

**Rafia Zafar**  
**Professor of English, African American, and**  
**American Culture Studies**  
**Washington University**  
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*Education*

Harvard University, History of American Civilization. Ph.D., June 1989.

Columbia University, English and Comparative Literature. MA., 1983.

City College of New York, English Literature/Creative Writing  
BA, cum laude, 1975.

Pratt Institute, Foundation year and Printmaking/Drawing major, 1971-1973.

*Academic positions held*

Washington University in St. Louis

Professor of English, African and African American Studies, and  
American Culture Studies, 2004-present.

Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusiveness, Graduate School of  
Arts and Sciences, 2011-2014.

Director, Program in African and African American Studies, 1999-2003.

Associate Professor of English, African and African American Studies, and  
American Culture Studies, 1998-2004.

University of Michigan at Ann Arbor

Assistant Professor of English with appointments in the Center for Afro-American  
and African Studies and the Program in American Culture, 1989-1997.

*Books and major publications*

*Recipes for Respect: African American Meals and Meaning.* University of Georgia Press:  
Southern Foodways Alliance Culture, People and Place series. Spring 2019.

Co-editor, *African American Review*, special issue on Arturo Schomburg, Winter 2020.

*Harlem Renaissance. Five Novels of the 1920s Harlem Renaissance.* Library of America. September 2011. Reviewed in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The London Times Literary Supplement*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *Library Journal* and *The New Criterion*; notices in *Commentary*, *The Milwaukee Sentinel Journal*, and *Ebony*, *New York Times Book Review*'s "What I'm Reading" feature.

*Harlem Renaissance. Four Novels of the 1930s.* Library of America. September 2011. Reviewed as above.

*The Cambridge History of American Literature: Volume 6, Prose Fiction 1910-1950*, co-author ("Fictions of the Harlem Renaissance", pp. 283-352), Cambridge University Press, 2003. Choice Outstanding Academic Title 2003.

*We Wear the Mask: African Americans Write American Literature, 1760-1870*, Columbia University Press, 1997.

*New Essays on Harriet Jacobs and Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, co-edited with Deborah Garfield. Cambridge University Press, 1996.

*God Made Man, Man Made the Slave: The Autobiography of George Teamoh*, ed. F. Nash Boney, Richard L. Hume, and Rafia Zafar. Mercer University Press, 1992.

### Administrative experience

\* Faculty Director, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, 2017-  
Supervise the selection of each entering cohort of this Mellon Foundation funded honors program. Conduct the semester-long seminar for both cohorts (juniors and seniors), instructing students in research methods, writing annotated bibliographies and seminar papers, analysis of critical and secondary sources, supervise in-class writing sessions. Provide students with guidance on graduate application process and academia; host special sessions with the university librarians, the Digital Humanities Workshop, and visiting alumni and scholars. Advise individual students as needed on their course work for Mellon, related classes, and academic careers. Liaison with College dean regarding the administration of the program, including assistance with short and long-term planning, whether financial or logistical. Meet with Arts & Sciences faculty to publicize and promote the program.

\*Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusiveness, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. 2011-2014. Promoted and maintained the recruitment and retention of a diverse graduate cohort. Directed the Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship Program (CGFP), a premier fellowship that provides top-tier financial support and social and professional support to emerging scholars from URM, first-generation college students, and other groups not well represented in the doctoral programs at our university (e.g., candidates from foster care, undocumented backgrounds). Entering cohort ranged between six and ten per year; numbers range in the mid-thirties or somewhat higher, depending on year). Duties included the selection of a selection committee

with faculty from both the Danforth and the Medical Campuses and the oversight of a two month long selection process. Served as liaison between the graduate fellows and their respective home units, which could be in Arts & Sciences or the schools of Medicine, Sam Fox School of the Arts, or Engineering. Oversaw the CGFP budget (approximately \$750K). Coordinated and directed the selection of the University's annual Edward Bouchet Honorary Society members. Arranged for and organized prospective graduate student visits from various undergraduate programs (e.g., the McNair Program, Target H.O.P.E.). Developed other areas of recruitment and retention for the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, including veterans. One assistant director; one shared administrative assistant. See <http://pages.wustl.edu/cgfp>

\* Director, African & African American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis-- to a position of increased prominence. Enlarged the number of tenure-stream faculty, converting temporary positions to full-time, either lecturer or tenure stream; reorganized the major and minor requirements to ensure a diasporic view of African peoples; supported our successful post-doctoral fellowship program; helped stabilize the study abroad program in Kenya. Faculty included tenure stream (two tenured, up to five tenure-track), a lecturer in languages, and post-doctoral fellows selected annually. Two administrative positions, work-study assistants as needed.

\* Co-chair, the American Studies Association 2004 annual convention. One of three co-chairs named by ASA President Shelley Fisher Fishkin. Duties involved selection and supervision of a dozen member Program Committee, supervision of relations between the association's Executive Director and the Program Committee, processing and selection of hundreds of paper and proposal applications, and oversaw city-specific and convention activities.

\* Director, Honors Program for the Washington University Department of English, 2007-2010. Supervised the selection of the entering cohort. Conducted the inaugural seminar for seniors writing 60-plus page theses. Class reviewed historical and critical approaches to literary studies; conferenced with the subject librarian; and hosted weekly group writing sessions and workshops. Advised individual students as needed.

\* Member, Ad-Hoc Committee on the Professionalization of PhDs, the Modern Language Association. Multi-year (2000-2002) committee that gathered and analyzed information on the professionalization of doctoral candidates; co-authored a 'white paper' on this crucial issue. (See publications.)

\* Walt Whitman Distinguished Fulbright Chair to the Netherlands. Spring 2007. Showcased American Studies scholarship on an international level as the through undergraduate and graduate lecturing, faculty advising, guest lectures.

\* Recruiter of prospective graduate students in the Humanities at the Summer Institute for Literary and Cultural Studies (SILCS) program at Wheaton College and the Andover Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers (IRT) program. (2012, 2013)

\* Provider of evaluations of the scholarship of peers and beginning scholars, referee for internal and external grant competitions as well as tenure and promotion reviews, and member of external department review committee.

\* Chair and member of numerous professional organization committees, including the MLA divisions on 19<sup>th</sup> century American literature and Ethnic Studies in American literature, and in the American Studies Association the National Executive Committee and Nominating Committees.

\* Developed curricula, both in English and African American studies, at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Professional development

HERS Leadership Training for Women in Higher Education, Denver, June 19-July 1, 2017.

Mellon Vertical seminar in the Digital Humanities. Washington University in St. Louis. Spring 2014.

American Council of Education, Office of Women in Higher Education  
Eastern Michigan Regional Leadership Forum, April 28-30, 2010

Articles, reviews, etc.

“Arturo Schomburg’s culinary diaspora”, *African American Review*, special issue on Schomburg, forthcoming 2020.

Review of Kelley Fanto Deetz’s *Bound to the Fire: How Virginia’s Enslaved Cooks Helped Invent American Cuisine*. *The Common Reader*, forthcoming 2018.

“The Birth of African American Writing”, *Times Literary Supplement Online*, December 14, 2016. <http://www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/public/birth-african-american-writing/>

“Carver’s Food Movement” *The Common Reader* May 2015.  
<https://commonreader.wustl.edu/c/carvers-food-movement/>

Review of Alice Julier’s *Eating Together: Food, Friendship, and Inequality*, in *Food and Foodways: Explorations in the History and Culture of Human Nourishment*. Volume 22, Issue 3, 2014.

“Elegy and Remembrance in the cook books of Edna Lewis and Alice B. Toklas”, MELUS Winter 2013.

Review of *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 55:4 (2010). African American Literary Studies: New Texts, New Approaches, New Challenges. Eds. Glenda Carpio and Werner Sollors. Universitätsverlag Winter Heidelberg. Belles Lettres, September/December 2012.

Review of *In Other Women’s Kitchens*. by Rebecca Sharpless, *Gastronomica*, Spring 2012.

“1778: The Manumission of Phillis Wheatley”. In *A New Literary History of America*, edited by Werner Sollors and Greil Marcus. Harvard University Press, 2009. Paperback reprint 2012.

“Teamoh and Douglass: Anxieties of Influence in the postbellum slave narrative.” *Commonplace* (January 2009); <http://www.common-place.org/vol-09/no-02/>

Review of *The Tenth Muse. My Life in Food*. By Judith Jones. Knopf, 2007. *Belles Lettres*, Fall 2008.

“Back Talk: Of Print and Primogeniture, or, the Curse of Firsts”, *African American Review*, (40) Spring 2007. The entire issue, *The Curse of Caste: Reclaiming Julia C. Collins, Forgotten 19th-century African-American Author*, was awarded Best Special Issue Journal Award (2007), Council of Editors of Learned Journals.

“Recipes for Respect: Black Hospitality Entrepreneurs Before World War I”, in Anne Bower, ed. *African American Foodways*, University of Illinois Press, 2007.

“‘Lifting As We Climb’: Nellie McKay and this Black Woman in the Academy”, *African American Review* (40:1), Spring 2006.

Review of *Hunger Overcome? Food and Resistance in Twentieth-Century African American Literature*, by Andrew Warnes. *Gastronomica* (Summer 2005).

Contributor to the report of the MLA Ad Hoc Committee on the Professionalization of PhDs, “Professionalization in Perspective.” *Profession*, 187-210 (2002).

“Verses of an ‘Aesthete in Harlem’. The Poems of Langston Hughes.” Review of *The Collected Works of Langston Hughes, Volume One, The Poems: 1921-1940*. Edited by Arnold Rampersad. (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2002). *Belles Lettres* II: 3 (November/December 2002).

“The Signifying Dish: Autobiography and History in Two Black Women’s Cookbooks.” Reprint of *Feminist Studies* essay (see below) in *Food in the U.S.A.: A Reader*, edited by Carole Counihan, Routledge Press, 2002.

“Archives: ‘What Mrs. Fisher Knows About Old Southern Cooking’,” *Gastronomica*, November 2001.

Review of *Spiritual Interrogations* by Katherine Clay Bassard, *African American Review* 34:4 (Winter 2000).

Review of *Juneteenth* by Ralph Ellison, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, June 13, 1999.

“The Signifying Dish: Autobiography and History in Two Black Women’s Cookbooks.” *Feminist Studies* 25:2 (Summer 1999).

Review of *Recipes for Reading*, ed. Anne Bower, *Journal of American History*, (December 1998).

“The Proof of the Pudding: Of Haggis, Hasty Pudding, and Transatlantic Influence.” *Early American Literature* 31:2 (1996).

"Cooking up a Past: Vibration Cooking and Spoonbread and Strawberry Wine," "Ethnic Voices" (Vol. II), ed. by Claudine Raynaud, *GRAAT* 14 [Journal des Groupes de Recherches Anglaises et Americaines de Tours], (1996).

"Overexposed, Underexposed: Harriet Jacobs and Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl." In *Harriet Jacobs and Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl: New Critical Essays*. Eds. D. Garfield and R. Zafar. Cambridge University Press, 1996.

"The Autobiography of The Autobiography." In *God Made Man, Man Made the Slave: The Autobiography of George Teamoh* eds. F.N. Boney, R.L. Hume, and R. Zafar. Mercer University Press, 1992.

"Capturing the Captivity: African Americans among the Puritans," *MELUS* 17:2 (Summer 1991-1992).(Prize winning article; see below.)

"Franklinian Douglass: The Afro-American as Representative Man," in *Frederick Douglass: New Literary and Historical Essays*, ed. Eric J. Sundquist (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990).

"Brown is Beautiful: Jessie Fauset's Brown Bourgeoisie," *Proceedings of the Second Annual W.E.B. Du Bois Graduate Society*, (Cambridge, MA: The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, Spring 1985).

#### Prizes, Fellowships, and Grants

National Endowment for the Humanities Scholar-in-Residence, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library, 2014-2015.

Mellon Vertical Seminar: semester long course with faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students; proposed a web project on African American hospitality. Spring 2014.

Walt Whitman Distinguished Fulbright Chair in American Studies, University of Utrecht (Netherlands), Spring 2007.

Recognition for Excellence in Mentoring, 2005-2006. Awarded by the Graduate Student Senate at Washington University in St. Louis.

Elected to the American Antiquarian Society, June 2005. (Lifetime appointment.)

Choice Outstanding Academic Title 2003: Cambridge History of American Literature, Volume Six (includes "Fictions of the Harlem Renaissance")

Recognition for Excellence in Mentoring, 2002-2003. Awarded by the Graduate Student Senate at Washington University in St. Louis.

Faculty Research Grant, Washington University in St. Louis, September 2001.

Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellow, American Antiquarian Society, July 1999.

Fellow, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University, 1995-1996.

Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship for Minority Scholars, 1995-1996.

Faculty Research Award, Office of the Vice Provost for Academic and multicultural Affairs, University of Michigan, May 1995.

Faculty Recognition Award, Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies and Office of the Vice President for Research, University of Michigan, March 1995.

Travel to conference grant, Office of the Vice Provost for Academic and Multicultural Affairs, University of Michigan, January 1994. Awarded to support my attendance at the "Black Women in the Academy: Defending Our Name: 1894-1994" conference, M.I.T., January 13-15, 1994.

Katharine D. Newman Award, for Best Article in the current volume of MELUS, for "Capturing the Captivity," June 1993.

Faculty grant, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan. Awarded for distinguished service, May 1992.

Travel to international conference grant, Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan, September 1991. Awarded to support my attendance at the Ethnic Voices in Anglophone Countries conference, University of Tours (France), September 27-28, 1991.

Travel to conference grant, Horace Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, September 1990. Awarded to support meeting with my co-editors of "God Made Man, Man Made the Slave": The Autobiography of George Teamoh at the New Orleans American Studies Association convention, November 1990.

Faculty grant, Ford Foundation and Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (University of Michigan), April 1990. For travel to archival sources in Virginia, Boston, and Washington, DC. to further my research on the life and writings of George Teamoh.

Fellow, Virginia Center for the Humanities, Summer 1989. Awarded a one-month residency by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy to begin work on an edition of the autobiography of George Teamoh.

Gaius Charles Bolin Fellow in English Literature, Williams College, 1987-1988.

### Administrative posts

Faculty Director, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, July 2017-

Associate Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2011-2014. Director of Chancellor's Fellows program; charged with developing and expanding diversity initiatives.

Director, Program in African & African American Studies, Washington University in St. Louis, 1999-2003

Director, Honors Program, Department of English, Washington University in St. Louis, 2007-2010.

Co-chair, American Studies Association Annual Convention, 2004.

Professional presentations

Moderator, “Nuts and Bolts of Going on the Job Market in the Social Sciences & Humanities”, Ford Foundation Fellows Annual Meeting, Irvine, CA October 2018.

Invited speaker, Dr. Eve Dunbar’s ACLS lecture series, Department of English, University of Delaware, April 13, 2017.

“The Negro Cooks Up His Past: Arturo Schomburg’s Gastronomica”, African American Intellectual History Conference, March 24, 2017.

“Transformative Leaders: Strategies for Building Change that Will Outlast You”, panelist, Senior Ford Fellows conference, September 25, 2016.

Moderator (two sessions): “Ethnic Studies” and “Special Session on Conference Theme”, Ford Fellows Annual Conference, September 23, 2016.

“An Octoroon”: A conversation with playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, C19 [19<sup>th</sup> Century Americanists] Conference, March 18, 2016.

“Born a slave, died a chef: rethinking the form of the post-bellum slave narrative”, C19 conference, Pennsylvania State University, March 18, 2016.

“George Washington Carver, farm-to-fork dining, and sustainable agriculture.” Faculty workshop, department of History, University of Delaware, Newark DE. April 21 2015.

“Civil Rights & Commensality.” Women Writing Women's Lives Seminar, New York City, April 6 2015.

“Slavery and the Culture of Taste”, panelist, Modern Language Association, Boston, MA, January 2013.

Chair, “Black Poetry, Reading (Re)Publics, and the Performative in Nineteenth-Century America.” Modern Language Association, Seattle, WA January 2012.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar: “Varieties of American Feminisms.” Lectured on African American women authors and activists. Washington University, July 1, 2011.

United Negro College Fund-Mellon seminar. *Across the Disciplines and Around the Table: Rethinking Interdisciplinary Research and Teaching Using Food as a Model*. One of four invited speakers, Spelman College, June 28, 2011.

Phi Beta Kappa and Assembly Series Lecture, “What’s Food Got to Do With It? Meals and Meaning in Civil Rights literature.” April 2011, Washington University in St. Louis.

Organizer and chair, “Picturing Literature: Visualizing 19th century texts”, Modern Language Association convention, Los Angeles, CA. January 2011.

Chair and panelist, “How to mentor—and be mentored.” Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship Conference, Irvine, CA October 2010.

Organizer and presenter of the roundtable: “We can lead them to the water...”: Bringing Sensible Food Theory to Communities. Association for the Study of Food and Society conference, “Food In Bloom”, Bloomington, IN, June 2010.

Presider, “Mysteries of the City”, Modern Language Association annual convention, Philadelphia, December 2009.

Chair and commentator, “Friends, Neighbors, and Social Capital in 19th Century African American Literature,” American Studies Association annual convention, Washington, DC, November 2009. [Did not appear due to death in family.]

Co-convener, “The Ethics of Diet”, symposium at Washington University in St. Louis, September 26, 2008. Chief convener, Dr. Corinna Treitel (History). A day-long series of talks and events with invited speakers Dr. Sidney Mintz (Johns Hopkins, Anthropology), Joan Dye Gussow (Nutrition, Teacher’s College, Columbia University), Warren Belasco (History, University of Maryland, Baltimore County), and Lisa Heldke (Philosophy, Gustavus Adolphus College).

“Black abolitionists in Boston.” Invited talk, Nijmegen University [The Netherlands], April 24, 2007.

“Commensality, cookery, and the Civil Rights era”. One in a lecture series, “The Civil Rights Movement: Fifty Years After”, April 17 2007 at Leiden University [The Netherlands].

“Looking back at ‘Fictions of the Harlem Renaissance’”, ‘Celebrating Sacvan Bercovitch’s Cambridge History of American Literature’ session, Modern Language Association, Philadelphia December 2006.

“Breakfast of Champions. ASA Graduate Students Mentoring Session” American Studies Association Convention, Washington, DC, November 2005.

“A Dyspeptic's Utopia: William Alcott and the Legacy of Vegetarian Reform.” American Studies Association Convention, Washington, DC, November 2005.

“Influence and Anxiety in a Postbellum Narrative: George Teamoh and Frederick Douglass.” The Melville-Douglass Sesquicentennial Conference, New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, MA, June 2005.

“On Contemplating Graduate School.” Address to the City College Fellows, City College of New York (CUNY), March 10, 2005.

Chair, “Authentic Eating”, American Studies Association Annual convention, Atlanta, November 2004.

“Recipes for Respect.” Center for the Humanities, Harvard University, April 22, 2004.

“‘Murder in the Kitchen’: The Dilemma of the Gastronomer”, American Studies Association, Hartford, CT, October 2003.

Guest speaker, Target Hope conference at Washington University, June 2002 and 2003.

Keynote address, Midwest Mellon Fellows conference, Washington University in St. Louis, January 2003.

Co-Chair, Panel on the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Professionalization of PhDs, Modern Language Association, New York, December 2002.

Panelist, Post-Doctoral Humanities, Ford Foundation Fellows Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 5, 2002.

“Mixed signals and broadcast static: Approaches to the professionalization of our doctoral students”, Association of Departments of English conference, June 1, 2002. [Paper read by a colleague as I was ill and unable to attend.]

“With a pinch of salt: Black cookbook authors view nineteenth century race relations” to be presented at the Organization of American Historians, Washington, D.C., April 2002. [Paper read by a colleague; see above.]

Presider, “Pressed for Success,” a roundtable sponsored by the MLA Ad Hoc Committee on the Professionalization of PhDs, Modern Language Association, New Orleans, December 2001.

Chair, “Ethnic Writing in New Orleans: Beyond the Black/White Binary,” Modern Language Association, New Orleans, December 2001.

Presider, “Ethnic Studies in the Twenty-First Century,” a roundtable, Modern Language Association, Washington, DC, December 2000.

Chair, “Reading race in nineteenth century America,” American Studies Association convention, Detroit, October 2000.

“The Princess of Tabanguila: Vertamae Smart-Grosvenor’s Middle Passage,” Crossing Boundaries conference, New York University, September 2000. Earlier version given at MLA, Chicago, December 1999.

“Sin, Salvation, and Syncretism in Spencer Williams’s ‘Blood of Jesus’”, Monuments of the Middle Passage conference, College of William & Mary, May 2000.

“Black Autobiography Without African Americans: The Case of Elizabeth Keckley,” Department of the Humanities, Harris-Stowe College, St. Louis, MO, April 2000.

Chair, “‘Going to Chicago’: Ethnic Lives in the Windy City,” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Chicago, December 1999.

Panelist, “Decision-making for pre-doctoral students in the social sciences,” Ford Foundation Fellows Annual Conference, October 7, 1999, Washington, D.C.

Respondent, “The Role of Political Tolerance in Democratization,” Multiculturalism, Political Tolerance and Democratization conference in honor of the Installation of James L. Gibson as Sidney W. Souers Professor of Government, Department of Political Science, Washington University, September 27, 1999.

Panelist, “Making Early American Studies Matter: Evidence, Discipline, and the Institution,” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, December 1998

Chair, “Ethnic Writing from San Francisco,” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, December 1998.

“Domestic Advice, Racial Etiquette, and a Pinch of Salt: Three Nineteenth Century Black Home Economists,” American Studies Association Annual Convention, October 30, 1997.

Chair, “Processes of Change” panel, Food and Global History Conference, October 25, 1996, Ann Arbor, MI.

Chair and respondent, “Racial Spiriting and Social Reform: Public Memory in Phelps, Hopkins, and Julia Foote,” Nineteenth Century Women Writers Conference, Trinity College and the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Hartford, CT, May 1996.

“Dressing Up and Dressing Down: Elizabeth Keckley’s Behind the Scenes and Eliza Potter’s A Hairdresser’s Experience in High Life,” guest lecture, Departments of English and Black Studies, Dartmouth College, May 1996.

"Cooking Up a Past: Two Black women’s cookbooks." Guest speaker, Culinary Historians of Boston, February 20, 1996. [An earlier version was delivered to the Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor, May 16, 1993.]

Chair, "Moving On: Black Loyalists in the Atlantic World" panel, First Annual Institute of Early American History and Culture conference, Ann Arbor, MI, June 1995.

"Overexposed, Underexposed: Harriet Jacobs's Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl," guest lecture, Departments of English and African American Studies, University of Arizona, April 1995.

"Joel Barlow's 'Hasty Pudding': Columbian Prehistory and Culinary Preference." Modern Language Association Convention, San Diego, CA 1994.

"New Directions in Harriet Jacobs Scholarship." American Studies Association Annual Convention, Boston, November 1993.

"William Wells Brown's Narratives." Guest speaker, English Department, Michigan State University, May 1992.

"William Wells Brown Subverts the Narrative," presented at the Modern Language Association Convention, San Francisco, December 1991.

"Cooking up a past: Vibration Cooking and Spoonbread and Strawberry wine," Ethnic Voices in English Speaking Countries conference, L'Université de Tours [France], September 28, 1991. Invited speaker.

"Sable Patriots, Milky Rhetorics: Joel Barlow and Phillis Wheatley," presented at the Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago 1990.

"Slavery and Self-Representation: The Autobiography of George Teamoh," presented at the Autobiography and Self Representation conference, hosted by the Humanities Research Institute (University of California, Irvine), March 3, 1990.

"Afro-American Literature: Fin de Siècle Beginnings," presented at the American Studies Association convention, Toronto, Canada, November 1989.

"Capturing the Captivity: The Afro-American Subversion of a Genre," presented at the Modern Language Association Convention, New Orleans, December 1988.

"'Children of Loneliness': Anzia Yeziarska's New Wandering Jews," presented at the Modern Language Association Convention, New York City, December 1986.

"Separate But Equal in the Groves of Academe: Putting the Afro- in American Studies," presented at the W.E.B. Du Bois Graduate Colloquium, Harvard University, February 1986.

"The Fall and Rise of Zora Neale Hurston," presented at the New England American Studies Association conference, Hartford (CT), May 1985.

"Brown is Beautiful: Jessie Fauset's Brown Bourgeoisie," presented at the W.E.B. Du Bois Graduate Colloquium, Harvard University, February 1985. Published in the Proceedings of the Du Bois Graduate Society, 1985.

*Media and public appearances, invited talks, and consultations*

University City Public Library, “Masterpieces of Early Black Film: ‘The Scar of Shame’ (1927)”. Introduced film, hosted post-showing discussion of this silent classic. April 6, 2017.

University City Public Library (MO) Big Read: Three Novels by Zora Neale Hurston. Keynote and closing addresses, May and August 2016.

*Story Corps* at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, December 9, 2015. Dual interview with fellow NEH Schomburg Scholar Myra Armstead Young, Lyford Paterson Edwards and Helen Gray Edwards Professor of Historical Studies, Bard University.

*Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl*, documentary. Consultant/participant. September-December 2014. In production. Directed by Julie Dash.

*Harlem on My Plate*, documentary. Participant. Director/Executive Producer Sonia Armstead and Director/Executive Producer Rochelle Brown. Filmed at the Schomburg Center, spring 2015. Premiered at the Schomburg, May 13, 2015.

Keynote address, *Research and Mellon fellows symposium*, May 1, 2015, City College of New York. As a CCNY alumna I waived the speaker’s fee.

Southwestern Illinois Community College 2014 February 2014. Invited speaker for Professor Treasure Redmond’s writing class: “How I Became a University Professor.” Pro bono.

*Created Equal*: National Endowment for the Humanities Sponsored Program on the documentary “The Abolitionists”; invited speaker. Saint Louis Public Library, Central Branch. February 4 2014.

Panelist, Multicultural Leadership Society Educational Forum, United Way of St. Louis, May 2013.

Talk Back: A post-performance presentation and Q&A: Following a 2013 performance of *The Whipping Man* at the St. Louis Black Repertory Theater.

St. Louis Public Library, Julia Davis Branch. Celebration in honor of St. Louis educator Julia Davis. Talk on the role of commensality and the Civil Rights movement, discuss and sign Library of America Harlem Renaissance collection. November 19, 2011.

Interviewed 10/24/2011 on the television show Literati Scene BNNTV (Boston Channel 23) with Smoki Bacon and Dick Concannon.

“Foodie in Academe. A Conversation with Rafia Zafar.” Interview by Jeannette Cooperman. St. Louis Magazine, October 2007, pp. 162-164. <http://www.stlmag.com/media/St-Louis-Magazine/October-2007/A-Conversation-with-Rafia-Zafar/>

Salon met Rafia Zafar (Fulbright Walt Whitman Chair, American Studies program, Utrecht; Christine Otten (schrijfster, zie <http://www.christineotten.nl>); en Marc Bamuthi Joseph (director of performance "Scourge", wo 25 april 21:00 Stadsschouwburg, Douwe Egbertszaal).

“Dishing Up Food for Thought”. Kenneth J. Cooper. Washington University in St. Louis magazine. Winter 2006. <http://magazine.wustl.edu/Winter06/RafiaZafar.htm>

Consultant, for proposed documentary on York, slave on the Lewis & Clark Expedition, Oregon Public Broadcasting, 2006.

Participant, *American Passages: A Literary Survey*, Oregon Public Broadcasting, produced for Annenberg Foundation/Corporation for Public Broadcasting. This multi-part video series will be partnered with Norton, who will coordinate the release of the sixth edition of the Norton Anthology of American Literature with the airing of this program. I appear in the following four episodes: “Becoming American,” “Slavery/Freedom,” “Southern Renaissance,” and “American Rhythms.” Release date: Fall 2002. See <http://www.learner.org/resources/series164.html>

### Related Professional Experience

Book-of-the-Month Club, Reader-editor to editorial consultant: 1980-1982.

Doubleday & Company, Editorial secretary, subsequently promoted to assistant editor: 1976-1980.

### Advisory Councils and Boards and other service to the profession

Co-chair, Senior Ford Foundation Fellows conference, 2020.

Reviewer, Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships, National Academies for Science, Engineering and Medicine, March 2017.

Member, Advisory Council, Library of America. December 2015-

Member, external review committee for the Department of English, Emory University, April 2014.

Advisory Board, Food, Culture, and Society, 2003-2012.

Editorial Board, Food and Foodways, 2002-2011.

Elected member, Executive Committee for the MLA Division on Nineteenth Century American Literature, five year term (final year as chair), 2006-2011.

Elected member, National Council, American Studies Association, 2008-2010.

Invited to serve on the external review committee for the department of English, Wellesley College, fall 2008; declined due to schedule conflicts.

Co-chair, Program Committee for the 2004 annual meeting of the American Studies Association.

Outside evaluator, University of Southern California, Ethnic Studies Program dissertation proposals, June 2003.

Advisory Board, "Black Antislavery Writings, 1760—1829" project, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Ad-hoc committee on the professionalization of graduate students, Modern Language Association, 2000-2002. Contributor to the report of the committee, "Professionalization in Perspective." *Profession*, 187-210 (2002).

Elected member, Nominating Committee, American Studies Association, 1998-2001. Chair, 2000-2001.

Elected member, Executive Committee, MLA Division on Ethnic Studies in Language and Literature; five year term, chair in 2000.

Member, Richard Beale Davis Prize Committee for best essay in Early American Literature, 1997.

#### Manuscript reviewer

Harvard University Press, *Gastronomica*, Columbia University Press, Pennsylvania State University Press, Bedford Books/St. Martin's Press, *MELUS*, *Signs*, *American Studies*, *Food and Foodways*, *Food, Culture, and Society*, University of Michigan Press, University of Iowa Press, Library of America, Cambridge University Press, University of Illinois Press, University of Wisconsin Press, *C19*.

#### External referee

External Reviewer, English department, Emory University, April 2014.

American Antiquarian Society-NEH Long Term Fellowships, Spring 2008.

National Historical Publications and Records Commission, December 2001

University of Missouri Research Board, November 2001

National Endowment for the Humanities, August 1995.

#### Tenure and promotion reviews

Tufts University; Rutgers University; City College of New York (CUNY); University of California, Irvine; Northwestern University; Temple University; Mt. Holyoke College; University of Wisconsin, Madison; University of California, Davis; Portland State University; University of Missouri, Columbia; University of Texas, El Paso; Cornell University; Pennsylvania State University, University College; University of California, Los Angeles; University of Maryland, College Park; New York University; Indiana University; Vanderbilt University. [I have sometimes done more than one evaluation for an institution.]

Courses taught

*Washington University in Saint Louis*

- \*English: Early American Literature
- \*English: Freshman Seminar: Passing
- \*English: Honors Research seminar
- \*English/AFAS/WmSt: Black Women Writers
- \*English/AFAS: African American Literature to the Harlem Renaissance
- \*English/AFAS: African American Literature since the Harlem Renaissance
- \*English/AFAS: Slavery and the Literary Imagination
- \*English/AFAS/JINES: Blacks and Jews in American Literature
- \*English/AFAS: Zora Neale Hurston
- \*English: Race and Ethnicity in American Literature
- \*English: The Harlem Renaissance (undergraduates and graduate students).
- \*AFAS: Capstone seminar in African & African American Studies (for undergraduate majors)
- \*English: Graduate seminar in Early African American Literature
- \*English: Graduate seminar in African American Literature: Canonical Texts, Critical Contexts.
- \*English: Introduction to Literary Study
- \*AFAS: Introduction to African American Studies
- \*English/AmCS: Food in American Literature
- \*American Culture Studies: Introduction to American Culture Studies (graduate)

*Universiteit Utrecht, Walt Whitman Distinguished Fulbright Chair in American Studies  
Spring 2007*

- \*English: The Harlem Renaissance (undergraduate)
- \*American Studies: Food, race, and ethnicity in American Literature (graduate)

*Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, 1989-1997.*

- \*Introduction to American Literature (English)
- \*Introduction to African American Literature (English)
- \*Literature and African-American Culture: The Harlem Renaissance (English/CAAS)
- \*Word of Mouth: Food and Literature in the United States (English)
- \*The American Novel: Identity, Ethnicity, and National Character (English)
- \*Early African-American Literature (English/CAAS)
- \*Contemporary African-American Literature (English/CAAS)
- \*The Slave's Story: History, Memory, Imagination [Topics in African American Literature] (English)

- \*Colonial and Early Republican American Literature  
(English, for first- and second-year graduate students)
- \*Approaches to American Culture (American Culture).
- \*Introduction to Afro-American Studies (CAAS)

Instructor, Williams College. Spring 1988.

\*Black and White in American Literature (English).

*Dissertations completed under my direction, Washington University in St. Louis*

Lauren Barbeau, English department and American Culture Studies. Dissertation title: “Love in Black and White: Interracial Marriage Novels and the Making of Domesticity, Race, and Citizenship in America, 1830-1900”. Defended August 2015. Instructional Services Coordinator, Georgia Southern University.

Abigail Horne, English department; defended August 2012. “Between the Mob and the Noose: The Lynching Intercursor in American Literature and Film”. Assistant professor, Hampden-Sydney College (VA)

Courtney Bates, English Department; doctorate conferred May 2011. Thesis title: “Addressing Each Other: Reciprocal Relationships in American Fan Letters in Mark Twain, Edward Bok, and Willa Cather.” Assistant professor, University of Findlay (OH).

Benjamin Cooper, English department. Doctorate defended fall 2010, awarded May 2011. Dissertation title: “Writing American Soldiers: Nineteenth-Century Varieties of Military Experience”. Defended September 2010. Assistant Professor, Lindenwood University (MO).

Crystal Alberts, English department. Co-directed with Joseph Tabbi (external member, University of Illinois-Chicago). Dissertation title: “The Ourobouros”. PhD 2008. Associate professor, University of North Dakota

Susan Hays Bussey, English department. Dissertation title: “‘Disturbing and Convenient’: Social Status Anxiety and the Racial Discovery Plot in Nineteenth Century America”. May 2003. Associate Professor, Georgia Gwinnett College (GA).

*Dissertation and MFA committees, current and past*

Katie Collins, chair, English department, expected spring 2019.

Hannah Wakefield, member, dissertation committee, English department, May 2018.

Tiffany Player, dissertation committee, History department, May 2018.

Clare Class, dissertation committee member, English department. Defended April 2017.

Kenyon Gradert, dissertation committee, English department. Defended April 2017.

Jonathan McGregor, English Department. Committee member. Defended August 2016.

Alexander Eastman, Romance Languages and Literature, dissertation committee member, “Binding Freedom: Cuba’s Black Public Sphere”, 1868-1916. Defended April 2016. Dartmouth Society of Fellows.

Rickey Laurentiis McGhee, MFA 2013. Committee member.

Nicholas Miller, English Department with certificate in American Culture Studies. PhD, May 2015. Assistant Professor, Rollins College.

Emilie Boone, Art History, M.A. June 2008. Member of the master’s thesis committee. Assistant Professor, New York City College of Technology (CUNY).

Joseph Conway, English department. Committee member, defended August 2008. Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Alabama, Huntsville.

David J. Callon, English department. Member of his dissertation committee. Defended April 2008. On faculty at St. Louis University High School (tenured).

Braden Welborn, received the master’s degree in 2007; educational administration.

Justine Preston, American Culture Studies. Committee member, master’s thesis oral examination in. Topic: “A Town of Their Own” [on planned American Sign language utopian community in South Dakota], December 13, 2006.

Angela Glore, Department of Anthropology. External member of dissertation defense committee, PhD May 2006.

Matt Calihman, English department. Second reader (chair, Gerald Early) of dissertation, “Black Power, Black Arts, and the Memory of European Fascism”, PhD Summer 2005. Associate Professor, department of English, Missouri State University.

Gilles Bissonnette, History department. Second reader (chair, Iver Bernstein) of master’s thesis “Liberation and Confinement: Passing and Racial Transcendence in 1850s America”, defended December 1, 2003. Graduate, UCLA Law School.

Adam Sonstegaard, English department. Member of dissertation defense committee, December 2001, Washington University. Associate professor, Cleveland State University.

Second reader (chair, Gerald Early) of Rebecka Rutledge’s [now Rebecka R. Fisher] Metaphors of Mediation, Comparative Literature, Washington University. PhD, May 2001. Associate professor, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Senior undergraduate thesis directed:

Sherri Gardner, “Zora Neale Hurston: Womanist, Black Feminist”. Department of English, Spring 2017.

Sam Guzik, "Invented History: Mitigating the Holocaust's Trauma through Post-Holocaust Fiction". Department of English, Spring 2010.

*At the University of Michigan*

Committee member (chair, Michael Awkward) of Michelle S. Johnson's *Juju Leaves in the Center of a Whirlwind: African American Nature/Culture Mediations*. University of Michigan. PhD Winter 1994. Founder and executive director, *Playgrown* (non-profit social service organization).

Co-director (with George Bornstein) of Tracy Mishkin's *Black/Irish: Comparing the Harlem and the Irish Renaissances*. University of Michigan. Degree date: Winter 1993. Received tenure at Georgia State College & University but left to pursue a career in private education sector.

Second reader (chair, Michael Awkward) of Sharon Holland's *Qualifying Margins: The Discourse of Death in African-American and Native American Women's Novels*. University of Michigan. Fall 1992. Professor, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

*Mellon and Kling Fellows (undergraduate) advised*

Sherri Gardner, Mellon Fellow, 2015-2017. Research topic: Zora Neale Hurston's recurrent use of folklore.

Ezelle Sanford, III. Merle Kling Fellow, 2010-2012. Research topic: The Civil Rights movement and the desegregation of the medical establishment. Awarded a University of North Carolina MURAP summer research fellowship, 2011. Doctoral candidate, History, Princeton University.

Valerie Wade, Mellon Mays Fellow, Washington University in St. Louis, BA 2008. Served one semester as adviser when Ms. Wade's adviser went on leave. Owner of Lynnfield Historical Consulting, Texas.

Sarah Isabel Geathers, Mellon Mays Fellow, Washington University in St. Louis, BA 2006. Research project: existentialism and racial passing in the fiction of Robert Penn Warren. PhD, University of Pennsylvania (English). Assistant Dean for Academic Diversity, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Columbia University.

Jessica Johnson, Mellon Mays Fellow. Washington University in St. Louis, BA 2004. Research topic: racial identification among Louisiana Creoles. PhD, History, University of Maryland, College Park. Assistant professor, Johns Hopkins University.

Advisees at Universiteit Utrecht

M.A. thesis, second reader: Nina Todorova, "Eroticism in the work of Sandra Cisneros," Spring 2007.

B.A. thesis, director: Suzanne van Huizen, June 2007.

B.A. thesis, director: Stef Buitenhuis, June 2007.

*Service to Washington University*

Committee on Tenure and Promotion, College of Arts & Sciences [elected position], 2018-

Executive Committee, Center for the Humanities, 2018-

Director of Graduate Student Placement Committee, Department of English, 2018-

Faculty speaker, Black Students Alliance Recognition Ceremony, May 2017.

Chair, Graduate and Professional Student Diversity Working Group, Spring 2017.

Chair, Post-doctoral fellow search committee, African & African American Studies, Spring 2017.

Faculty speaker, reception for families of new Black students, August 2016.

Chair, search committee for AFAS Director, 2015-2016.

Academic Freedom committee (elected member), 2015-

James E. McLeod Awards Committee, 2011-2014

Member, Graduate admissions committee, department of English, 2013-2014

Carl Neurether Book Prize committee, graduate student award, spring 2013.

Member, Early American Literature search, department of English, 2011-2012.

GSAS Recruiter, Summer Institute for Literary and Cultural Studies [a four week long program for students under-represented in academia who are interested in doctoral programs in the humanities], Wheaton College, June 24, 2011.

Member, as delegate from English department, WGSS tenure committee Spring 2011.

Interviewer, John Ervin Scholars program, September 2010 (day long interviews).

Member, Olin Fellows selection committee (graduate fellowship for women students), 2008-2010.

The Pregraduate Faculty Advisory Committee, 2009-2010; the committee discussed how to improve the preparation of WUSTL undergraduates for graduate study.

Consultant, Washington University Medical School “BODDY Study”. August 2009 to February 2010. Provided medical school colleagues with a cultural perspective on African American foodways; gave two presentations to their diabetic St. Louis clients.

Director, Undergraduate Honors Program, Department of English, July 2007-June 2010.

Selection committee, William Miles Prize for Best Essay drawing on the Henry Hampton Archives of the Washington University in St. Louis Library. Spring 2010.

Curriculum committee, Department of English, 2009-2010.

FRG (Faculty Research Grant) selection committee, for the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Fall 2008 and Fall 2009.

Member, History Department search in African American history, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. (Two separate searches.)

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Honors Program, reviewer, Spring 2008.

Member, English department undergraduate “spirit” committee, 2008-2009.

Co-chair, Senior Americanist Search Committee, 2007-2008.

Curriculum Committee, English Department, 2007-2008.

Board, Association of Women Faculty, 2005-2007.

Library Council committee member, 2006-2008.

Member, senior Americanist search committee, English department, Fall 2006.

“The how-tos of graduate student success.” Invited speech delivered to all incoming Arts & Sciences graduate students, August 2005 and August 2006.

Faculty speaker, Black Senior Alliance Commencement, May 2006.

Interviewer, John Ervin Scholars program, April 2005.

Interviewer, Chancellor’s Fellowship Program, 2005 & 2006.

Selection committee, AFAS Post-doctoral fellows program, 2005.

Co-chair, American literature search committee, 2004-2005.

Advisory Board, Henry Hampton Civil Rights Archives, 2004-present.

Director, African and Afro-American Studies Program, 1999-2003

Executive Committee (elected position), Department of English, January 2002-June 2003.

Graduate Committee, Department of English, 2001-2003.

Chancellor's Fellows selection committee, 1998-2003.

Member, search committee, open field(s), Department of English, 2001-2002

Member, search committee, position in black Atlantic history, AFAS & History, 2001-2002.

Chair, search committee, African American literature position, AFAS and English, 2000-2001.

Executive Committee, American Culture Studies program, 1999-2003.

Member, search committee, Modernist position, English department, 2000-2001.

Interviewer, John B. Ervin Scholars Program, January 2000.

Selection Committee, Mellon Fellows program, 2000-2001

Executive Committee, Women's Studies program, 1999-2001.

Search committee, African American History position, 1998-1999.

Search committee, Swahili lecturer, 1998-99.

Chancellor's Committee on Hiring a Diverse Faculty, 1998.

University Committee on Diversity, 1998-1999.

Fireside Chat, Ervin Scholars Program, December 1998.

Mellon Fellowship program: guest lecturer, fall 1998, spring 1999, fall 2001.

*Student Academic Honors and Awards*

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University  
Danforth Teaching and Learning Center, 1987.

Addison H. Flournoy Scholarship, Harvard University, 1987-1988.

Harvard Graduate Fellowship, 1984 to 1989.

President's Fellowship, Columbia University, 1983 (declined).

New York State Regents Scholarship, 1971-1975.

National Achievement Scholarship Program, Finalist, 1971.

National Merit Scholarship Program, Commendation, 1971.

*Professional Organizations*

American Association of University Professors

American Studies Association (Life member)

Association for the Study of Food and Society

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

MELUS (Society for the study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States)

Modern Language Association

Organization of American History (Life member)

References available on request

