction Not to Touch: Incest and Miscegenation in *Absalom, Absalom!*," Southern Studies Conference, Auburn University, March

2011 "I Love You: Implicit Assumptions in Language and Meaning," Graduate Liberal Studies Conference, University of North Carolina Asheville, December

2010 "What's So Hard About Reading?" North Carolina English Teachers' Association Conference, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, January

2010 "I Seem to Speak: Samuel Beckett and Jacques Derrida in Conversation," Liberal Studies Conference, Georgetown University, April

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SEE Innovation, Education Program Director (2012-2014)
 North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Curriculum Writer (2009-2012)
 Asheville Middle School, English and History teacher (2008-2012)

Rainbow Mountain School, English and History teacher (2007-2008)

RESEARCH GROUPS

- 2020 [\(Post\)Magical Realism Research Group](#), Canadian Comparative Literature Association
- 2016 Paranormal Working Group, Duke University, led by Priscilla Wald and David Morgan with speakers Jeffrey Kripal, Tanya Luhrmann and Bruce Lincoln
- 2015 Philosophy and Literature Reading Group, Duke University on Hannah Arendt's writings led by Toril Moi
- 2013 Marxism and Philosophy Reading Group, UNC Asheville, led by Duane Davis with guest Bruno Bosteels
- 2012 Co-Author of DH Ramsey Library Special Collections site for Educators
- 2010 Taking Our History to Our Schools Fellowship
- 2008 Lead Researcher and head note writer for *The Asheville Reader: Individual in the Contemporary World*, Copley Press, 2009

SERVICE

To the University

- Committee Member, Claflin Literary Arts and Film Lecture Series (2021-present)
- Lead Organizer, Conference on Contemporary English and Language Arts Pedagogy in Secondary and Postsecondary Institutions (2021-present)
- Advisor to English Teaching Majors
- Faculty Fiction Editor, Edisto River Review
- Shaw University, Writing Proficiency and Enhancement Committee (2020-2021)
- High Point University, Summer Assessment Committee (2017, 2018)

To the Profession

- ASLE Graduate Reading Group Coordinator (Summer 2018)
- The Carolina Quarterly*, Editor in Chief (2015-2018), Fiction Editor (2013-2015)

To the Community

- Co-Founder and Organizer, Saxapahaw Prison Books Program (2020-present)**
This prison books program sends free reading materials to people incarcerated in Georgia, a state which had no book programs specifically for them. This non-profit has 501©3 status, and a website with online donation acceptance. I also write a blog for the project: <https://saxapahawbooks2prisoners.wordpress.com/blog-2/>
- Literacy Instructor, Orange County Correctional Center (2015-2018)**

I tutored incarcerated people who had failed to get a score on their reading tests that would allow them to enter classes offered at the prison, in either the community college or university level tracks. My experience teaching functionally illiterate adolescents in secondary schools served me well.

Lead Organizer, Asheville Prison Books Program (2007-2013)

This program sends free books to people imprisoned in North Carolina and South Carolina. It is an all-volunteer run project. While a lead organizer I obtained for 501©3 status, established a website with online donations and organized many fund-raising events in addition to recruiting volunteers and filling weekly requests for books.

***Asheville Global Report*, Copy editor and progressive media liaison (2005-2007)**

The *Asheville Global Report* reported underreported but important news stories from around the world. Among the subscribed readership were Black rights activist, Mumia Abu Jamal and Native American activist, Eddie Hatcher. It was an all-volunteer run collective.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Modern Language Association

Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (US and UKI)

American Comparative Literature Association

North Eastern Modern Language Association

International Association for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture

Canadian Comparative Literature Association

Association for Literature Environment and Culture in Canada

European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture and Environment