

Rachel Warner

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Education

Ph.D. English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (anticipated) May 2022
Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies

B.A. English and Psychology, Wesleyan University May 2014
Certificate in Cognitive Psychology

Dissertation

"Inverts, Tomboys, and Drag Kings: Female Masculinities in Modernist American Literature and Culture, 1890-1940"

Ranging across textual representations of cross-dressing blues singers, virile frontierswomen, and sexually inverted characters, my dissertation identifies the queer and transgender history of female masculinity in modernist American literature and culture. More specifically, I demonstrate how the specter of (trans)masculine womanhood often served as a critical juncture for advancing anti-heteronormative intimacies, malleable racial formations, and diverse forms of queer gender. I thus interpret the lives and literary output of Willa Cather, Gladys Bentley, Djuna Barnes, and Carson McCullers as fundamentally intervening in the modern construction of non-normative sexuality and gender. I contend that such writers' representations of female masculinity served as alternative sites for the creation and dispersion of sexual and gender subjectivities outside of a strictly medicalized paradigm. Overall, I contend that cultural tropes of female masculinity are central to the racial, gendered and sexual complexity of Anglo-American high modernism and the Harlem Renaissance.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Publications

"Zora Neale Hurston in North Carolina: Drama, Education, and Contemporary Activism." *North Carolina Literary Review*, no. 29, August 2020, pgs. 150-163. Winner of the Paul Green Prize

"A Winged but Grounded Bird?: Morrison's Mixed Treatment of Animality in *The Bluest Eye*." *Society & Animals: Journal of Human-Animal Studies*. (published online ahead of print July 2021).
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/15685306-bja10041>

Book Chapters

"A Crisis in (Female) Masculinity: *My Antonia* and the Imaginative Recreation of the Western Frontier." *The Routledge Companion to Masculinity in American Literature and Culture*, edited by Lydia Cooper and Joana Conings, Routledge, November 2021, pp. 53-63.

"The Poems and the Dances of the Shades?: Destabilizing Psychological Theories of Grief in *The Year of Magical Thinking*." *Death Within the Text: Social, Philosophical and Aesthetic Approaches to Literature*, edited by Adriana Teodorescu, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019, pp. 10-27.

Research & Teaching Interests

Women's & Gender Studies | 20th Century American Literature | Transgender Studies | Modernist Studies | Health Humanities | Animal Studies | Queer of Color Critique

Fellowships, Grants & Awards

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UNC Graduate School	2021-22
Eliason Dissertation Summer Research Fellowship, UNC ECL Department	2020
MLA COVID-19 Emergency Grant, Modern Language Association	2020
Graduate Student Travel Fund, UNC ECL Department	2020
Paul Green Prize, <i>North Carolina Literary Review</i>	2019
Student Learning Circle Grant, UNC Center for Global Initiatives	2019
Winchester Fellowship, Wesleyan University	2018
Deborah W. Shelton Endowment for Graduate Travel Awards, ECL Department	2018
Winchester Fellowship, Wesleyan University	2017
Albrecht B. Strauss SAMLA Awards Fund	2016
Graduate Student Travel Fund, UNC ECL Department	2016

Conference Participation

Conferences Convened

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – King's College London Exchange. Sponsored by: The Institute of Arts and Humanities. Chapel Hill, NC. August 2018. Co-organized with Trisha Remetir (UNC-CH) <http://configurationsofireweb.unc.edu/>

Health Humanities Exchange. Sponsored by: Center for Bioethics, Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, Department of Social Medicine, Institute of Arts and Humanities, Center for Genomics and Society, School of Nursing, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, School of Social Work. Chapel Hill, NC. November 2016. Co-organized with Jennifer Stockwell (UNC-CH) <https://hhex.web.unc.edu/>

Panels Organized

"Health, Medicine, and Literature: Critical Intersections." Modern Language Association Annual Conference. Washington, D.C. Scheduled January 2022. Papers to be presented: Suwendu Ghatak (U of Florida), "Malaria and Mutiny: Picturesque Pathogeny in British India"; Patrick Allen (Culver-Stockton C), "Nothing Made Them Change Their Minds about the Medical Industry": Medical Abuse, Incarceration, and Healing in Toni Morrison's *Home*"; Iseult Gillespie (U of Wisconsin, Madison), "Beyond the Medical Model: A Crippled, Transfeminine Treatment Protocol in *Weed Killer* and *The Summer of Her Baldness*."

"Transnational Approaches to Transgender Studies." National Women's Studies Association Virtual Conference. Scheduled November 2021. Papers to be presented: Rachel Warner (UNC-CH), "Deterritorializing Gender in Jeffrey Eugenides' *Middlesex*"; Willa Dong (UNC-CH), "Conceptualizing Stigma Against Transgender Women in China"; Qingfei Zhang (U of Kentucky), "Trans* in Migration: Occidentalism in Contestation."

Selected Papers Presented

"Truman Capote, Carson McCullers and the Polymorphous Perverse Tomboy." Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Meeting. January 2021.

“Transmasculinity and the ‘Femme Witness’ in Maggie Nelson’s *The Argonauts*.” Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Meeting. January 2021.

“Print Media and Narratives of American Nationalism in Colson Whitehead’s *The Underground Railroad*.” Society for the Study of Multiethnic Literature (MELUS) Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. March 2020. (Cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic).

“A Crisis in (Female) Masculinity: *My Antonia* and the Imaginative Recreation of the Western Frontier.” Kentucky Gender & Women’s Studies Conference. Lexington, KY. September 2019.

“Sexual Inverts, Tomboys, and Inverted Women: Exploring Literary Female Masculinities, American Masculinity, and Discourses of Female Sex/Gender Pathology.” Configurations of Empire Works-in-Progress Conference. King’s College, London. August 2019.

“Changing Bodies, Changing Selves: Feminism, Materiality, and Maternity in Maggie Nelson’s *The Argonauts*.” American Literature Association (ALA) 29th Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA. May 2018.

“Exploring the Humanimal in Toni Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye*.” University of North Carolina at Greensboro English Graduate Student Association Conference. Greensboro, NC. February 2018.

“‘I don’t think the world likes women much’: Racialized and Queered Motherhood in Suzan-Lori Parks’s *In the Blood*.” American Society for Theatre Research. Atlanta, GA. November 2017.

“Re-Envisioning Dr. Matthew O’Connor: A Trans/Feminist Reading of Djuna Barnes’s *Nightwood*.” Feminist Geography Conference. Chapel Hill, NC. May 2017.

“Literature and the Five Stages: A Medical Humanities Perspective on Grief.” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). Boston, MA. March 2016.

Invited Talks

“Female Masculinity in American Literature and Culture: Or, How to Do Things with Trans*.” UNC LGBTQ Center, LGBTQIA+ Speaker Series. Sponsored by: The Graduate School. Oct. 2020.

“Masculine Women and Queer Modernity.” UNC Department of English and Comparative Literature, Graduate Student Lecture Series. (Rescheduled for fall 2021).

Guest Lectures

“Transmasculinity, Mortality & Queer Family Making in *Southern Comfort*.” Guest Lecture for CMPL 144: Engaging Film and Media: Independent Cinema & the American South. Sep. 2020.

“On Letting Go: Death and Dying in the Postmodern Era.” Guest Lecture for ENGL 268H: Honors Literature, Medicine, and Culture. Nov. 2019.

“Empathy and Its Discontents: On Leslie Jamison’s *The Empathy Exams*.” Guest Lecture for ENGL 268H: Honors Literature, Medicine, and Culture. Sept. 2019.

Teaching

Instructor of Record

English 105: Rhetoric and Composition Summer 2021
This fast-paced summer course offers a condensed version of first year composition taught fully online over a five-week period.

English 148: Horror: From Silent Cinema to Contemporary Literary Horror Spring 2021
This course covers a long history of horror cinema and literature from the early twentieth century to contemporary period and considers how the horror genre functions vis-à-vis race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, class, and national belonging.

English 105: Rhetoric and Composition Fall 2020
Offered through the Correctional Education Program at UNC-CH, this asynchronous, self-paced correspondence course teaches first year rhetoric and composition to incarcerated students at Dan River Work Farm in Blanch, NC.

English 105: Rhetoric and Composition Spring 2020
Offered through the Correctional Education Program at UNC-CH, this onsite learning course teaches freshman composition to incarcerated students at Johnston Correctional Facility in Smithfield, NC.

English 140: Introduction to Gay and Lesbian Literature and Culture Spring 2019
This introductory course to queer literature and culture foregrounds an intersectional approach to diverse representations of non-normative gender, sex, and sexuality.

English 105i: Writing in Health and Medicine Fall 2018 & Spring 2018
This course is designed for students interested in pursuing careers within the health sciences. It thus emphasizes discipline-specific genres including policy reports, literature reviews, and oral presentations.

English 105: Rhetoric and Composition Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, & Spring 2020
This course prepares first year students to write on the college level across three major academic disciplines: Natural Sciences, Social Sciences (or Business), and Humanities.

Teaching Assistant

Comparative Literature 144: Engaging Film and Media Fall 2020
This course, subtitled “Independent Cinema and the American South,” explores films made outside of Hollywood that seek to represent the diversity and complexity of the contemporary South. In this viewing-intensive class, students explore films that address the relationship between the American South and the Global South and discuss issues such as diasporic identities, migration, and transnational culture in weekly recitation sections.

English 268H: Literature, Medicine, and Culture Fall 2019
This course is an introduction to the growing interdisciplinary field known as the health humanities. Over the course of the semester, students investigate the close affinities among literary representation, the health sciences, and clinical practice and share their findings through weekly recitation sections.

Service to Profession

Mentor to Undergraduate Writing Coaches, Virtual Prison Writing Center, fall 2021-present
Judge, Undergraduate Writing Contest, Dept. of English and Comparative Literature, spring 2021
Panelist, "How to Write the First Chapter of Your Dissertation," DGS Workshop, spring 2021
Graduate Research Consultant, English 250: Faulkner, spring 2020
Co-Director, [Literature, Medicine, and Culture Colloquium](#), 2016-2017; spring 2020-present
Writing Coach, UNC-CH Writing Center, fall 2017
Member, Configurations of Empire Reading Group, 2016-present
Research Assistant/Web Designer, Health and Humanities Lab at UNC-CH, 2015-2017
Kim-Frank Fellow, Wesleyan Writing Programs, 2014-2015
Writing Tutor, Wesleyan Center for Prison Education, 2013-2014
Writing Tutor, Wesleyan Writing Programs, 2012-2014

Professional Memberships

National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)
Modern Language Association (MLA)
Modernist Studies Association (MSA)
American Studies Association (ASA)
American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)
Society for the Study of Multiethnic Literature (MELUS)
Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW)
Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA)

Languages

Reading knowledge of Spanish

References

Heidi Kim
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