

**Cedric R. Tolliver**  
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## **EMPLOYMENT**

Associate Professor of English, University of Houston, September 2017 - Present

Assistant Professor of English, University of Houston, September 2010 – August 2017

## **EDUCATION**

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**, Philadelphia, PA  
Ph.D. in Comparative Literature & Literary Theory, 2009

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**, Philadelphia, PA,  
M.A. in Comparative Literature & Literary Theory, Examination in Literary Theory, 2007

**SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE**, Bronxville, NY  
B.A. with Concentration in French and Literature, 1998

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*Of Vagabonds and Fellow Travelers: African Diaspora Literary Culture and the Cultural Cold War*, Class : Culture Series, University of Michigan Press, October 2019

“The Fragmented Heart of Blackness: the Congo Crisis in African American Culture and Politics” *Neocolonial Fictions of the Global Cold War*, Eds. Joseph Keith and Steven Belletto, University of Iowa Press, June 2019, pp. 38-56.

“The Racial Ends of History: Melancholic Historical Practice in Pauline Hopkins’ *Of One Blood*.” *Arizona Quarterly* 70.1 (Spring 2015): 25-52.

“Introduction: Alternative Solidarities.” *Alternative Solidarities: Black Diasporas and Cultural Alliances During the Cold War*. Special issue of *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* 50.4 (August 2014): 379-383.

Co-editor with Monica Popescu and Julie Tolliver, *Alternative Solidarities: Black Diasporas and Cultural Alliances During the Cold War*. Special issue of *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* 50.4 (2014).

“Making Culture Capital: *Présence Africaine* and Diasporic Modernity in Post-World War II Paris.” *Paris, Capital of the Black Atlantic: Literature, Modernity, and Diaspora*. Eds. Jeremy Braddock and Jonathan Eburne. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013, pp. 200-222.

Book Review. "Speaking the Language of Diaspora," *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies*, 12.2 (April 2011): 235-247.

Review Article. "Anchoring Black Diasporic History," *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies* 9.3 (July 2008): 343-350.

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

"Weapon of Criticism: 1918," for inclusion in *Cambridge African American Literature in Transition, vol. 1910-1920* Nicole A. Waligora-Davis, Vol. Editor, Series Editor Joycelyn Moody.

"The Perfect Beat": Paul Beatty's *Slumberland* and the Tragicomedy of Black Freedom, journal article

## **AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS**

NEH ODH Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities, "Space and Place in Africana/Black Studies: An Institute in Spatial Humanities Theories, Methods and Practice for Africana Studies," 2016

American Comparative Literature Association Helen Tartar First Book Subvention Award, 2016

Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in American Literature, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 2013-14

New Faculty Research Program Award, University of Houston, 2013

QEP Curriculum Development Grant Program, University of Houston, 2012

American Council of Learned Societies/Mellon New Faculty Fellow, 2010 (declined)

Pre-doc/Post-doc Fellowship, Africana Research Center, The Pennsylvania State University, 2009-10

Fontaine Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2003-07 & 2008-09

Fulbright Teaching Assistant, Lycée Georges Cuvier, Montbéliard, France, 1998-1999

## **INVITED TALKS**

"Black Matters in the Program Era: The Black Writer in Neoliberal Times," Black Matters: The Futures of Black Scholarship and Activism (inaugural Black Studies conference), UT, Austin, September 2016

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Studies Association, Atlanta, Panel: The Emergence of African States and the Black Transnational Imagination, “Mercer Cook: A Man of Letters, Language, and the US Cold War State,” November 2018.

Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Panel: Unhomely Narratives: Migration and Displacement in Black Diaspora Literature, “No Place to Call Home: Paul Beatty’s *Slumberland* and the Forms of Black Freedom,” January 2017

Beyond Area Studies: Africa and the Global Cold War, McGill and Concordia Universities, Montreal, QC, Canada, “Raising Ghosts: the African Diaspora and Cold War Cultural Front,” April 2015

American Comparative Literature Association, New York, Panel: African Diaspora Literature and Comparative Capital, “Thinking through Capital: a consideration of Alexis’s *General Sun, My Brother* and Lamming’s *In the Castle of My Skin*,” March 2014

African Americans, ‘Race’ and Diaspora International Conference, Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier, France, “The Season’s Discontent: Césaire’s *Une saison au Congo*, Lumumba and African America,” June 2013

International Conference: Diasporas and ‘Race,’ Wake Forest University, “A Peculiar Situation: Race, Diaspora, and African Liberation in a Cold War Context,” October 2012

American Literature Association, San Francisco, Panel: Resistance, Radicalism, and Modernism in African American Photo-Texts, “*Here I Stand*: Domestic Containment of Black Radicalism during the Cold War,” May 2012

Futures of American Studies Institute, “State(s) of American Studies,” Dartmouth College, “Black Radical Stance: Paul Robeson, Lloyd L. Brown and Cold War Culture,” June 2011

American Comparative Literature Association, New Orleans, Panel: Alternative Solidarities, “Tragedy’s Rebirth: Westernized Colonial Elites Navigate the Cold War,” April 2010

Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Panel: New Directions in Black Autobiography, “Black Radical Theses: Paul Robeson’s *Here I Stand* and the Cold War,” December 2009

Modernist Studies Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, Canada, Panel: Caribbean Cosmopolitanism, “Cosmopolitanism Under Arrest: Reading James Reading Melville,” November 2009

Africana Research Center, Emerging Scholars Speakers Series, Penn State University, “To Be Black, Radical, and Free: Richard Wright, African Diasporic Cosmopolitanism, and the Cold War,” January 2009.

Modern Language Association, San Francisco, Panel: Langston Hughes, American Intellectuals, and the Loss of Civil Liberties in the McCarthy era: Global Dimensions, “Standing Together to Face Giants: African Diaspora Culture and the Cold War,” December 2008

International Richard Wright Centennial Conference, American University of Paris, “Richard Wright: Searching for Home in a Cold (War) World,” June 2008

American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, “Comparative Blackness I” Seminar Participant, “Blackness at the Center,” April 2008

Richard Wright’s Legacy: A Pre-Centennial Celebration, Temple University and University of Pennsylvania, “Richard Wright: Searching for Home in a Cold (War) World,” October 2007

Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas, Tepoztlán, Mexico, Panel Moderator, “Roots, Grits and Fronteras,” August 2007

Graduate Romanic Association’s 2007 Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Romance Languages, “*L’Occident dévoilé*,” March 2007

Disciplines: History and Anxiety, University of Pennsylvania, Program in Comparative Literature, Respondent to Bruce Robbins’s “Anxieties of Legitimation,” April 2006

African Scholar for the Day, Kwame Anthony Appiah, University of Pennsylvania, African Studies Center, Respondent on “Conceptions of Africa in the Production of Knowledge” Panel, April 2006

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**, Department of English, Houston, TX

Special Problems, ENGL7398: “Spirituality, Occultism, and the Gothic in Contemporary African-American Literature and Music,” Fall 2018

Lecture, ENGL3351: “Survey of American Literature since 1865,” Fall 2018

Lecture, ENGL2330: “Writing in the Discipline of English,” Fall 2018

Lecture, ENGL2330: “Writing in the Discipline of English,” Spring 2018 (2 sections)

Lecture, ENGL3360: “Survey of African American Literature,” Fall 2017

Lecture, ENGL2330: “Writing in the Discipline of English,” Fall 2017

Lecture, ENGL3363: “Masterpieces of African American Fiction, Spring 2017

Lecture, ENGL2330: “Writing in the Discipline of English,” Spring 2017

Seminar, ENGL8384: “African American Fiction,” Fall 2016

Lecture, ENGL2330: “Writing in the Discipline of English,” Fall 2016

Lecture, ENGL3363: “Masterpieces of African American Fiction, Spring 2016

Lecture, ENGL2330: “Writing in the Discipline of English,” Spring 2016

Independent Study in English, ENGL4398: “Zora Neale Hurston,” Fall 2015

Lecture, ENGL3360: “Survey of African American Literature,” Fall 2015

Special Problems, ENGL7398: “The Literariness of Slave Narratives” Spring 2015

Lecture, ENGL3301: "Introduction to Literary Studies," Spring 2015  
Lecture, ENGL3363: "Masterpieces of African American Fiction, Spring 2015  
Seminar, ENGL8384: "African American Fiction," Fall 2014  
Special Problems, ENGL7398: "Slave Narratives of the Southwest," Fall 2014  
Lecture, ENGL3360: "Survey of African American Literature," Fall 2014  
Lecture, ENGL3301 (Hybrid): "Introduction to Literary Studies," Spring 2013  
Lecture, ENGL3363: "Masterpieces of African American Fiction, Spring 2013  
Seminar, ENGL8384: "African American Fiction," Fall 2012  
Lecture, ENGL3360: "Survey of African American Literature," Fall 2012  
Lecture, ENGL3301: "Introduction to Literary Studies," Spring 2012  
Lecture, ENGL3363: "Masterpieces of African American Fiction, Spring 2012  
Lecture, ENGL3301: "Introduction to Literary Studies," Fall 2011  
Lecture, ENGL3360: "Survey of African American Literature," Fall 2011  
Lecture, ENGL3396: Special Topics: "African Diasporic Literature and Cold War Culture," Spring 2011  
Lecture, ENGL3360: "Survey of African American Literature," Fall 2010

#### INTELLECTUAL SUPERVISION

##### *Dissertation Committees*

Chriscia Jackson.

Adrienne Perry. *See Through Girls: A Novel in Progress*. Creative Writing, Defended April 2018

Jeffrey Villines. *Normative Disruptions: The Diegetic Reading of Anachronism in Twentieth-Century American Novels*, Literature, Defended April 2018

Meera Jagannathan. *Poetics of Dislocation: Comparative Cosmopolitanism in Flora Tristan, Charlotte Brontë, and Toru Dutt*, Literature, Defended March 2018

Selena Anderson. *There You Are*. Creative Writing, Defended March 2017

Reese, Gary. *Cold War Transnationalism: Appropriation and Resistance in African and U.S. Southern Literature*. Literature, Defended May 2012

Flowers, Quincy. *Canebrake*. Creative Writing, Defended December 2011.

##### *Undergraduate Research*

Mia Valdez, Mellon Summer Research Opportunity, "The Past, Present, and Future of African and Mexican American Identity and Relations in South Texas"

Vinh Hoang, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow, "Writers of Color and the Creative Writing Program Era"

Brandie Demars, Senior Honors Thesis, "Black Lesbian Identity in African American Literature"

*PhD Exams*

Donna Pauley, Fall 2018

Fiction, Spring 2018, One Examinee

American Literature II, Fall 2017, One Examinee

Fiction, Spring 2016, Two Examinees

American Literature II, Fall 2015, Two Examinees

American Literature II, Fall 2014, Two Examinees

American Literature II, Spring 2013, Two Examinees

American Literature II, Fall 2011, Three Examinees

Contemporary Literature, Fall 2011, One Examinee

American Literature II, Spring 2011, Three Examinees

**MCGILL UNIVERSITY**, Department of English, Montreal, QC, Canada

Seminar, ENGL419: "Studies in Twentieth-Century Literature: African Diasporic Literature and Cold War Culture," Spring 2014

**Haverford College**, Haverford, PA

Faculty Tutor and Mentor, the Writing Center, Fall 2007 – Spring 2009

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**, Philadelphia, PA

Seminar, "The Whodunit," College of General Studies, Summer 2007

Seminar, "Expressions of Diaspora," Critical Writing Program, Fall 2005 & Spring 2006

Teaching Assistant, "Narrative Across Cultures," Professor Roger Allen, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Spring 2005

Teaching Assistant, "Introduction to Literature," Professor Tina Lu, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Fall 2004

**SERVICE**

DEPARTMENT

*Committees*

Lower Division Committee (appointed), Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Houston Endowment Committee (elected), Fall 2018 – Spring 2020

Planning Committee (elected), Fall 2017 – Spring 2019

Lower Division Committee (appointed), Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

Technology Committee (appointed), English Department, University of Houston, Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

Graduate Studies Committee (appointed), English Department, University of Houston, Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

Elections, Rules, and Grievance Committee (elected), English Department, University of Houston, Fall 2012 – Spring 2013

Planning Committee (elected), English Department, University of Houston, Fall 2011 – Spring 2013

Upper Division Committee (appointed), English Department, University of Houston, Fall 2010 – 2013

#### *Graduate Studies*

“Academic Job Materials,” series of presentations/workshops, Fall 2015

“The Campus Interview,” Informal Talk w/Graduate Students, Dec. 5, 2012

#### UNIVERSITY

Participant in Group Pilot for UH ADVANCE ally training program, September 2018

Organizer, Write-on-Site for Mellon Undergraduate Research Scholars, Summer 2018

Mellon Scholars Bootcamp, co-presenter, Conducting Humanities and Interdisciplinary Research, May 2018

Respondent, National Book Award Winner Robin Coste Lewis’ Reading, February 2016

Translator, Celebration of African Literature, Conversation between Alain Mabanckou & Julie Tolliver, MCL, November 2014

Cougar Connection, Recruitment dinner for top African-American students admitted to UH and their parents, Spring 2013

At-Large Senator, Faculty Senate, University of Houston, Fall 2012-Fall 2014

#### COLLEGE

Member, CLASS Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Committee, Fall 2017-Spring 2019

#### PROFESSIONAL

MLA, CLCS Global South Forum, Executive Committee, Jan. 2018 – Jan. 2023

Mid-Atlantic Graduate Student Delegate, Delegate Assembly, Modern Language Association, 2011-13

Research Assistant, African Studies Center, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2007 – Spring 2008

Graduate Fellow, Africana Studies Summer Institute for Pre-Freshmen, University of Pennsylvania, August 2006 & 2007

One of three coordinators of the Latitudes Reading Group, English Department University of Pennsylvania, 2005-2006

One of four coordinators of the Theorizing lecture series, Program in Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania, 2004-2005

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

African American Literature and Culture Society  
American Comparative Literature Association  
American Studies Association  
Modern Language Association

## **LANGUAGES**

English – native; French – near-native fluency; Spanish – reading proficiency

## **REFERENCES**

### **Mat Johnson**

Professor of English and Creative Writing  
Department of English  
1286 University of Oregon  
1415 Kincaid St.  
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### **David Kazanjian**

Professor of English and Comparative Literature  
University of Pennsylvania  
Department of English  
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### **Bill Mullen**

Professor of American Studies  
Purdue University  
Department of American Studies  
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### **Monica Popescu**

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### **Nicole Waligora-Davis**

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Rice University  
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Houston, TX 77005  
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