

Derik Jalal Smith

Claremont McKenna College
Literature Department
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Education

- April 2004 Doctor of Philosophy in English Literature. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
Dissertation: "Love's Lonely Offices: Robert Hayden and the African American
Literary Tradition"
Dissertation Committee: Professors Paul Breslin (chair), Reginald Gibbons, and
Kevin Bell
- May 1998 Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Literature. The University of Michigan, Ann
Arbor, MI.

Academic Positions

- July 2018 to Present. Associate Professor, Literature Department, Claremont
McKenna College.
- February 2018 to June 2018. Associate Professor, Department of English, University at
Albany.
- September 2011 to February 2018. Assistant Professor, Department of English, University at
Albany.
- September 2008 to June 2011. Assistant Professor, Department of English.
Sultan Qaboos University. Muscat, Oman.
- August 2005 to July 2008. Assistant Professor, Department of English. Zayed
University. Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- August 2003 to August 2005. Assistant Professor, Department of English. Arcadia
University. Glenside, PA.

Additional Academic Employment

- September 2015 to June 2018. Adjunct Assistant Professor, Hudson Link for Higher
Education in Prison. (Greene Correctional Facility)

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September 2012 to June 2015 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Bard Prison Initiative.
(Coxsackie Correctional Facility, Eastern
Correctional Facility, Taconic Correctional
Facility.)

Honors, Awards & Grants

College Language Association Book Award for *Robert Hayden In Verse* (2019)

Claremont McKenna College Gould Center Faculty Research Grant (2018)

University at Albany President's Award for Exemplary Public Engagement (2015)

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute Participant Grant (2015)

State University of New York Nuala McGann Drescher Award (2014)

Publications

Books:

Robert Hayden In Verse: New Histories of African American Poetry and the Black Arts Era. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2018.

The Rakim Era (Project in Progress)

Co-Edited with Tarra Betts & Victorio Asili Reyes. *Breaking Down Bars: Perspectives on Hip Hop Poetics* (Project in progress)

Peer Reviewed Articles:

"Centering the 'Pupil of the Eye': Blackness, Modernity, and the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh." *Journal of Bahá'í Studies*. 29.1 (Spring/Summer 2019): 7-29.

"Beneath and Beyond the 45th Presidency: A Critical Ethos For Now." *African American Review*. 51.4 (Winter 2018): 263-271.

"Ceding the Future: A Response to Ta-Nehisi Coates's *Between the World and Me*." *African American Review*. 49.3 (Fall 2016): 183-91.

"True Terror: The Haunting of Spike Lee's 25th Hour." *African American Review*

45.1 (2012): 1-16.

“Teaching Humanities in the Arabian Gulf: Toward a Pedagogical Ethos.” *Teaching and Learning in Higher Education: Gulf Perspectives* [Online], 8.2 (Sep 2011).

“Quarreling in the Movement: Robert Hayden's Black Arts Era.” *Callaloo* 33.2 (Spring 2010): 449-466.

“Emerging from a *Heart-Shape in the Dust*: Maturation in the Poetics of Robert Hayden,” *World Order* 37.2 (Fall 2006): 9-26.

Book Chapters:

“‘Colleged’ Folk: Class and Aesthetics in Robert Hayden’s 1960s Poetry.” (Forthcoming) *Black Art, Politics, and Aesthetics in 1960s African American Literature and Culture*. Ed. Shelly Eversley. Cambridge University Press.

"My Other: Subjectivity and Imperialism in Jamaica Kincaid's *My Brother*," (with Cliff Beumel) *Jamaica Kincaid and Caribbean Double Crossings*. Ed. Linda Lang-Peralta. University of Delaware Press, 2006. 96-112.

Encyclopedia Articles:

with Christopher Buck. “Robert Hayden.” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature*. Eds. Jay Parini and Phillip W. Leininger. Oxford University Press (2017).

Book Reviews:

“Review of *Alain Locke: Faith and Philosophy*.” *World Order* 38.3 (Winter 2008): 42-48.

Unrefereed Articles:

“India Shining?: America's Indian Moment.” *Popmatters*. March 13, 2009.
www.popmatters.com/pm/feature/72675-india-shining-americas-indian-moment/

“I Am Obama: The American Imagination and the New Black Hero.” *Popmatters*. February 25, 2008. www.popmatters.com/pm/feature/i-am-obama/

“Investigating the Crash Scene: Reading Racism in *Crash*.” *Black Commentator*. March 16, 2006. (Issue 175). www.blackcommentator.com/175/175_crash_scene_smith_guest.pdf

Other Scholarly Activity

Forewords:

“Introduction,” “Robert Hayden: Speaking across Three Decades” *World Order* 37.2 (Fall 2006): 29-30.

Conference Presentations

“Poetics ‘High’ and ‘Low’ of the Neoliberal Era” College Language Association Annual Conference, Chicago. April, 2018.

“African American Literary Criticism in the Time of Trump.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference, New York City. January, 2018.

“The MC as Poet and Preacher: Notes Toward a Genealogy of Rap Poetics.” Association of Writers & Writing Programs Annual Conference, Washington D.C. February, 2017.

“Nation-State and Diaspora in Contemporary Representations of American Slavery.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia. January, 2017.

“Collectivist Pedagogy for African American Literature” College Language Association Annual Conference, Houston. April, 2016. (Invited)

“Collectivist Pedagogy for Black American Literature” Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Austin. January, 2016.

“Fabricating the Organic Intellectual: Resisting Hegemony in Prison Pedagogy.” Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Boston. March, 2013.

“Robert Hayden’s Tortured Theodicy.” American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco. June, 2012.

“What it Means to Rock Kanye in Dubai: Hip-Hop and the New Black Face of American Popular Culture in the Middle East.” Conference of the American Culture Association and the Popular Culture Association, Atlanta. April, 2006

“Facing Race in the Desert of the Real: The Haunting of Spike Lee’s *25th Hour*.” Narrative Conference, Louisville. April, 2005

"Coming to Terms with 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Savages." Association for Bahá'í Studies Conference, San Francisco. August 2003

"My Other: Imperialism and Subjectivity in Jamaica Kincaid's *My Brother*." American Comparative

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Literature Association Annual Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. April 2002

Other Presentations

“Activism and Organizing Beyond the Internet.” Panel Moderator. Capital South Campus Center. Albany, NY. April 2018.

“*If Beale Street Could Talk* Post-Performance Conversation” University at Albany. Albany, NY. March 2018.

Discussant: “Incarceration and Re-Entry in *Pull of Gravity*”. Albany Center for Law and Justice. Albany, NY. February 2018.

“*I Am Not Your Negro* Discussion with Darryl Pinckney.” University at Albany. Albany, NY. February 2018.

“Race and Justice.” Grand Canyon Bahá’í Conference. Phoenix, AZ. December 2017.

“The Gothic in African American Culture.” Albany High School Guest Lecture. Albany, NY. April 2016.

“Zora Neal Hurston and Getting to College.” Albany High School Guest Lecture. Albany, NY. April 2016.

“Introduction to American Place Theatre’s *Zora*.” University at Albany Performing Arts Center. Albany, NY. January 2016.

“Keynote Address: The Wings of Atalanta and the Value of Humanistic Learning” University at Albany Sigma Tau Delta, English Honors Society Induction Ceremony. Albany, NY. December 2015.

“The Roots of the Rapper: Where Did Hip Hop Come from and Where is it Going?” African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region. Community Discussion Forum Speaker. Albany, NY. November 2015.

“The Need for Education Behind Bars.” New York State Assembly Building. Moral Mondays Rally, sponsored by the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State. Albany, NY. March 2015.

Featured Speaker: “Black History is Alive.” The Liberty Partnership Rising Stars Program, Black History Event. Albany, NY. February 2014.

Panelist Speaker: “Legacies of the Civil Rights Act.” African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region. Albany, NY. February 2014.

“Lectures on Recent African American Literature.” Union College Academy for Lifelong Learning. Schenectady, NY. April 2013.

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“Getting to College.” Troy Boys & Girls Club, Career Day. Troy, NY. April 2013.

Teaching

Claremont McKenna College

Undergraduate Courses

LIT 099 IO: Inside-Out Course – African American Autobiograph
(Taught at California Rehabilitation Center—Fall 2019)

LIT 099: Hip Hop Poetics (Spring 2019)

FWS 010: Representations of Race in Popular American Cinema
(First-Year Writing Seminar—Fall 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2019)

LIT 099 Special Topics in Literature: Introduction to African American Literature
(Fall 2018)

University at Albany

Graduate Courses

AENG 580 Models of History in Literary Criticism: Representing Slavery
(Graduate Seminar—Spring 2018)

AENG 685 Special Topics: Poetics of the Hyper-Incarceration Era
(Graduate Seminar—Spring 2017)

AENG 770 Teaching Writing and Literature: Pedagogy and Profession in the Neoliberal
University (Graduate Seminar—Spring 2016)

AENG 581 Studies in a Literary Period: Contemporary African American Literature
(Graduate Seminar—Spring 2014)

AENG 615 Poetics and Literary Practice: Politics and Aesthetics in the Black Arts Era
(Graduate Seminar—Fall 2012)

Undergraduate Courses

AENG 205z Introduction to Writing in English: Representing the Nineteenth Century
(Spring 2017, Fall 2017)

AENG 205z Introduction to Writing in English: Representations of Race in Hollywood
Cinema (Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2015)

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AENG 369 Introduction to African American Literature
(Fall 2011, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2018)

AENG 355 Studies in Film: Blackness in Hollywood Cinema
(Spring 2012, Spring 2016)

AENG 413y American Literature and Culture: Contemporary African American Fiction
(Fall 2011)

AENG 465y Topics in Ethnic Literatures in Cultural Contexts: Cultural Production of the
Black Arts/Black Power Era (Spring 2013, Fall 2016)

AENG 465y Topics in Ethnic Literatures in Cultural Contexts: The Rise of Hip Hop
(Fall 2017)

AENG 410y Topics in Contemporary Literary and Critical Theory: Recent African
American Literature (Spring 2014)

Bard Prison Initiative

Undergraduate Courses

Introduction to African American Literature
(Spring 2013 Coxsackie Correctional Facility, Fall 2013 Eastern Correctional Facility
Fall 2014 Coxsackie Correctional Facility, Spring 2015 Taconic Correctional Facility)

Politics and Aesthetics of the Black Arts Era
(Fall 2012 Eastern Correctional Facility)

Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison

Undergraduate Courses

Introduction to Literary Studies
(Spring 2018, Greene Correctional Facility)

Introduction to African American Literature
(Fall 2015, Greene Correctional Facility)

Public Speaking
(Summer 2017, Greene Correctional Facility)

Pre-College Courses

Pre-College Reading

(Spring 2016, Summer 2016, Greene Correctional Facility)

Doctoral Dissertation Committees

Claremont Graduate University

Malcolm Oliver – *Perceptive Rhetoric*, in progress (Second Reader)

UAlbany

Steve Delmagori – Untitled, in progress (Second Reader)

Josh Keller – *Reading/Writing Otherwise: Subversion in Modernist and Contemporary Literature*, in progress (Second Reader)

Kenji Kihara – *Mediative Realism: Reading American Literary Realism in the Late Depression Era*, in progress (Second Reader)

Luke Martin – *Peripheral Modern: Technology, History, Modernity in the Regions of Willa Cather, Zora Neale Hurston, and William Faulkner*, in progress (Second Reader)

Victorio Reyes – Untitled, in progress (Director)

Samantha Rider – Untitled, in progress (Second Reader)

Sara Zahed – Untitled, in progress (Second Reader)

Master's Thesis Projects (UAlbany):

Katie Leach – “Matriarch: A Collection of Poems Exploring the Theme of Healing Trauma Through Spoken Word Poetry” (2018) **Second Reader**

Austin Kraus – “Destroy All Lines: Aesthetics of the Hip Hop Novel” (2016/2017) **Director**

Tiffany Ado – “Cultural Meaning in the *Boondocks*” (2015/2016) **Director**

Amanda Boyd – “Revolutionary Mourning: Women Black Panthers and their Poetry in the Black Panther Newspaper” (2012/2013) **Director**

Takeah Harris – “The Black Body in Words: Contextualizing the Work of Women During the Black Arts Movement” (2012/2013) **Director**

Undergraduate Honors Projects (UAlbany):

Andrea Guerrero – “We All Get It...Right?: Sensitizing an Audience through the

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Reassessment of Tropes, Genre, and Emotive Technique in Jordan Peele's film *Get Out*." (2017/2018) **Director**

Naomi McPeters – “Monstrous Souls Imprisoned in Monstrous Flesh: James Baldwin's Discourse of God, Social Activism, and Love from *Go Tell It on the Mountain* to *The Amen Corner*” (2016/2017) **Director**

Cynthia Adeoye – “Black Film of the 1990s” (2015/2016) **Director**

Kevin Wheeler – “Riffing on the Past: Jazz and Signifying in Ishmael Reed's *Mumbo Jumbo*” (2013/2014) **Director**

Olivia Popiel – “Black and Blue: Comedy, Laughter and Deformity in Ellison's *Invisible Man*” (2014) **Second Reader**

Bard Prison Initiative - Senior Projects:

Two Student Inmates (Spring/Fall 2014) **Advisor**

Service

The Claremont Colleges

Coordinator, CMC Justice Education Learning Community (Fall 2019—)

Member, Admissions and Financial Aid Committee (Fall 2019—)

Member, Seven Colleges Justice Education Working Group (Fall 2018—)

English Department – University at Albany

Member, Search Committee – *Assistant Professor Digital Rhetorics/Professional Writing* (Fall 2017)

Chair, Faculty Diversity Program Search Committee (2015/2016, 2016/2017)

Member, Undergraduate Advisory Committee (2016/2017)

Member, Executive Committee (2015/2016, 2016/2017)

Member, Honors Program Advisory Committee (2013/2014, 2017/2018)

Member, Search Committee – *Academic Advisement Assistant* (Spring 2012)

Member, Professionalization Committee (2011/2012, 2012/2013)

University – University at Albany

Member, Search Committee – *Assistant Director of Office of Diversity and Inclusion* (Spring 2017)

Member, Interdisciplinary Committee (2015/2016)

Member, Committee on Academic Standing (2013/2014)

Secretary, Black Faculty and Staff Association (2012/2013, 2013/2014)

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Profession

Peer Reviewer, *The Journal of Bahá'í Studies* (2018)
 African American Review (2017, 2012)
 MELUS Journal (2014)
 Learning and Teaching in Higher Education: Gulf Perspectives
 (2012)

Community

Albany Center for Law and Justice – Executive Board Member (2017—2018)
Prison Study Hall, Greene Correctional Facility – Coordinator (2017—2018)
African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region – Community Discussion
Series Coordinator (2015)
Albany Public Library – African American Culture Discussion Group Facilitator
(2013)
Prison Reading Group Facilitator, Eastern Correctional Facility (2012)

Professional Organization Affiliations

Modern Language Association
College Language Association