

Josh-Wade Ferguson

Curriculum Vitae

January 2020

Tougaloo College
Department of English
500 W County Line Road
Tougaloo, MS, 39174, USA
jferguson@tougaloo.edu

EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D. in Literature (University of Mississippi)
 Dissertation: “Rambling Blues: Mapping Contemporary North American Blues Literature”
 Committee: Adam Gussow (Director) Jay Watson, Leigh Anne Duck, Derrick Harriell, and Anthony Bolden (Kansas)
- 2012 M.A. in English (University of Saskatchewan)
- 2011 B.A. in English (High Honours) (University of Saskatchewan)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2019 Assistant Professor of English
 Tougaloo College, Department of English and Modern Languages

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journals

- “The Africadian Blues: A Conversation with George Elliott Clarke” *The Global South*. (Forthcoming 2020).
- ““Traded it off for that Voodoo thing:” Cultural Capital and Vernacular Debt in Disney’s Representation of New Orleans.” *Journal of Popular Culture* 49.6 (Dec. 2016): 1224-40.

Chapters in Edited Collections

- “That Swampy Sound: The Politics of Identity in Swamp Music” *Swamp Souths: Literary and Cultural Ecologies*. Eds. Eric Gary Anderson, Taylor Hagood, Kirstin Squint, and Anthony Wilson. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, Forthcoming Spring 2020)
- Jay Watson, Robert J. Briggs, Josh-Wade Ferguson, and Andrew Thomas, “The Cormac McCarthy Journals: The Single-Author Graduate Course.” *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Cormac McCarthy*. Eds. Stacey Peebles and Benjamin West. (New York: MLA, Forthcoming).

Interviews in Literary Journals

- “Perpetual Reckoning: An Interview with Kiese Laymon.” *New Ohio Review*. 16 April 2019.

PRESENTATIONS

Panels Organized or Chaired

- 2019 Organizer and Chair, “Sweet Home Chicago: Rethinking Blues Literature.” Modern

Language Association (MLA) 2019 Conference, “Textual Transactions,”
Chicago, January 2019.

- 2018 Chair, “Transcultural Blues.” Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)
2018 Conference, “TransCulture,” Las Vegas, May 2018.

Conference Papers

- 2020 “Blues, Theft, and Precarity: Deconstructing the Wake of Pernicious Whiteness in Hari
Kunzru’s *White Tears*.” The Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of
the United States (MELUS) Annual Conference (New Orleans). April 2020.
- 2019 ““Old folk’s music . . . dead folk’s music’: Blues, Memory, and Precarity in James
Hannah’s *Delicious Foods* and Jesmyn Ward’s *Salvage the Bones*.” The
Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)
Annual Conference (Cincinnati). 21 March 2019.
- “Reading the Blues Diaspora; Or, The Transnational turn in Multi-Ethnic Blues
Literature.” Modern Language Association (MLA) National Conference
(Chicago). 5 January 2019.
- 2018 “Transnational Blues: A Shift in Blues Literature.” The Society for the Study of Multi-
Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS) Annual Conference (Las Vegas).
3 May 2018.
- “That Swampy Sound: The Politics of Identity in Swamp Music.” The Society for the
Study of Southern Literature (SSSL) Conference (Austin, TX). 18 February 2018.
- “The Black and Blues Atlantic: Mapping Contemporary Africadian Poetry in the Blues
Diaspora.” Committee on the Literature of People of Color of the United States
and Canada at the Modern Language Association (MLA) National Conference
(New York). 4 January 2018.
- 2017 “Rambling Blues: Mapping the Contemporary Blues Tradition.” International Society for
the Study of Narratives Conference (Lexington). 24 March 2017.
- 2016 ““The Indian horses screamed’: Locating Identity through the Blues in Sherman Alexie’s
Reservation Blues.” Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of
English (ACCUTE) Conference (Calgary). 29 May 2016.
- “I got them *Reservation Blues*: Transcultural exchange in Sherman Alexie’s American
Indian Blues.” The Society for the Study of Southern Literature (SSSL)
Conference (Boston). 11 March 2016.
- 2015 “Traded it off for that Voodoo thing:” Cultural Capital and Vernacular Debt in Filmic
Representation of New Orleans.” Popular Culture Association/American Culture
Association (PCA/ACA) National Conference (New Orleans). 1 April 2015.
- 2012 “Achieving Critical Balance in the Academic Career Internship.” (Talking Circle).
Canadian Alliance for Community Service-Learning (CACSL) Conference
(Saskatoon). 11 May 2012.

Invited Talks

- 2018 “Reading, Thinking, and Talking about the Blues: The Ethics of Consumption and the
Nuances of Cultural Appropriation.” Guest Lecture for Eve Dunbar’s “Blues
in/and African American Literature” seminar. Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New
York, 28 November 2018.
- 2017 “Race: Local, National, Global; A Conversation on Race in Claude McKay, Countee

Cullen, and Zora Neale Hurston.” Podcast Lecture (Co-Host). University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi, October 2017.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2020	Mellon Modern Day Slavery Grant for Interdisciplinary Teaching Module \$3000
2018	University of Mississippi Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship for Fall 2018, \$6500.
2017	Nominated for the University of Mississippi’s Who’s Who Award. <i>Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges</i> honors university students who excel academically and demonstrate leadership.
2017	University of Mississippi English Department Summer Writing Fellowship, \$5000
2015	William E. Brigman Award for the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper delivered at the National Conference for the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA). “‘Traded it off for that Voodoo thing:’ Cultural Capital and Vernacular Debt in Filmic Representation of New Orleans.” Honorable Mention.
2015	University of Mississippi Best Graduate Essay on Film. “‘Traded it off for that Voodoo thing:’ Cultural Capital and Vernacular Debt in Disney’s Representation of New Orleans,” \$100.
2013-2018	Graduate Teaching Fellowship (University of Mississippi)
2011-2012	Graduate Teaching Fellowship (University of Saskatchewan)
2010-2011	Hannon Scholarship, University of Saskatchewan, \$3000

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Tougaloo College

2020	ENG 102 Effective Writing (2 Sections) ENG 311 Blues Literature
2019	ENG 101 Effective Writing (2 Sections) ENG 434 Literary Criticism

Brown University

2020	CEEL1002 “How blue can you get?”: Blues Fiction and Film
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University of Mississippi

2015	ENGL 224 American Literature after the Civil War (Summer) WRIT 102: Business Themed Writing (Spring Two Sections)
2014	WRIT 101: Introduction to College Writing (Fall)

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

2019	Consultant for the University of Mississippi Graduate Student Writing Center
2016-2018	Editorial Assistant for <i>The Global South</i>
2015	Student Youth Mentor for the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation’s annual Summer Youth Institute
2014	Research Assistant for Adam Gussow and Jaime Harker for the books <i>Beyond the Crossroads: The Devil and the Blues Tradition</i> (2017) and <i>The Lesbian South</i> :

Southern Feminists, the Women in Print Movement, and the Queer Literary Canon
(2017)

- 2013 Accreditation Coordinator, University of Saskatchewan School of Public Health
2011 Editorial Assistant for *Essays on Canadian Literature*

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Service to the Profession

- 2019 Introduced Kiese Laymon for Ohio University's *Spring Literature Festival*, 4 April 2019.
2017-2018 Society for the Study of Southern Literature (SSSL) Website Update Committee Member

University Service

- 2019 Steering Committee for 2019-2020 Humanities Week: "Textual Healing: The Humanities, Intergenerational Trauma, & Self-Care." Committee Member.
2019-2020 First Reader for Senior Thesis, Department of English and Modern Languages, Tougaloo College: Jeremy Middleton and Terranie Packer.
2019 Quality Effectiveness Coordinator, Department of English and Modern Languages, Tougaloo College, 2019-Present
2015-2019 Student Recruitment, English Department, University of Mississippi.
2016-2019 Student Mentor, English Department, University of Mississippi.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

African American Literature	American Literature (20 th - and 21 st -century)
North American Multi-Ethnic Literature	Blues Literature and Culture
US Southern Literature	Transnational Studies

MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association (MLA)
The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)
Society for the Study of Southern Literature (SSSL)
Golden Key International Honors Society

REFERENCES

Available upon Request