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PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS HELD

Assistant Professor, English Department, College of St. Benedict|St. John's University, 2007 – present.
Lecturer, English and Comparative Literature Departments, Penn State University, 2006 – 2007.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English Literature, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, May 2006.
M.A. in English Literature, University of Maryland at College Park, May 2001.
B.A. in English Literature and Religious Studies, Brown University, May 1994.

BOOK PROSPECTUS

Ethiopia and American Literature: A Transnational and Multiethnic Genealogy

American literature has consistently used the word “Ethiopian” to refer to all descendants from Africa living in North America and the Caribbean. Ethiopia eventually became a symbol for Pan-African liberation. This symbolic Ethiopia and what some scholars have called an “Ethiopianist” discursive tradition is quite disconnected from the political and cultural reality within the modern nation state of Ethiopia, which is a complex and dynamic state of more than eighty ethnicities and languages. My book is the first to analyze Ethiopianism by situating it within the context of Ethiopian history and the first to attend to the debates among Ethiopian historians. It performs a genealogical critique of Ethiopianism in American literature starting with the New England Puritans in the seventeenth century and concluding with contemporary Ethiopian-American writers of the twenty-first century—traversing such canonical figures as Cotton Mather, Phillis Wheatley, Frederick Douglass, Walt Whitman, and W. E. B. Du Bois, and Alice Walker.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Journals and Edited Volumes

“Taxing Tobacco and the Metonymies of Virtue: the Poetics of Thomson, Browne, Byrd, and Cooke.” *Global Economies, Cultural Currencies of the Eighteenth Century*. Ed. Michael Schwartz. New York: AMS Press, Inc., forthcoming. ms. 32 pp.

“The New James Bond and Globalization Theory, Inside and Out,” *CineAction* 78 (2009): 32-39.

“Doctoring Ideology: James Grainger’s *The Sugar Cane* and the Bodies of Empire.” *Early American Studies* 4:1 (2006): 78-111.

Articles in Encyclopedias and Book Reviews

Conference Review: American Literature Association, May 2011. *Early American Literature*, forthcoming.

“Mercantilism.” *Africa and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History: A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia*, vol. 2. Ed. Richard Juang and Noelle Morrisette. Oxford: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 746-8.

“William Byrd, II.” *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Poets and Poetry*. Ed. Jeffrey Gray. Vol. 1. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2006. 223-4.

“James Grainger.” *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Poets and Poetry*. Ed. Jeffrey Gray. Vol. 2. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2006. 636-7.

Review of *Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire*, by Antonio Negri and Michael Hardt, and *Debating Empire*, ed. Gopal Balakrishnan. *Gamma: Journal of Theory and Criticism* 13 (2005): 208-12.

Review of *The Commonplace Book of William Byrd II of Westover*, ed. Kevin Berland, Jan Kirsten Gilliam, and Kenneth Lockridge. *The Southern Quarterly* 41:2 (2003): 148-9.

Articles in Circulation

“Ethiopian History, African-American Literature, and Oromo Identity”
co-authored with Dr. Mohammed Hassen

“The Poetics of Cash Crops and the New Economic Criticism”

Articles in Progress

“The Black Enlightenment and the Network Concept”

“William Byrd II and the Network Concept in the Atlantic World”

“Revising Hawthorne’s *Scarlet Letter* through the Cultural Politics of Single Parenting”

“Remembering Ethiopia’s Red Terror”

Poetry and Fiction Publications

“The Love Song of J. Lender Truetown,” *Headwaters* 27 (2010): 42.

“Soccer Story,” *Storie* 55 (2005): 112-13.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures

“Ethiopia in the American Literary Imagination,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of California, Irvine. January 5, 2011.

“Ethiopia and Harlem Renaissance Drama,” Addis Ababa University Theater Department, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, June 18, 2010.

“Oromo Arts in Diaspora,” Oromo Christian Fellowship Church, Nairobi, Kenya. June 18, 2009.

“Ethiopia in the American Literary Imagination,” Bunkyo Gakuin University, Tokyo, Japan.
May 26, 2009.

“The Oromo Renaissance,” Oromo Fundraiser, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 25, 2008.

National and International Academic Conferences

“The Poetry of Cash Crops and the New Economic Criticism,” American Literature Association Conference. Boston, Massachusetts. May 2011.

“Ethiopian History in African-American Literature,” MELUS Conference. Boca Raton, Florida.
April 2011.

“Ethiopia, American Literature, and Human Rights,” Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference. State College, Pennsylvania. May 2010.

“Against Gilroy?: The Political Atlantic,” Early American Borderlands Conference. St.
Augustine, Florida. May 2010.

“The Black Enlightenment and the Network Concept,” Society of Early Americanists Biennial Conference. Hamilton, Bermuda. March 2009.

“The Oromo Renaissance within the Marketplace of World Literature,” Oromo Studies Association Conference. Minneapolis, Minnesota. August 2008.

“The Cultural Politics of Single Mothers and The Scarlet Letter Today,” Nathaniel Hawthorne Society Summer Meeting. Brunswick, Maine. June 2008.

“William Byrd and the Tobacco Acts,” Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies: Transatlantic Destinies Conference. Dartmouth, New Hampshire. October 2007.

“Taxing Tobacco and the Metonymies of Virtue.” East Central/American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. October 2006.

“Clubical Liberty’s Fatal Cake.” Society of Early Americanists Fourth Biennial Meeting.
Alexandria, Virginia. March 2005.

“Sex with Earth Angel: Mapping and Un-mapping a Gendered America in the Writing of Columbus, Raleigh, and Donne.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting. University Park, Pennsylvania. March 2005.

“The Specters of the Native and the Purloined Letter of the American Land in *The House of the Seven Gables*.” Nathaniel Hawthorne Society. Salem, Massachusetts. July 2004.

“Critical Pedagogy and American Literature.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention. San Diego, California. December 2003.

“Doctoring Ideology: Sugar, Slaves, and Sailors in the Atlantic World,” McNeil Center Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference on “Roots and Routes.” Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. October 2003.

“The Meaning of Liberty in Mercantilist Culture.” International American Studies Association First World Conference. Leiden, The Netherlands. May 2003.

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“The Ethics of Aid in Ethiopia,” Peace Studies Conference, September 27, 2010.

“Ethiopia in the American Literary Imagination,” Collegial Conversation, October 14, 2009.

“The Ethics of Single Mothers and Hawthorne’s *Scarlet Letter*,” Friday Forum, April 24, 2009.

“The New James Bond and Globalization Theory,” Global Studies Conference, February 7, 2009.

Humanities Division Panel on “Moodle for Non-Moodlers,” March 5 and 12 and April 2, 2008.

Common Curriculum Panel on “Argumentation and Advocacy,” December 4, 5, and 11, 2007.

TEACHING

Courses Taught at The College of St. Benedict|St. John’s University, fall 2007 to spring 2011

ENGL 383: Postcolonial Literature (spring 2010)

ENGL 382: Race and Ethnicity in United States Literatures (fall 2008 and 2009)

ENGL 369: Studies in Advanced Critical Theory: Caribbean Lit and Theory (fall 2010)

ENGL 369: Studies in Advanced Critical Theory: Globalization and American Lit (spring 2010)

ENGL 367: Studies in Contemporary Literature (spring 2008 and 2009)

ENGL 346: Pirates, Puritans, and the Revolutionary Atlantic World (fall 2009 and 2010)

ENGL 346: Survey of American Literature to 1865 (fall 2007 and 2008)

ENGL 315: Professional Writing in Business and Civil Society (spring 2011)

ENGL 286: Introduction to Film Studies (spring 2011)

ENGL 243: Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism (spring 2008 and 2009)

ENGL 130: Reading Fiction (fall 2007)

COLG 280: Japan in Global Context (summer 2009)

FYS 100 and 101: First Year Seminar (2007 – 2012)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Faculty Liaison to the Intercultural Leadership, Education and Development Program, College of Benedict|St. John’s University, fall 2011 – present.

Faculty Senate Handbook Committee, College of St. Benedict|St. John’s University, fall 2009 – Present.

Co-chair of Global Studies Conference, College of St. Benedict|St. John’s University, March 2009 and 2010.

Faculty Senate Subcommittee on Family Friendly Policies and Practices, College of St. Benedict|St. John's University, fall 2008.

Chair of English Department's Curriculum Revision Workshop, English Department, College of St. Benedict|St. John's University, summer 2008.

Modern Language Association Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession, July 2004 – June 2007.

President, Graduate Student Caucus, Modern Language Association, January – December 2005.

Vice-President, Graduate Student Caucus, Modern Language Association. January – December 2004.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Member of International Advisory Board for Sandscribe Communications, March 2009 – present.

Co-editor of on-line magazine *Ogina: Oromo Arts in Diaspora*, June 2008 – present.

Volunteer Tutor for Minnesota Literacy Council, February – June, 2008.