

Debbie L. Olson, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of English
Missouri Valley College
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EDUCATION

Ph.D.

English: Screen Studies and Composition-Rhetoric. Oklahoma State University, 2015.
Dissertation: "Cast in Shadow: Black Children in Hollywood Cinema" explores the image of African and African American children in contemporary Hollywood Cinema.
Dissertation director: Dr. Stacy Takacs

MA

English, Central Washington University, 2000.
Thesis: "Fashionable Bondage: Sartorial Symbolism in *The King's Whore* (1990)"

BA

Social Sciences, Washington State University, 1997.
Major: Social Sciences--Criminal Justice.

AA

Peninsula Community College, 1993.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2016 – present, Assistant Professor of English, Missouri Valley College

Rhetoric and Composition 1 & 2
Advanced composition
Technical and Professional Writing
Introduction to Film Studies
20th and 21st century Novel
Ethnic American Literature
Honors Humanities II
Humanities II
Freshman Seminar

TEACHING POSITIONS

2018- present, University of the Virgin Islands, (online)

English composition 1
Technical Writing
World Literature

2011- 2016, Lecturer, University of Texas at Arlington.

English composition 1 & 2
Introduction to World Literature
History of British Literature I
The Child in Literature and Film
The Post-apocalypse in Literature and Film

2011- 2016, Lecturer, Dallas County Community College District: Mountain View College.

English composition 1 & 2

2005- 2011, Teaching Associate, Oklahoma State University.

English composition 1 & 2
Introduction to Film
Advanced Composition: Critical Theory
Advanced Composition: Criminal Media

2009- 2011, Lecturer, Rose State Community College.

Developmental English
English composition 1 & 2

1998- 2005, Teaching Assistant, Lecturer, Central Washington University.

English composition 1 & 2
Introduction to Literature
Freshman Advising Seminar
Introduction to Film and Video Studies
Screen Writing
Film Adaptation
Principles of Visual Communication
The Art of Advertising
Scribbler to Screen-Stephen King
Novel to Film: Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*
Mary Shelley's Frankenstein: Novel to Film
The Scarlet Letter: Novel to Film

Research Assistant:

2007-2010, summers, Editorial Assistant to (the late) Dr. Peter C. Rollins, Oklahoma State University.

2000 – 2002, Research Assistant, Liahna Armstrong, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Central Washington University.

2000, Summer – Fall, Research Assistant, Dr. Christine Sutphin, Central Washington University.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

(2017) *Black Children in Hollywood Cinema*, Palgrave MacMillan.

Edited Volumes:

(2018) *Children and Youth in American Television*, co-edited with Adrian Schober, Routledge.

(2018) *Children in World Cinema*, Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, Series: Children and Youth in Popular Culture.

(2016) Co-editor with Adrian Schober, *Children in the Films of Steven Spielberg*, Lexington, MA: Lexington Books. Series: Children and Youth in Popular Culture.

(2015) Editor, *The Child in Post-Apocalyptic Cinema*, Lexington, MA: Lexington Books.

(2014) Editor, *The Child in the Films of Alfred Hitchcock*, Palgrave MacMillan.

(2013) Co-editor Vibiana Cvetkovic, *Portrayals of Children in Popular Cinema: Fleeting Images*, Lexington, MA: Lexington Books.

(2012) Co-editor with Andrew Scahill, *Lost and Othered Children in Contemporary Cinema*, Lexington, MA: Lexington Books.

Journal Articles:

(2018, under review with *Screen*) “Cowboy Cops and Black Lives Matter: Ebb[ing] Tides and the Great White West[ern].”

(2009) “Fashionable Bondage: Sartorial Symbolism in The King’s Whore (1990)” *MP: an International Feminist Journal* vol. 2, no. 5 www.academeminist.org

(2007) “Little Burton Blue: Tim Burton and the Product(ion) of Color in Fairy Tale Films.” *MP: an International Feminist Journal* vol. 1. no. 6, pp. 32-40. www.academeminist.org

Book Chapters

(2019) "On the Innocence of Beasts: Child Soldiers in Cary Fukunaga's *Beasts of No Nation*." in *African Childhoods*, Edited by Charles Quist-Adade, De-Valera Botchway, and Awo Abena Amoa Sarpong, Vernon Press.

(2018) "Krofft Kids: Saturday Morning Innocence and Counterculture TV." in *Children in Television: A Changing Landscape*, edited by Adrian Schober and Debbie Olson, Routledge.

(2016) "Childhood, Race, and Dirt in Steven Spielberg's *The Color Purple*." *Children in the Films of Steven Spielberg*, edited by Adrian Schober and Debbie Olson, Lexington, MA: Lexington books. Series: Children and Youth in Popular Culture.

(2015) "The Monstrous Mammy in Lee Daniels' *Precious* (2009)" in *Monstrous Children and Childish Monsters: Essays on Cinema's Holy Terrors*, edited by Markus Bohlmann and Sean Moreland. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.

(2014) "The Commodification of Ms. Penny Proud: Consumer Culture in 'Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids' (CBS 1972-1984) and Disney's 'The Proud Family' (2001-2003)." *Film for Children: Redefining the Consumption of Visual Narratives*. Edited by Karin Beeler and Stan Beeler. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.

(2014) "Little Burton Blue: Tim Burton and the Product(ion) of Color in Fairy Tale Films." Reprinted in *The Philosophy of Tim Burton*, edited by Jennifer L. McMahon, Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky.

(2012) Co-authored with Giselle Rampaul, "Representations of Childhood in the Media." chapter in *The Routledge Handbook of Children, Adolescence, and Media*. Ed. Dafna Lemish. New York: Routledge.

(2012) "The Hitchcock Imp: Children and the Hyperreal in *The Birds*." *Lost and Othered Children in Contemporary Cinema*. Edited by Debbie Olson and Andrew Scahill. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books.

(2011) "TechnoUtopia and the Search for Saaraba (1989)" *The Black Imagination, Science Fiction and Futurism*. Eds. Sandra Jackson and Julie Moody-Freeman, Peter Lang publisher. 187-203.

(2010) "Last in Space: the "Black" Hole in Children's Science Fiction Films." *The Galaxy is Rated G: Essays on Children's Science Fiction Film and Television*. Ed. Ryan Neighbors. Jefferson, NC: McFarland. 64-82.

(2009) "Babes in Bonanzaland: Kid Nation, Commodification, and the Death of Play." *The Tube Has Spoken: Reality TV and History*. Eds. Ken Dvorak and Julie Taddeo. Lexington: UP of Kentucky. 171-194.

(2009) "Lu jot bèt bi? African Visual Rhetoric and the Search for Authenticity." *Facts, Fictions, and African Creative Imaginations*. Eds. Toyin Falola and Fallou Ngom. Routledge African Studies. New York: Routledge. 235-251.

Conference Proceedings:

(2018) "Cowboy Cops and Black Lives Matter: Ebb[ing] Tides and the Great White West[ern]." Western Literature Association Conference, St. Louis, MO Oct 24-27

(2017) "Black Children in Hollywood Cinema" Spring Research Symposium, Missouri Valley College, Marshall, MO.

(2015 to 2018) Area Chair, African American/Black Studies Area. SWPCA February, Albuquerque, NM.

(2015) "Jaden in the Jungle: The Black Child Hero." PAMLA , November 6-8, Portland, Oregon.

(2010-2014) Area Chair, Children in Film. SWPCA/ACA, February, Albuquerque, NM.

(2009) "The Hitchcock Imp: Children and the Hyperreal in Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* (1963)." RMMLA, Snowbird, Utah. October 8-10.

(2007) "Faces of Fantasy: The Discourse of Exclusion in Hollywood's Fantasy Realms." MAPACA). Philadelphia, PA, November 2-4.

(2007) "Lu jot bèt bi? African Visual Rhetoric and the Search for Authenticity" Popular Cultures in Africa. University of Texas, Austin. March 30-April 1, 2007.

(2006) "Little Burton Blue: Tim Burton and the Product(ion) of Color in Fairy Tale Films." MAPACA, Baltimore, MD. Oct 26-29.

(2006) "The Commodification of Ms. Penny Proud: Consumer Culture in *Fat Albert* and the *Cosby Kids* (CBS 1972-1984) and Disney's *The Proud Family* (2001-2003)." Oklahoma Film & Video Studies Society Conference. Tulsa, OK, March 2006.

Encyclopedia Entries:

(2008) *The African American Biography Project*. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, eds. Oxford UP.

Entries for: Philippa Duke Schuyler, Morgan Freeman, Jamie Foxx, Louis Gossett, Jr., and Carlton Moss.

(2008) *Africa and the Americas*. Richard M Juang and Noelle Morrisette Searcy, Eds. ABC Clio.

Entries for: Africa (film), Oroonoko

(2007) *An Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Literature*. Ed. Seiwoong Oh. Facts on File, Inc.

Entries for: Sook Nyul Choi, Year of Impossible Goodbyes, Echoes of the White Giraffe, The

Gathering of Pearls.

(2006) *Writing African American Women*. 2 vol. Dr. Elizabeth Beaulieu, ed. Westport, CT: Greenwood.

Entries for: Clarissa Minnie Thompson Allen, Virginia w. Broughton, Brenda Marie Osbey, Eliza Potter, Mae Miller, Becky Birtha, Anne Spencer, Healing, Motherhood, Beauty, Slave Narrative, and Womanism.

(2006) *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Literature*. 5 volumes. Hans Ostrom and J. David Macey, eds. Westport, CT: Greenwood.

Entries for: Patty Rice, Charlotte Watson Sherman, Anthony Walton, Mary Monroe.

(2006) *Encyclopedia of Prostitution and Sex Work*. Melissa Hope Ditmore, ed. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2006.

Entries for: Police, Serial Killers, Murder, Pop culture, Exploitation films, Documentary films, Cult films, Clothing, and Commodification.

(2005) *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Multi- Ethnic American Literature*. 5 vol.

Emmanuel S. Nelson, ed. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2005.

Entries for: Cecil Brown, Patrice Gaines, Jarina Lee

Book Reviews:

(2008) Review of: *In Search of the Black Fantastic* by Richard Iton. New York: Oxford UP, 2008. *Southwest Journal of Cultures* 2 (2008).

(2007) Review of: *Revolution Televised* by Christine Acham, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. 2005. *PAST: Pioneer America Society Transactions* 30 (2007)

(2005) Review of: *Gaze and Voice as Love Objects* by Renata Salecl and Slavoj Zizek, eds. Durham, NC: Duke UP, 1996. *Journal of Contemporary Thought* 21 (2005).

(2005) Review of: *Postcolonial Whiteness: a Critical Reader on Race and Empire* by Alfred J. Lopez. New York: State University of New York Press, 2005. *In-between: Essays & Studies in Literary Criticism* (2005).

(2005) Review of: *Mouse Morality: The Rhetoric of Disney Animated Films* by Annalee R. Ward. *Material Culture* 37.1 (2005).

(2004/2006) Review of: *A Perfect Fit: Clothes, Character, and the Promise of America* by Jenna Wiseman Jocelit. New York: Henry Holt and co., 2001. *Material Culture* 36.1 (2004). Reprinted 38.1 (2006).

(2004) Review of: *Unpacking Culture: Art and Commodity in Colonial and Postcolonial Worlds* by Ruth B. Phillips and Christopher B. Steiner. Berkley: U of California P, 1999. *Journal of Contemporary Thought* 19&20 (2004).

(2004) Review of: *Houdini, Tarzan, and The Perfect Man: The White Male Body and the Challenge of Modernity in America* by John F. Kasson. New York: Hill and Wang, 2001. *Material Culture* 36.2 (2004).

(2004) Review of: *Recentering Anglo/American Folksong* by Roger de V. Renwick. Jackson: UP of Mississippi, 2001. *Material Culture* 36.1 (2004).

Academic Blogs

(2017) "Children in the Age of Trump." *American Childhoods* 10 July 2017, H-Net blog, <https://networks.h-net.org/node/2602/pages/186080/american-childhoods>

(2017) "The Black Child [re]Imagined" *American Childhoods* 11 September 2017, H-Net Blog, <https://networks.h-net.org/node/2602/discussions/194162/black-child-reimagined#reply-261788>

Works in progress:

(Book) *New Hollywood Cinema: Youth in Transition*

(Edited collection) with Adrian Schober, *Children and Youth in International Television*

(Edited collection) *Children and Childhood in the Works of Stephen King*

(Chapter, The Oxford Handbook of Children's Film) "Screening Innocence in Children's Film"

(Article) "Animals, Innocence, and the Terr[or]ties in *The Talisman*"

(Article) "MOB: the Child as Player and Monster in FPS/3PS games"

Invited Talks

ECCE Speakers Series, University of Illinois, Springfield, March, 2018

"Black Children in Hollywood Cinema" Lecture can be viewed at:

https://uis.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Black+Children+in+Hollywood+Cinema+-+Debbie+Olson/o_1wob7z07/22505721

SERVICE

Department:

(2018-present) Hiring committees for English department

(2017-present) Coordinator, Writing Across the Curriculum, Missouri Valley College

(2017- present) Faculty Advisor, Sigma Tau Delta English honor society, Missouri Valley College

(2015-2016) Grader, CLEP writing equivalency exam, University of Texas at Arlington

Institution:

(2018- present) Committee member, Honors committee, Missouri Valley College

(2017- present) Faculty Advisor, Black Student Union, Missouri Valley College

(2017- present) Committee member, Student Research Symposium, Missouri Valley College

(2017- present) Faculty Advisor, E-game competition committee, Missouri Valley College

(2004-2005) Faculty Coordinator, Living Learning Community-Modern Life and Popular Culture, Central Washington University.

(2003-2004) Member, Diversity Commission, Central Washington University.

(2002-2004) Faculty Senate, Alternate Elect, Central Washington University.

(2002-2004) Faculty Mentor, Sparks Hall, Central Washington University.

Profession:

(2015- present) Series Editor: Children and Youth in Popular Culture, Lexington Books (Roman & Littlefield)

(2012- present) Reviewer, *Journal of Children and Media*, Editor Dafna Lemish

(2009-present) Founder, Editor-in-Chief, *Red Feather Journal: an International Journal of Children's Popular Culture*, www.redfeatherjournal.org

(2009- 2014) Editor, *MP Journal: an International Feminist Journal*, www.academinst.org/mp

(2007) *The Big Read* National Endowment for the Arts “Children in the Great Depression: Children’s Culture in ‘The Grapes of Wrath.’” Oklahoma State University Library and Stillwater Community Library, 10 April 2007.

(2004) Assistant Coordinator: Winter Mystery Weekend: *Classics of Cat and Mouse* Sleeping Lady Resort, Leavenworth, Wa.,

(2003) Art Director: “Il Soldato.” Dir. Pedro Bicchieri, Plastic Jesus Productions, 2003.

(2003) Assistant Coordinator: Winter Mystery Weekend: *Matrimonial Murder*, Sleeping Lady Resort, Leavenworth, Wa.

(2002) Assistant Coordinator: Winter Mystery Weekend: *Psychological Thrillers*, Sleeping Lady Resort, Leavenworth, Wa.

(2001) Assistant Coordinator: Winter Mystery Weekend: *The Sinister Cinema of Alfred Hitchcock*. Sleeping Lady Resort, Leavenworth, Wa.

(2000) Assistant Coordinator: Winter Mystery Weekend: *L.A. Noir*, Sleeping Lady Resort, Leavenworth, Wa.

(1998 – 2000) President, English Graduate Student Association, Central Washington University.

Professional Associations:

Member, Sigma Tau Delta

Member, MLA

Member, Society for Cinema Studies

Member, Council of Writing Program Administrators

Member, Association for Writing Across the Curriculum

References:

Stacy Takacs, PhD, Associate Professor, Director of American Studies program, Oklahoma State University, English Dept. 205 Morrill Hall, Stillwater, Ok, 74078, 405-744-9473
stacy.takacs@okstate.edu

Justin Lerberg, PhD, Director First Year Writing, University of Texas at Arlington, English Dept. PO box 19035, Arlington, Texas, 76019. 817-272-2488
jlerberg@uta.edu

Will Lombardi, PhD, Assistant Professor, Feather River College, 570 Golden Eagle Ave, Quincy, CA 95971, 530-283-0202 ext.227
w.lombardi@frc.edu

Ron Brooks, PhD, Associate Professor, Chairperson Writing Studies, Montclair State University, 1 Normal Ave, Montclair, NJ, 07043, 973-655-4156
brooksjrr@montclair.edu