

OMISE'EKE NATASHA TINSLEY**BIOGRAPHICAL DATA****EDUCATION**

PhD, Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley, 2003

Bachelor of Arts, French, University of California, Berkeley, 1994

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, African and African Diaspora Studies Department, University of Texas-Austin

Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Minnesota, 2010-2012

Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Minnesota, 2005 -2010

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow of Caribbean Literature, Department of Comparative Literature, University of Chicago, 2003-2005

University of California, Berkeley, Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Comparative Literature, 1999-2003

RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY**DISSERTATION**

Thieving Sugar: Reading Eroticism Between Women in Caribbean Literature. University of California, Berkeley, 2003.

Director: Karl Britto, Departments of French and Comparative Literature

BOOKS**In print**

Thieving Sugar: Eroticism Between Women in Caribbean Literature. In the *Perverse Modernities* Series, Ed. Judith Halberstam and Lisa Lowe. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010.

In progress

Ezili's Mirrors: Black Feminism, Afro Atlantic Genders, and the Work of the Imagination. This second book project analyzes constellations of racial, national, sexual, and gender identity in recent Caribbean fiction, film, and performance. Research begun May 2010.

Water, Shoulders, Into the Black Pacific. This work of historical fiction draws from oral histories to imagine intersections of migration, work, and desire experienced by African/Haitian American women who came from New Orleans, Louisiana to Richmond, California to work in Kaiser's shipyards during World War II. Research begun March 2008.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

In print

- "Black Pacific: An Opening." *GLQ (Gay/Lesbian Quarterly)* 18: 2/3: *A Special Issue on Black.Queer.Migration*. Invited and Reviewed.
- "Songs for Ezili: Vodou Epistemologies of (Trans)gender." *Feminist Studies* 37.2 (Summer 2011): 417-436. Invited and Reviewed.
- "Me Hab Me Regan Gown ": Afro-Caribbean Women Contesting And Transculturating Femininities in Nineteenth Century Oral Poetry. *Sargasso: A Journal of Caribbean Literature, Language and Culture* (Summer 2011): 9-23. Invited and Reviewed.
- "Black Atlantic, Queer Atlantic: Queer Imaginings of the Middle Passage." *GLQ (Gay/Lesbian Quarterly)* 14: 2/3: *A Special Issue on Queer/Migration* (April 2008): 191-215. Refereed.
- "Open Roses, Closed Gardens, and Invisible Women: Queering the Tropical Garden in the Poetry of Ida Salomon Faubert." *Canadian Woman Studies/les cahiers de la femme* 23. 2, *Special Issue on Women and the Black Diaspora* (Winter 2004): 52-58. Invited and Reviewed.

Forthcoming

- "Ezili's Hearts: Theorizing Race, Gender, and Desire in Nalo Hopkinson's *The Salt Roads*." *Contemporary Woman Writer: A Special Issue on Caribbean Women*. Invited and Reviewed.

BOOK CHAPTERSIn print

- "What is a *Uma*? Women Performing Gender and Sexuality in Paramaribo, Suriname." *Sex and the Citizen: Interrogating the Circum-Caribbean*. Ed. Faith Smith. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2011: 241-250. Invited and Reviewed.
- "Gender Pirates of the Caribbean: Queering Gender, Race, and Caribbeaness in the Novels of Zoe Valdés and Christopher John Farley." *Hispanic Caribbean Literature of Migration: Narratives of Displacement*. Ed. Vanessa Perez Rosario. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010, 153-170. Reviewed.
- "So much to remind us we are dancing on other people's blood: Moving towards artistic excellence, moving from silence to speech, moving in water, with Ananya Dance Theatre." First author listed. With Ananya Chatterjea, Hui Nui Wilcox, and Shannon Gibney. *Critical Transnational Feminist Praxis*. Ed. Amanda Lock Swarr and Richa Nagar. Albany, SUNY Press, 2010, 147-165. Invited and Reviewed.
- "No Storm to Blow Me Over? Mapping Same-Sex Sexuality in the Other Americas." *Perspectives on the "Other America": Comparative Approaches to Caribbean and Latin American Literature*. Ed. Michael Niblett and Kerstin Oloff. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2009, 125-146. Invited and Reviewed

“Rose is My Mama, Stanfaste is My Papa’: Hybrid Landscapes and Sexualities in Surinamese Women’s Oral Poetry.” In *Caribbean Literature and the Environment*. Ed. Renee K. Gosson, George Handley, and Elizabeth De Loughrey. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2005, 169-181. Reviewed.

“*Mati* and Mangoes: Metaphor and Theories of Woman-Woman Desire in Joanna Werners’ *Amba: vrouw van het Surinaamse erf*. “ In *Janus at the Millennium: Perspectives on Time in the Culture of the Netherlands*. Ed. Johan P. Snapper and Thomas Shannon. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, Inc., 2004, 137-144. Reviewed.

CREATIVE AND NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

“Introduction” to *Anthologie Secrète*, the collected works of Ida Faubert. Montréal: Mémoire d’encrier, 2007, 5-7. Invited.

“Summer and the Seven Paths of Yemayá.” In *Spirited: Black LGBT Writers on Spirituality*. Ed. Lisa Moore. Washington DC: Redbone Press, 2006, 323-334.

“*Mati*.” In *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Folklore*. Ed. Anand Prahlad. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2005, 352. Invited.

CREATIVE PERFORMANCES

Water, Shoulders, Into the Black Pacific, reading from creative work in progress, University of Oregon, Eugene, May 2008.

Daak: Call to Action, Original Poetry and Soloist, Ananya Dance Theatre, The Southern Theatre, Minneapolis, June 2008.

Pipaasha: Extreme Thirst. Ensemble Dancer and Workshop Organizer, Ananya Dance Theatre, The Southern Theater, Minneapolis, September 2007.

Duurbaar: Journeys Into the Horizon, Ensemble Dancer, Ananya Dance Theatre, The Southern Theater, Minneapolis, September 2006.

Nappy Grooves, The Bay Area’s Black Drag King Troupe, Choreographer, 2005.

INVITED LECTURES, 2005-2010

“To Create Beyond Need’: Black Feminism, Caribbean (Trans)gender, and the Work of the Imagination.” “Queering the Archive, Archiving the Queer”: Ninth Annual Lecture Series in LGBT Studies. University of Maryland, April 2011.

“To Create Beyond Need’: Black Feminism, Caribbean (Trans)gender, and the Work of the Imagination.” University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, April 2011.

- "'To Create Beyond Need': Black Feminism, Caribbean (Trans)gender, and the Work of the Imagination." Department of Ethnic Studies Speakers Series, University of California, San Diego, February 2011.
- Featured Speaker and Workshop Participant, Black. Queer. Diaspora Symposium, Yale University, April 2009.
- "Queer Migrations: Queering the Black Atlantic," University of Oregon, Eugene, Projects of Queer Studies Research Series, May 2008.
- "This Sudden Silence: Excavating the Voices of Caribbean Women Who Love Women." LGBTQ Colloquim Series, Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, New York, March 2007.
- "Queering the Black Atlantic and the Blue Caribbean: Navigating Desire in the Work of Ana Lara, Thomas Glave, and Dionne Brand." Department of Women's Studies, University of California, Berkeley, November 2006.
- "Words, Not Whispering: A History of the Literature of Caribbean Women Who Love Women." Other Voices Speaker Series, University of California, Berkeley, February 2006.
- "Black Atlantic, Queer Atlantic: An International Framework for Black Queer Studies." Keynote Speaker Address, Black Queer Studies Conference, Northwestern University, January 2006.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, 2005-12

- "Ezili's Hearts: Theorizing Race, Gender, and Desire in Nalo Hopkinson's *The Salt Roads*." Thirty-sixth Annual Caribbean Studies Association Meeting, Willemstad, Curacao, June 2011.
- "Dancing with Ezili; Afro-Caribbean Religions and Haitian Representations of Gender Fluidity," Twenty-third Annual Haitian Studies Association Conference, Brown University, November 2010.
- "Songs for Ezili: Vodou Epistemologies of (Trans)Gender," Invited Speaker, Transnationalizing LGBT Studies Conference, Syracuse, New York, September 2010.
- "Dancing with Erzuli: Afro-Caribbean Religions and Haitian Representations of Gender Complexity," Thirty-fifth Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Bridgetown, Barbados, June 2010.
- "Gender Pirates of the Caribbean: Queering Gender, Race, and Region in Caribbean Fiction," Thirty-fifth Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Bridgetown, Barbados, June 2010.
- "Desiring the Blue Lagoon: Queering Gender, Race, and Region in Caribbean Fiction," Diversity Through the Disciplines Symposium, University of Minnesota, April 2010.

- “Dark Beauty, Shadowy Femmes: Obscuring the Politics of Visibility in the Poetry of Ida Faubert,” Invited Participant, Markings: Blackness and Global Culture Workshop, University of Indiana, Bloomington, August 2009.
- “‘Me Hab Me Regan Gown’: Contesting and Transculturating Afro-Caribbean Femininities in Nineteenth-Century Oral Poetry,” Thirty-fourth Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Kingston, Jamaica, June 2009.
- “She Emerged from the Waters, Whole and Broken: Caribbean Desires in Ana-Maurine Lara’s *Erzulie’s Skirt*,” Thirty-fourth Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Kingston, Jamaica, June 2009.
- “‘We Have No Ancestry Except the Black Water’: Intersections of Race and Desire in Narratives of the Middle Passage,” Race in the Modern World Conference, Goldsmith’s University, London, April 2009.
- “Caribbean Eruptions,” Panel Chair, Séismes/Seismic Shifts: 20th and 21st-Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium, University of Minnesota, March 2009
- “Dancing with Fayalobi: Women Performing Hybrid Sexuality in Paramaribo, Suriname,” Dance Studies and Global Feminisms: Congress on Research in Dance 41st Annual Conference, Hollins University, Virginia, November 2008.
- “When Waters Dance: Fluidity and Identity in Ananya Dance Theatre’s *Duurbaar*,” Dance Studies and Global Feminisms: Congress on Research in Dance 41st Annual Conference, Hollins University, Virginia, November 2008.
- “Blue Flowers, Shadowy Femmes: Obscuring the Politics of Visibility in the Poetry of Ida Faubert,” Sixth Annual Cultural Studies Association Conference, New York University, May 2008.
- “Queer Migration,” Salon Presentation for *GLQ 14:2/3*, Sixth Annual Cultural Studies Association Conference, New York University, May 2008.
- “What is a *Uma*? Women Performing African Diaspora Sexuality in Paramaribo, Suriname,” Race, Sex, Power: New Movements in Black and Latina/o Sexualities, University of Illinois, Chicago, April 2008.
- “Where the Atlantic Meets the Caribbean in a Wet Blue Embrace: Caribbean Challenges to Black Queer Studies.” Los Angeles Queer Studies Conference, University of California, Los Angeles, October 2007.
- “When Waters Dance: Hybrid Bodies and Women of Color Community in Ananya Dance Theatre.” Association of Asian American Studies Conference, New York, April 2007.
- “‘We Have No Ancestry Except the Black Water’: Intersections of Race and Desire in Narratives of the Middle Passage.” Invited Speaker, No Language is Neutral: An International Conference on Dionne Brand, University of Toronto, October 2006.
- “Dilemmas, Contradictions, Limitations, and Possibilities of Transnational Feminisms and Collaborative Praxis.” Panel Discussion led by Chandra

- Talpade Mohanty and Linda Peake, Towards a Transnational Feminist Praxis: A Workshop, University of Minnesota, September 2006.
- "What is a *Uma*? Women Performing Gender and Sexuality in Paramaribo, Suriname." Thirty-first Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference, University of the West Indies, Trinidad, June 2006.
- "Queering the Black Atlantic: Intersections of Race and Desire in the Creative Narratives of Dionne Brand and Ana Lara." Theorizing African/Black Diaspora: History and Memory, DePaul University, May 2006.
- "In Other Waters: Imagining a Black Queer Atlantic." Invited Speaker, Variations on Blackness Conference, University of Indiana, Bloomington, March 2006.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- Steering Committee Member, Diasporic Hegemonies IV: Artists Activists Academics On the Uses of Diaspora, University of Minnesota, June 26-28, 2009.
- Conference Co-Organizer, Queer Motions: Local and Global Sexualities, Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Minnesota, April 4-5, 2008.
- Symposium Organizer, Queer Islands? LGBT Literature in the Caribbean, University of Chicago, April 15-16, 2005.

TEACHING

INSTRUCTION

University of Minnesota

- ENGL 3350: "'All Women Everywhere?': Postcolonial Women Writers in the 21st Century." Fall 2011.
- ENGL 8530: "'Nothing Less Than Another System of Value': Postcolonial Feminism and the Work of the Imagination." Spring 2011.
- ENGL 3400H: "Re-Imagining the American Tropics: American Imperialism and Literary Representation." Spring 2011.
- ENGL 1301W, "Other Americas: Approaches to Multicultural American Literatures." Fall 2010, Fall 2011.
- ENGL 1905, "Global Childhoods: Growing Up Around the World, A Freshman Seminar." Fall 2010.
- DNCE 5493/ENGL 5090/ENGW 5130, "Corporealities, Movement, and Social Justice: Staging 'Equitable' Choreographies." Spring 2009.
- ENGL 8400, "The Postcolonial Amazonian: Corporality, Gender, and Sexuality in Caribbean Literature." Fall 2008.
- ENGL 3400, "(Post)Colonies and the American Tropics: Literatures of the 'Other Americas' and U.S. Overseas Territories." Fall 2008.

ENGL 3300, "Reading the American Tropics: Multicultural Literatures of the 'Other America' & U.S. Overseas Territories." Fall 2007.

ENGL1401W, "Brave New Worlds: Reading Literatures of Globalization." Fall 2005, Fall 2007, Fall 2009.

ENGL 3330, "Strange Pasts and Twisted Histories: An Introduction to Global LGBT Literature." Spring 2007.

ENGL 8090, "Fluid Identities: Postcolonial, Queer, and Postcolonial Queer Identity." Fall 2006.

ENGL 3002, "Theorizing Currents, Practicing Fluidity: An Introduction to Modern Literary Theory." Fall 2006, Spring 2007.

ENGL 3400/5400, "Committed Literature in the Feminine: Postcolonial Theory and Third World Women's Literature." Spring 2006.

ENGL 3960, "Rewriting Colonial Fictions: British and Postcolonial Literature." Fall 2005.

University of Chicago

Comparative Literature 2200, "Caribbean Literature: Charting Landscape and Literary History." Winter 2004.

Comparative Literature 3200, "Caribbean Literature: Corporality, Eroticism, Identity." Spring 2004.

Comparative Literature 3250, "Caribbean Women's Literature: Postcolonial Theory and Women's Novels." Spring 2005.

University of California, Berkeley

Comparative Literature 40, "Whores and Other Feminists: Reevaluating Sex Work in World Literature." Spring 2003.

Comparative Literature 1A, "Written in the Margins: Alternative Perspectives on American History in Literature." Fall 2002.

Comparative Literature 1B, "On the Other Side of the Line: Passing and Cross-Dressing in World Literature." Spring 2002.

Comparative Literature 1A, "Body Politics: Reading Sexuality and Politics in World Literature." Fall 2001.

Comparative Literature 1A, "Unwelcome Guests, Inhospitable Hosts: Migration in World Literature." Fall 2000.

GRADUATE ADVISING

Dissertation Defenses

Ryan Cartwright (American Studies), *Peculiar Places: A Queer History of Rural Nonconformity*. Fall 2011.

Nicholas Hengen (English), *Texts as Tactics: How People Practice Politics with Books*. Spring 2011.

Naomi Wood (Spanish), *Ciphering Nations: Performing Identity in Brazil and the Caribbean*. Spring 2011.

Catherine Merla Watson (American Studies), *Spectral Materialisms: Colonial Complexes and the Insurgent Acts of Chicana/o Cultural Production*. Spring 2011.

Angela Galick (American Studies), *Queer Texts and the Cold War: How Nationalism and Domesticity Shaped US Lesbian and Gay Writing, 1945-1960*, Spring 2009.

Manisha Nordine (English), *Jammin' With Resistant Music and Popular Culture in Bob Marley's "Jah'Public"*, Spring 2007.

PhD Examinations

Eunha Na (English), Fall 2011.

Seonna Kim (English), Spring 2011.

Karla Padron (American Studies), Spring 2011.

Sarah Boardman (French), Spring 2011.

Daniel Arbino (Spanish), Fall 2010.

Jasmine Mitchell (American Studies), Spring 2010.

Patricia Connolly (Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies), Spring 2010.

Elakshi Kumar (Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies), Spring 2010.

Naomi Wood (Spanish), Spring 2009.

Renee DeLong (English), Fall 2008.

Nicholas Hengen (English), Fall 2008.

Steven Koskela (English), Fall 2008.

Ryan Cartwright (American Studies), Fall 2008.

Xiumei Piu (Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies), Spring 2008.

Cathryn Watson (American Studies), Spring 2008.

Taiyon Coleman (English), Fall 2007.

Angela Galik (American Studies), Spring 2006.

Masters' Examinations

Sarah Boardman (French), Spring 2007.

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

Honors' Thesis Director

Jennifer Aubrecht (English), Spring 2010.

Louise McLarnan (English), Spring 2008.

Elizabeth Smith (English), Spring 2008.

Danielle Kasprzak (English and American Studies), Spring 2007. Honorable Mention, American Studies Thesis Prize.

Honors' Thesis Reader

Anna Knutson (English), Spring 2007.

Jennifer Coleson (English), Spring 2007.

Bachelor of Individual Studies Paper Advisor

Takawi Peters, Fall 2008.

Multicultural Summer Opportunities Research Program Advisor
Brandy Thomas (Paine College), Summer 2007.

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Member, Graduate Affairs Committee, Fall 2011-Present.
Member, Merit Review Committee, Fall 2010-Present.
Faculty Adviser, Voices from the Gaps/VG, 2006-Present.
Organizer, "Honoring Carol Miller: A VG/Voices from the Gaps Event With Heid Erdrich," April 2009.
Co-Organizer, "Voices From the Gaps - Tenth Anniversary Celebration":
Readings by LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs and Ana-Maurine Lara, April 2007
Member, Faculty Affairs Committee, 2008-Present.
Member, Grievance Committee, 2008-Present.
Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2006-2008.
Member, Undergraduate Scholarship Committee, 2006-2008.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS SERVICE

Member, Advisory Committee for Critical Dance Studies Minor, 2008-Present.
Convener, Performance and Social Justice Research Collaborative, Institute for Advanced Study, 2007-Present.
Member and Conference Organizer, Global Sexualities Research Collaborative, 2006-Present.
Member, GLBT Studies Minor Advisory Committee, 2006-Present.
Member, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Working Group, 2006-Present.
Member and Event Organizer, Faculty of Color Initiative, 2005-Present.
Member, English Chair Search Committee, Fall 2008-Spring 2009.
Member, Committee for Curriculum, Instruction, and Advising, 2007-2008.
Member, Schochet Advisory Board, 2007-2008.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

"Corporeal Knowledge and Pedagogy." With Ananya Chatterjea, Jasmine Tang, and Hui N. Wilcox. Invited presentation to the Association of Twin Cities Colleges Women's Studies Consortium, College of St. Catherine, November 2008.
"What is a Woman? Of Color?." Workshop organized for Ananya Dance Theatre and Women's Environmental Institute, June 2007.
"Race and Queer Theory." LGBT Diversity Forum, Kaiser Permanente of Northern California, November 2006.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Literary Association
 American Comparative Literature Association
 Caribbean Board of the International Resource Network, Center for Lesbian and
 Gay Studies
 Caribbean Studies Association
 Congress on Research in Dance
 Cultural Studies Association
 Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars
 Association of Asian American Studies

NATIONAL SERVICE

Participant, First Regional Meeting of the Caribbean Region of the International
 Resource Network, Kingston, Jamaica, June 2009
 Manuscript reviewer, Duke University Press
 Manuscript reviewer, *Feminist Studies*
 Manuscript reviewer, *GLQ*
 Manuscript review, Routledge Press
 Manuscript reviewer, *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism*

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Internal

Imagine Grant, University of Minnesota, 2010: \$5,000
 Grant-in-Aid, University of Minnesota, 2009-2011: \$12, 543.
 Imagine Grant, University of Minnesota, 2009: \$3,000.
 Institute for Advanced Study, Residential Fellowship, Spring 2010: \$15, 750.
 Tools for Discovery Technology Grant, 2008-2009: \$10,094.
 President's Multicultural Grant, University of Minnesota, 2007-2009: \$13,750.
 IDEA Grant, University of Minnesota, 2008: \$5,000.
 Single Semester Leave, University of Minnesota, Spring 2008: \$31,500.
 Faculty Research Funds, University of Minnesota, 2007-2010: \$10,000.
 McKnight Summer Fellow, University of Minnesota, 2006: \$10,000.
 Franke Institute for the Humanities Fellow, University of Chicago, 2003-2004
 Humanities Research Grant, University of California, Summer 2003: \$3,000.
 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, University of California, Summer
 2000: \$3,500.

National

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Chicago, 2003-2005: \$70,000.
 Taalunie Queen Beatrice Fellow, University of California, 2000-2001: \$6,000.

REFERENCES

Judith Halberstam, Professor of English, American Studies and Ethnicity, and Gender Studies, University of Southern California, Taper Hall of Humanities 407, 3501 Trousdale Parkway, University Park, Los Angeles, California 90089-0354 Phone: (213) 821-1169. Email: halberst@email.usc.edu

Faith Smith, Associate Professor of English, Brandeis University, 415 South Street Waltham, MA 02453-2728. Phone: 781-736-2094. Email: fsmith@brandeis.edu

E. Patrick Johnson, Professor of Performance Studies and African and African American Studies, Northwestern University, Annie May Swift Hall, 1920 Campus Drive, Room G08, Evanston, IL, 60208. Phone: 847-467-2756. Email: e-johnson10@northwestern.edu

Gloria Wekker, Professor of Gender Studies, Faculty of the Humanities, University of Utrecht, Muntstraat 2a, 3512 EV, Utrecht, The Netherlands. Phone: +31-(0)30-253.78.46. Email: G.D.Wekker@uu.nl