

JUSTIN SMITH
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EDUCATION

Dual-Ph.D., English and African American Studies, Pennsylvania State University (in progress, degree expected May 2023)

Dissertation: “Racial Paraconstructions: Black Political Identities in Literature, 1892-1931”

Committee: Dr. Shirley Moody-Turner (chair), Dr. Tina Chen, Dr. Aldon Nielsen, and Dr. Cynthia Young

M.A., English, Pennsylvania State University, May 2019

B.A., English; B.A., Creative Writing; Political Science (minor), Canisius College (Buffalo, NY), Magna Cum Laude, All College Honors, GPA 3.90, January 2017

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

“Subjective Limits of Imagination: Race, Gender, and Sex in the Archives,” in *Asexualities: Feminist and Queer Perspectives*. 10th year anniversary edition, Routledge, forthcoming 2024.

“‘[T]he happiest, well-feddest wolf in Harlem’: Asexuality as Resistance to Social Reproduction in Claude McKay’s *Home to Harlem*,” *The Erotics of Asexualities and Nonsexualities*, special issue of *Feminist Formations*, vol. 32, no. 3, 2020, pp. 51-74, DOI: [10.1353/ff.2020.0040](https://doi.org/10.1353/ff.2020.0040).

SHORTER ARTICLES

“Creating & Re-creating Virtual Community on Douglass Day,” co-written with Dr. Jim Casey and Courtney Murray, *Scribes*, special issue of *Startwords*, no. 2, 2021.

“The Changing Horizons of Black Utopia: Political Potentials in Black Modernism,” *Black Lives Matter and Modernist Studies*, special issue of *The Modernist Review*, vol. 25, 2020.

BOOK REVIEWS AND REVIEW ESSAYS

“Review Essay| Race in the Space Between,” *The Space Between: Literature and Culture 1914–1945*, vol. 17, 2022 (solicited).

“*Black for a Day: White Fantasies of Race and Empathy*, by Alisha Gaines,” *The Black Scholar*, vol. 50, no. 4, 2020, pp. 86-88, DOI: [10.1080/00064246.2020.1811610](https://doi.org/10.1080/00064246.2020.1811610) (unsolicited).

WORKS UNDER REVIEW/IN PROGRESS

“Black Universalism: Race Science and Colorblindness from *Plessy v. Ferguson* to Today,” (under review, *MELUS*).

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS

- “Douglass Day,” Crowdsourcing and the Humanities: Roundtable Discussions
Celebrating Scribes of the Cairo Geniza, Princeton University, presented with Dr. Jim Casey and Courtney Murray, 15 April 2021.
- “Douglass Day,” The University of Maryland, Dr. Victoria Van Hyning’s Outreach, Inclusion, and Crowdsourcing seminar, presented with Dr. Jim Casey, Dr. Christopher Willoughby, and Courtney Murray, 6 November 2020.

PANELS ORGANIZED

- “The Roundtrip of Black Migration in Dunbar and Du Bois,” African American Literature and Culture Society sponsored panel, American Literature Association, Chicago, ILL, 26-29 May 2022.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Claude McKay and Borderless Blackness,” LLC African American Forum sponsored panel, Modern Language Association, Washington, D.C., Zoom, 6 January 2022.
- “‘[T]he happiest, well-feddest wolf in Harlem’: Asexuality as Resistance to Social Reproduction in Claude McKay’s *Home to Harlem*,” National Women’s Studies Association, Minneapolis, MN, Zoom, 19 November 2021.
- “The Roundtrip of Black Migration: Modernist Subversion in Dunbar’s *The Sport of the Gods* and Du Bois’s *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*,” Modernist Studies Association, Chicago, IL, 4 November, 2021 (Cancelled due to COVID-19).
- “Neither/Nor Blackness: Larsen’s Call to Desegregate and the Radical Potential of Quicksand’s Racial Thematics,” The Space Between Society, Virginia Commonwealth University, Socio, 4 June 2021.
- “Undisputed Dignity: Preserving Anna Julia Cooper’s Legacy Through Her Archives,” In Her Own Right Symposium, The Philadelphia Area Consortium for Special Collections Libraries, Zoom, 18 March 2021.
- “Douglass Day: Centering Community in Black Digital Projects,” Keystone DH, Philadelphia, PA, 8-10 July 2020 (Cancelled due to COVID-19).
- “Black on Black Critique: Pauline Hopkins, Ida B. Wells, and the Social Construction of Blackness through Print Culture,” Northeastern Modern Language Association, Boston, MA, 6 March 2020.
- “Black Political Identity at the End of the World,” Memory, Tragedy, and Society, Social Thought Conference, University Park, PA, 29 March 2019.
- “Larsen’s Call to Desegregate: The Radical Potential of Quicksand’s Racial Thematics,” Langston Hughes Society sponsored panel, South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Birmingham, AL, 4 November 2018.
- “Defiance as Strength in *Clotel*,” Ignation Scholarship Day, Canisius College, Buffalo, NY, 15 April 2016.

PANELS MODERATED

“Disability’s Natural Environments,” Disability’s Environments Symposium, Center for American Literary Studies, University Park, PA (via Zoom), 14 September 2020.

COURSES TAUGHT**INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD**

AFAM 100, Black Freedom Struggles, Pennsylvania State University (2021, 1 section)

ENGL 15, Rhetoric and Composition, Pennsylvania State University (2018-19, 4 sections)

TEACHING ASSISTANT

ENGL 111, The Possibilities of English, Pennsylvania State University (2019, 1 section)

APPOINTMENTS**DIGITAL LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS**

Scholar, Center for Black Digital Research (2020-2022)

- *Co-chair for crowdsourcing team, using software to aggregate and prepare for publication 14,000+ transcriptions locating Black women’s writing and political participation*
- *Led work uploading csv files, creating and testing workflows, and adding content for Douglass Day 2021-22 (international crowdsourcing transcription project)*
- *Main point of contact for Zooniverse and the Library of Congress for questions regarding their By the People transcription platform*
- *Led a team in creating transcription tutorial videos*

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Research Assistant, Center for American Literary Studies (2019-20)

- *Edited html to update the Center website and wrote articles for the Center website*

HONORS/AWARDS

Center for American Literary Studies Funding for Graduate Travel to Research Collections, 2022

- *Funds for travel to Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale University*

African American Studies Department Mini Grant, 2021 (Pennsylvania State University)

- *Funds for research travel to Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library at Emory University’s Woodruff Library*

Featured Alumnus, Canisius College, 2021-22

- *Profiled as part of the college’s promotional material to accepted students*

English Graduate Organization Travel Grant, 2019 (Pennsylvania State University)

- *Conference travel*

Enhanced Graduate Scholar Award, 2017 (Pennsylvania State University)

- *One year fellowship to facilitate research*

Leslie C. Warren Award, 2017 (Canisius College)

- *Graduating English major with highest GPA*

Sigma Tau Delta; President, Xi Chi Chapter, 2014-2017

- *English Honor Society, Canisius College*

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Algee, Lauren and Carlyn Osborn. "Reflecting on the Mary Church Terrell transcribe-a-thon with the Douglass Day team," *The Signal*, 20 Aug. 2021.

Williams, Mattie. "Transcribe Cooper," *Into the Zooniverse: People-Powered Research*, vol. 2, 2020, p. 43.

SCHOLARLY SERVICE

Social Media Officer, African American Literature and Culture Society, 2022-Present

- *Maintain social media for AALCS*

Graduate Alliance for Diversity and Inclusion, Research Award Selection Committee, 2022

- *Selected award recipients based on scholarly research related to social justice*

C19 2020: Dissent, Digital Conference Fellow (Pennsylvania State University)

- *Responsible for technical support to panelists across multiple video hosting sites*

First Book Institute 2020 (Pennsylvania State University)

- *Provided technical support for the virtual institute; gave feedback on chapters of participants' books*

Center for American Literary Studies Spring Symposium Planning Committee, 2020 (Pennsylvania State University)

- *Helped select speakers, served as a panel moderator, and recorded minutes*

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Recruitment Volunteer, 2018-Present

- *Met with prospective and newly admitted students in one-on-one and group settings each year to assist in departmental recruitment efforts*

Social Committee, Graduate Alliance for Diversity and Inclusion, 2018-Present (Pennsylvania State University)

- *Helped plan social events designed to maximize inclusivity, such as game nights, holiday dinners, and social gatherings in accessible spaces*

Mentor, Cooper DuBois Program, 2017-Present (Pennsylvania State University)

- *Worked with prospective majority-Black students to help them decide where to pursue their graduate education*

Invited Panelist, ENGL 501, Materials and Methods of Research, 2020-2021

- *Participated in the annual panel of advanced graduate students to present remarks to first-year graduate students*

M.A. to Ph.D. Panel, 28 September 2021

- *Presented remarks for first and second-year graduate students about moving from the M.A. to Ph.D. portion of their graduate studies*

Dual-Title Workshop, 20 September 2021

- *Presented remarks for first, second, and third-year graduate students about applying for a dual-title in one of Penn State's three dual title programs*

Comprehensive Exam Workshop, 30 April 2021

- *Presented remarks for pre-A.B.D. graduate students about preparing their comprehensive exams*

Modernist Studies Workshop, 2020-2021

- *Helped bring in guest speaker (Dr. Benjamin Kahan) and organize reading groups*

English Graduate Organization Internal Liaison, 2020-2021 (Pennsylvania State University)

- *Helped assemble Mentoring Cohorts and maintained the English Graduate Organizations email listserv*

African American Studies, Racial Disposability and Cultures of Resistance conference volunteer, 2019 (Pennsylvania State University)

- *Helped attendees register and navigate the conference center and schedule*

Mentoring Buddy, Mentoring Program, 2018-2021 (Pennsylvania State University)

- *Served as a mentor for incoming graduate students*

Education Committee, Black Graduate Student Association, 2018 (Pennsylvania University)

- *Helped plan a mock conference for undergraduate and graduate students to practice presenting research*

MLK Award Selection Committee, 2017 (Canisius College)

- *Nominated by my peers to help select a student and a faculty member that embodied social justice values to receive Canisius College's annual MLK award*

DIGITAL COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Chair of Zooniverse Digital Project Development Team, 2019-2020 (Pennsylvania State University)

- *Coordinated the Zooniverse transcription platform team; oversaw creation of csv files and workflows used by approximately 3000 transcribers for 7000+ transcriptions of Anna Julia Cooper's archival writing*
- *Resolved technical questions from team members and transcribers*
- *Attended the day of event at Howard University, presented on how to transcribe, and provided technical support in real time*

Douglass Day Planning Committee, 2019 (Howard University)

- *Helped make initial decisions about how to utilize the Zooniverse digital transcription platform*

Anna Julia Cooper Digital Project, 2018 (Pennsylvania State University)

- *Conducted archival research in digital databases to contribute to the Anna Julia Cooper Digital Project*

Colored Conventions Project, 2018 (Pennsylvania State University)

- *Conducted archival research in digital databases to contribute to the Colored Conventions Project*

DIGITAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS ATTENDED & SKILLS

Introduction to Digital Archiving; instructed by Jennifer Isasi, The Pennsylvania State University, Office of Digital Pedagogy and Scholarship (2022) – *Skills: Omeka, Dublin Core Standard*

Getting What You Came For: Leveraging DH Skills as a Graduate Student; instructed by Colin Rose, sponsored by Sawyer Seminars and the Committee for Early Modern Studies, The Pennsylvania State University (2021) – *Skills: ArcGIS Mapping*

Reading from a Distance: Corpus Analysis with AntConc; instructed by Heather Froehlich, The Pennsylvania State University, College of the Liberal Arts and University Libraries (2021) – *Skills: AntConc, Corpus Analysis*

Reading from a Distance: On-the-Fly Data Visualization with Voyant Tools; instructed by Jennifer Isasi, The Pennsylvania State University, College of the Liberal Arts and University Libraries (2021) – *Skills: Voyant Tools, Data Visualization*

Zooniverse Workshop – Douglass Day 2020: Transcribe Cooper; instructed by Sam Blickhan, Howard University (2019) – *Skills: Zooniverse, Digital Crowdsourcing*

DReAM (Digital Resources and Methods) Lab - Minimal Computing: Nimble Projects for Shaping and Sharing Histories; instructed by Alex Gil and Marii Nyrop, The University of Pennsylvania (2019) – *Skills: Command Line Interface, Website Development with Wax, html, csv files/metadata, Atom, Github*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

African American Literature and Culture Society	2022-Present
Modern Language Association	2021-2022
Modernist Studies Association	2021-2022
National Women's Studies Association	2021-2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate Student Caucus • Asexuality Studies Interest Group 	
The Space Between Society	2021-2022
Northeastern Modern Language Association	2019-2020
South Atlantic Modern Language Association	2018-2019
Langston Hughes Society	2018-2019

REFERENCES

Dr. Shirley Moody-Turner

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Dr. Tina Chen

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Asian American Studies
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Founding Director, Global Asias
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Dr. Jim Casey

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Dr. Ianna Hawkins Owen

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African American Studies
Senior Fellow at the Center for Black,
Brown, and Queer Studies
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