

ANDREÁ N. WILLIAMS

EDUCATION

Ph.D. English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

M.A. English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

B. A. English, Spelman College, (Phi Beta Kappa, Valedictorian)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor, Department of English, The Ohio State University, 2012 – present.

Assistant Professor, Department of English, The Ohio State University, 2006 – 2012.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship for

Recently Tenured Scholars, hosted at National Humanities Center (NHC), 2017-2018

Arts and Humanities International Small Travel Grant, OSU, 2016

Atlanta University Center (AUC) Robert W. Woodruff Library Research Travel Award, 2016

Research Enhancement Grant, OSU College of Arts and Sciences, 2012

Isaiah Thomas Stipend, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA, 2012

Postdoctoral Fellowship in African American Literature, Department of English, Rutgers University, 2008-2009.

Thomas S. and Caroline H. Royster Fellowship, UNC-CH, 2000-2005

RESEARCH INTERESTS

African American literature; U.S. literature to 1900; singleness in U.S. culture; labor and class studies; black periodicals and print culture; U.S. women writers; life writing and auto/biographical studies

WORK IN PROGRESS

Unmarried Miss-fits: Single Women and Twentieth-Century Black Culture (book project)

This book is an interdisciplinary cultural study of unmarried African American women in the first half of the twentieth century, when long-term singleness became more common, yet remained marginalized. Examining the period between 1890 and 1950, the book inquires how unwed African American women provoked and resisted claims that their unmarried state made them “misfits” who posed a threat to the well-being of black families and American society. Grounded in black feminist theory, this study draws from newspapers, literature, and historical archives to offer a compelling sense of how marital status impacts crucial matters of everyday experience, including how we envision self, home, sex, and the future.

“African American Life Writing, 1865-1900.” *A History of African American Autobiography*.

Ed. Joycelyn Moody. Cambridge: Cambridge UP. (under contract)

PUBLICATIONS

Dividing Lines: Class Anxiety and Postbellum Black Fiction. University of Michigan Press, 2013. Class: Culture Series. Series editors Amy Schragger Lang and Bill V. Mullen.

http://www.press.umich.edu/4766752/dividing_lines.

Articles and Book Chapters

“Recovering Black Women Writers in Periodical Archives.” *American Periodicals* 27.1 (2017): 25-28.

“Black Labor and the Sentimentalized Southern Economy in Katherine Tillman’s *Clancy Street*.” *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 32.1 (2015): 53-74.

“Postbellum, Pre-Harlem: Black Writing before the Renaissance.” *A Companion to the Harlem Renaissance*. Ed. Cherene Sherrard-Johnson. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2015. 35-50.

“Cultivating Black Visuality: The Controversy over Cartoons in the Indianapolis *Freeman*.” *American Periodicals* 25.2 (2015): 124-38.

“Frances Watkins (Harper), Harriet Tubman and the Rhetoric of Single Blessedness.” *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism* 12.2 (2014): 99-122.

“Sex, Marriage, and 12 Years a (Single) Slave.” *American Literary History* 26.2 (2014): 347-353.

“Moving Up a Dead End Ladder: Black Class Mobility, Death, and Narrative Closure in Sutton Griggs’s *Overshadowed*.” *Jim Crow, Literature, and the Legacy of Sutton E. Griggs*. Ed. Kenneth Warren and Tess Chakkalalakal. Athens: U of Georgia P, 2013. 88-110.

“Black Women’s Labor and the Melodrama of Mobility in Sutton Griggs’s *Overshadowed*.” *African American Review* 45.1-2 (Spring/Summer 2012): 49-64.

“African American Literary Realism, 1865-1914.” *A Companion to African American Literature*. Ed. Gene Andrew Jarrett. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2010. 185-199.

Introduction. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. 1861. By Harriet A. Jacobs. *The North Carolina Roots of African American Literature*. Ed. William L. Andrews. University of North Carolina Press, 2005. 171-216.

Introduction. *Narrative of the Life of Moses Grandy; Late a Slave in the United States of America*. 1843. By Moses Grandy. *North Carolina Slave Narratives*. Ed. William L. Andrews. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003. 133-186.

Book Reviews and Short Essays

Rev. of *The Black Newspaper and the Chosen Nation*, by Benjamin Fagan and *Black Girlhood in the Nineteenth Century*, by Nazera Sadiq Wright. *American Periodicals* 27.2 (2017): 206-211.

Rev. of *No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment, and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity*, by Sarah Haley. *American Literary History Online Review*. Series X. 3 April 2017.
https://academic.oup.com/alh/pages/alh_review_series_10

“Representing Women’s Work: Sarah Savage’s *The Factory Girl*.” *Just Teach One. Common-place: The Interactive Journal of Early American Life*. American Antiquarian Society. 7 August 2014. <http://www.common-place.org/justteachone/?p=344>

Rev. of *Cambridge Companion to Frederick Douglass*. Ed. Maurice S. Lee. *Prose Studies*. 34.2 (2012): 160-63.

“Harriet Wilson (1825-1900).” *Student’s Encyclopedia of Great American Writers: 1830 to 1910*. Ed. Paul Crumbley. New York: Facts on File, 2010. 505-511.

Rev. of *Abolitionists Remember: Antislavery Autobiographies and the Unfinished Work of Emancipation*, by Julie Roy Jeffrey. *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*. 24. 2 (2009): 322-326.

“Let the Good Work Go On.” Rev. of *Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins: Black Daughter of the Revolution*, by Lois Brown. *Women’s Review of Books* 26.3 (2009): 25-27.

“James Baldwin,” “*The Color Purple*,” “Rita Dove,” “Ralph Ellison,” “Nikki Giovanni,” “Harlem Renaissance,” “Langston Hughes,” “Julius Lester,” “Toni Morrison,” “Suzan-Lori Parks,” “*Roots*,” “Mildred Taylor,” and “Alice Walker.” *The World Book Encyclopedia*. Chicago: World Book, 2008.

INVITED TALKS

“Staging Singleness: Unmarried Women and Black Community Theatre.” Robert W. Woodruff Library. Atlanta University Center. Atlanta, GA. July 21, 2016.

“Discipline and Disclosure in African American Diaries.” African American Studies Symposium: “The Power of Story: African American Autobiography & Life Writing.” University of Texas at San Antonio. San Antonio, TX. April 12, 2016.

“How to Watch TV Like a Professor: Feminist Approaches to Shonda Rhimes’s *Scandal*.” College of Wooster. Wooster, OH. November 13, 2014.

“Re-Reading African American Literary History.” College of Wooster. Wooster, OH. November 13, 2014.

“Jane Edna Hunter’s *A Nickel and a Prayer*.” Seminar Discussion Facilitator. Texas Regional Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW). University of Texas at San Antonio. San Antonio, TX. March 1, 2014.

“Class and the Myth of Racial Solidarity in Black Fiction.” Diversity & Identity Studies Collective at OSU. Ohio State University. Columbus, OH. November 1, 2013.

“Going Overboard: Crafting Your College Education.” Keynote Address. 9th Annual Early Arrival Program. Todd A. Bell National Resource Center on the African American Male. Ohio State University. Columbus, OH. August 14, 2013.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNSCNxInR9A>

“Slaves in a Free Market: Black Culture, Wealth, and Consumerism.” Roundtable Panelist. Town Hall Forum. 35th Annual African American Heritage Festival. Ohio State University. Columbus, OH. March 25, 2013.

“Alone against the Law: Unmarried Black Women and Antislavery Activism.” Harriet Tubman: A Legacy of Resistance—100th Anniversary Symposium. SUNY-Albany. Albany, NY. March 8, 2013.

“Beautiful Minds and Ugly Work: Professing Literary Criticism.” Introduction to Graduate Studies in English. Prof. Robyn Warhol. Ohio State University. Columbus, OH. November 6, 2012.

“Charles W. Chesnutt and Black Ohio.” African American Research and Service Institute Symposium: “African American Activism and Creativity in Ohio.” Ohio University. Athens, OH. October 4, 2012.

“Imagining a Black President: Political Leadership, Racial Identity, and the Cultural Work of African American Literature.” African American Studies Symposium: “The Obama Presidency: The Last 100 Years, The First 100 Days.” University of Texas at San Antonio. San Antonio, TX. April 3, 2009.

“The Color Line: Its Modifications, Modifiers and Modalities.” Remapping the Color Line: Race, Literature, and the Contemporary Moment. 20th-Century Studies Group Roundtable. Rutgers University. New Brunswick, NJ. November 19, 2008.

“Approaches to Class Analysis of Nineteenth-Century Black Literature and Culture.” Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program. UNC-CH. May 26, 2005.

“‘The First Time That I Ever Took My Pen in Hand’: Harriet A. Jacobs and the Process of Written Disclosure.” Royster Society of Fellows Graduate Workshop. UNC-CH. April 30, 2004.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Professionalizing Visual Artists in the Indianapolis *Freeman*.” The Arts in the Black Press during the Age of Jim Crow. Yale University. New Haven, CT. March 11, 2017.

“Excavating Lives from Black Archives: A Response.” International Auto/Biography Association (IABA). Nicosia, Cyprus. May 26, 2016.

“Periods and Periodicals: Teaching the 1890s in African American Literary History.” The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19). State College, PA. March 17, 2016.

“On Reading and Writing the Lives of Single Black Women.” Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW). Philadelphia, PA. November 6, 2015.

- “The Black Cartoonist as Celebrity in the Indianapolis *Freeman*.” American Literature Association (ALA). Boston, MA. May 21, 2015.
- “The Black Visual Artist as Celebrity in the Indianapolis *Freeman*.” African American Expression in Print and Digital Culture. University of Wisconsin. Madison, WI. September 20, 2014.
- “Seduced by Success: Sutton Griggs’s Single Female Consumers and the Black Economy.” American Studies Association (ASA). Washington, D.C. November 2013.
- “Rethinking Class and Community in Black Periodicals.” American Literature Association (ALA). Boston, MA. May 2013.
- “Uncoupling Race and Desire: Bachelor-girls in Alice Dunbar-Nelson’s Short Fiction.” College Language Association (CLA). Lexington, KY. April 2013.
- “Why Study Single Black Women: A Response.” Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW). Denver, CO. October 2012.
- “Critical Neglect of Black Women’s ‘Recovered’ Writing.” The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19). Berkeley, California. April 2012.
- “The *Other* Renaissance: Teaching the 1890s in African American Literary Culture.” Modern Language Association (MLA). Seattle, WA. January 2012.
- “The Single Woman and Racial Stigma in Alice Dunbar-Nelson’s Early Short Fiction.” Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA). New Brunswick, NJ. April 2011.
- “Black Labor and the Sentimentalized Southern Economy in Katherine Tillman’s *Clancy Street*.” Modern Language Association (MLA). Philadelphia, PA. December 2009.
- “Black Labor and the Sentimentalized Southern Economy in Katherine Tillman’s *Clancy Street*.” Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW). Philadelphia, PA. October 2009.
- “Whose Emancipation?: Irony and Liberation in Paul Dunbar’s Short Fiction.” College Language Association (CLA). Cambridge, MD. March 2009.
- “Rich and Royal Roots: Genealogy and Social Status in the Fiction of Pauline Hopkins.” College Language Association (CLA). Charleston, SC. April 2008.
- “Class-Passing with the Blue Veins: Race, Status, and Performance in Charles Chesnutt’s *The Wife of His Youth*.” Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS). Columbus, OH. March 2008.

“Class-Passing with the Blue Veins: Race, Status, and Performance in Charles Chesnutt’s *The Wife of His Youth*.” National Association of African American Studies (NAAAS). Baton Rouge, LA. February 2008.

“Nineteenth-Century African American Women's Writing: The State of the Field.” Opening Plenary. Third International Conference of the Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW). Philadelphia, PA. November 2006.

“Race, Class and Adolescent Rivalry in African American Fiction.” Youth and Race Conference: Acting White. Institute of African American Research. UNC-CH. Chapel Hill, NC. October 2005.

“Examining Class Mobility and Respectability in the Serialized Novels of Frances E. W. Harper.” American Studies Association (ASA). Atlanta, GA. November 2004.

“‘The First Time That I Ever Took My Pen in Hand’: Harriet Jacobs’s Writing Before *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*,” co-authored and presented with Sarah Ficke. Society for the Study of Southern Literature (SSSL). Chapel Hill, NC. March 2004.

“Identity, Gender and Race: Deconstructing Difference in William Wells Brown’s *Clotel*.” Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society Conference. Savannah, GA. March 2000.

ACADEMIC SEMINAR PARTICIPATION

Invited Faculty Instructor, NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes for College and University Teachers, “Paul Laurence Dunbar and American Literary History,” facilitated by Thomas Morgan and Becki Trivison. Ohio History Society. Columbus, OH. July 23, 24, 28, 2015.

Participant, Academic Leadership Academy for higher education administrators. Pennsylvania State University. State College, PA, June 21-25, 2015.

Participant, Summer Seminar in the History of the Book, “African American Cultures of Print,” facilitated by Jordan Stein and Lara Langer Cohen. American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA, July 9-13, 2012.

Participant, Summer Seminar in Literary and Cultural Studies, “‘The Lord’s Battle I Mean to Fight’: The Politics of African American Piety,” facilitated by Joycelyn K. Moody. West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, June 7-10, 2007.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

“Freedom’s Children: Stories of the Black Middle Class after Slavery.” Marlin Public Library. Marlin, Texas. June 20, 2013.

“Freedom’s Children: Stories of the Black Middle Class after Slavery.” National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center. Wilberforce, OH. June 15, 2013.

“What to A Slave is Black History Month: History and Memory in Slave Narratives.” Charlotte Museum of History. Charlotte, NC. February 5, 2005.

“North Carolina Slave Narratives.” Ragan Writers Lecture Series. Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities. Southern Pines, North Carolina. March 14, 2004.

“Moses Grandy’s *Narrative* in North Carolina Literary History.” Hillsborough Literary Association. The Burwell School. Hillsborough, North Carolina. February 19, 2004.

“Moses Grandy’s *Narrative* in North Carolina Literary History.” North Carolina Museum of History. Raleigh, NC. February 7, 2004.

“Looking Forward: Some Things Are Worth Forgetting.” Commencement Address. Marlin High School. Marlin, TX. May 31, 2002.

Mentor, Big Brother Big Sisters of Central Ohio, 2007-2008.

Mentor, Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate Program, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, NC, 2002-2006.

MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS AND APPEARANCES

Lartey, Jamiles. “Harriet Tubman: the Woman, the Myth, the Legend Muddled by \$20 Bill Plaudits.” *Guardian* April 24, 2016.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/24/harriet-tubman-20-bill-myths-freed-slaves-quotes>

Tanguay, Pablo. Interview with Andréa N. Williams. OSU English Tumblr Blog. Fall 2013.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9quQ_7cySo

Young, Vershawn. “*Dividing Lines*: Interview with Andréa N. Williams.” *New Books in African American Studies*. Spring 2013.

<http://newbooksinafroamstudies.com/2013/05/08/andrea-williams-dividing-lines-social-class-anxiety-and-postbellum-black-fiction-university-of-michigan-2013/>

Butler, Enelda. “Royster Alumna Brings Her Research to Life.” Interview with Andréa N. Williams. *The Fountain*. The Graduate School. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Spring 2012. http://fountain.unc.edu/spr_12/roysteralumna.html

Harris, Julia. “Book Talk.” Interview with Andréa N. Williams. *OnCampus: The Ohio State Faculty Staff Newspaper*. November 3, 2010. <http://oncampus.osu.edu/andrea-williams-english/>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Courses

Growing Up Black: African American Coming-Of-Age Narratives

The Single Woman in African American Literature and Culture

Black Identity and Agency in 20th-Century Narrative

Introduction to African American Literature
Colonial and U.S. Literature to 1865
Labor and Class Inequality in 19th-Century U.S. Fiction
American Literature, 1865-1914 (special topic: Crossing Boundaries)
Critical Writing for the English Major
Critical Writing for the English Major - Honors
Major American Authors (special topic: The American Dream)

Graduate Courses

Labor, Class, and U.S. Literature
The Single Woman and African American Literature
The 1890s in African American Literature and Culture
African American Literature, Beginnings to 1900
African American Literature, 1900 to Present
Teaching College English

GRADUATE ADVISING

Blake Wilder, “Black Men in No Man’s Land: Race, Masculinity, and Citizenship in World War I Literature.” Ph.D., English, OSU, 2017 – committee member
Beth Avila, “‘I Would Prevent You from Further Violence’: Women, Pirates, and the Problem of Violence in the Antebellum American Imagination.” Ph.D., English, OSU, 2016 – committee member
J. Brendan Shaw, “Touching History to Find ‘A Kind of Truth’: Black Women’s Queer Desires in Post-Civil Rights Literature, Film, and Music.” Ph.D., English, OSU, 2016 – committee member
Karin Hooks, “Literary Retrospectives: The 1890s and the Reconstruction of American Literary History.” Ph.D., English, OSU, 2012 – committee member
Heather Thompson-Gillis, “Venturing More Than Others Have Dared: Representations of Class Mobility, Gender, and Alternative Communities in American Literature, 1840-1940.” Ph.D., English, OSU, 2012 – committee member
Dissertation committees in progress: 1
Exam committees in progress: 1

TEACHING AND SERVICE AWARDS

Distinguished Diversity Enhancement Award, Office of Human Resources, OSU, 2016
Arts and Humanities Diversity Enhancement Award, OSU, 2015-2016
Marlene B. Longenecker English Faculty Teaching and Leadership Award, OSU, 2015
President’s Salute to Undergraduate Academic Achievement: Faculty Honoree, University Honors & Scholars Center, Ohio State University, 2010
Laurence Avery Award for Outstanding Teaching in Literature by a Graduate Student, UNC-CH Department of English, 2006

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Vice Chair, Department of English, OSU 2013-2015
Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Department of English, OSU 2013-2015
Executive Committee, Department of English, OSU, 2012-2015
Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of English, OSU, 2010-2012

Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of English, OSU, 2007-2008, 2011-12, 2016-17
Course Director for English 290: Colonial and U.S. Literature to 1865, advising graduate student teachers, Department of English, 2011-2012

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Faculty Committee on Admissions, Office of Enrollment Services, OSU, 2016-2017
University Search Committee Action Team, OSU, 2014
Graduate Faculty Representative: dissertation defense in Educational Policy and Leadership, The Graduate School, OSU, 2013
Faculty Affiliate, Economic Access Initiative (for first-generation college students), OSU, 2007-2008, 2009-2010
Undergraduate Research Advisor, Summer Research Opportunities Program (for underrepresented pre-doctoral students), OSU, 2007
Faculty representative for the College of Humanities, Arts & Sciences New First Quarter Freshmen Orientation, OSU, Summer 2007
Interim Assistant Director, Summer Bridge Program, UNC-CH, Spring 2005 (for incoming students from underrepresented backgrounds)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Editorial Advisory Board, *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* ([J19](#)), 2016-2020
Advisory Board, Research Society for American Periodicals ([RSAP](#)), 2013-2016
Executive Coordinator, American Literature Society ([ALS](#)), 2012-2016
Manuscript reviewer, *Auto/Biography Studies*, 2016; Cambridge University Press, 2015; Oxford University Press, 2015; *American Periodicals*, 2015; University of Georgia Press, 2014; *College Literature*, 2013; *African American Review*, 2007-2008
External dissertation consultant, Educational Leadership & Counseling Program, Sam Houston State University, Summer 2013
Awards Committee, Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW) Graduate Student Paper Awards, 2012-2013
Planning Committee, George Moses Horton Society Conference, UNC-CH, Spring 2002

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Literature Association (ALA)
Research Society for American Periodicals (RSAP)
Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP)
Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW)
Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19)