

CURRICULUM VITAE

NOVIAN WHITSITT

Associate Professor of Africana Studies and English

Luther College

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., African Languages and Literature, University of Wisconsin-Madison, May 2000.

Dissertation: Kano Market Literature and the Construction of Hausa-Islamic
Feminism: A Contrast in Feminist Perspectives of Balaraba Ramat
Yakubu and Bilkisu Ahmed Funtuwa.

Committee: Linda Hunter, Harold Scheub, Aliko Songolo, Craig Werner, and
Luis Madeira.

Fulbright Scholar, 1997-98, Field Research conducted in Kano, Nigeria.

M.A., African Studies, University of California Los Angeles, June 1992.

B.S., International Relations, Stanford University, June 1988.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Islam and Africa; Literature of the African Diaspora and Identity; Gender Discourses in
African and African-American Literature and Constructions of Masculinity and
Womanhood; Post-Colonial Theories; African Immigrant Experience in African
Literature; Evolution of American Racial Discourses; 18th and 19th century Black
Intellectual Thought.

Current research - analysis of the genre of slave narratives, constructions of black
womanhood by female slaves, and gendered dimensions of slave agency.

LUTHER COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught:

Literature and Language

English 132: Stories of Place

English 134: Introduction to Fiction

English 147: Literature of the African Peoples

English 185: Blaxploitation Film: Its Birth and Evolution

English/Africana Literature 240: Autobiography of the African Diaspora

English/Africana Literature 240: Nigerian Literatures – A Survey

English 251: African-American Literature – A Survey

English 485: Caribbean Women Writers and Critical Issues in Global
Feminism

English 485: Senior Seminar - The Literary Treatment of Inter-Racial Sexuality in
Literature of the African Diaspora

English 485: Senior Seminar - Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* and Its
Literary Influences

Paideia (Paideia I is a common first-year course that serves as an introduction to the liberal arts education and the skills of critical reading, writing, and conversation; Paideia II courses are capstone courses that explore ethical decision-making. All seniors take a Paideia II course before graduating.)

Paideia I

Paideia II: Race - The American Dilemma

Paideia II: Slavery, Christianity, and Ghanaian Literature,
January-term course conducted in Ghana

Paideia II: Identity Formation in Hip-Hop Culture

Paideia II: The Color of Change: Black Intellectual Thought and Social Change

History

History 44: Modern African History

Honors 30 (Discussion seminar with First-Year students)

LUTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

- Chair of Women and Gender Studies Department, Fall 2007 – Spring 2011
- Faculty Advisor to GLBTA student organization, Fall 2006 – Spring 2007
- Chair of Africana Studies, Fall 2005 – Spring 2006
- College Council, Fall 2003 - Spring 2005
- Diversity Council, Fall 2002 - Spring 2005
- Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents, Fall 2003 - Spring 2005
- Women's Studies Program Board, Fall 2000-2001, Fall 2001- 2002
- International Studies Program Board, Fall 2001-2002, Fall 2002-2003, Fall 2003-2004
- Resources and Action for Diversity (RAD), Fall 1999 to Fall 2000, Co-Chair Fall 2000-2001, Fall 2001-2002
- Coordinator for Diversity Week, Fall 2001
- Paideia I Writing Committee, Fall 2000 – Spring 2001
- Paideia Co-Editor, *The Paideia Reader* (2002-2003, 2003-2004)

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Department of Afro-American Studies—Lecturer, Spring 1994

Department of African Languages and Literature—Teaching Assistant, Fall 1995

Department of African Languages and Literature—Graduate Lecturer, Fall 1996

Courses Taught:

Instructor. Hausa (Second-year level).

Teaching Assistant. The African Autobiography.

Guest Lecturer. Introduction to Afro-American Literature.

HONORS & AWARDS

1991-92: Murphy Fellowship Award, UCLA

1993-94: WARF Fellowship, Wisconsin-Madison

1994-95: AOF Fellowship, Wisconsin-Madison

1994-95: Group Projects Abroad Summer Grant – Kano, Nigeria

1996-97: African Studies A.C. Jordan Prize for M.A. Thesis

1997-98: Fulbright Research Fellowship

1998-99: AOF Dissertation Fellowship, Wisconsin-Madison

PUBLICATIONS

Articles:

“Bori Spirit Possession in Hausaland.” *Journal of Folklore & Mythology Studies* 15 (1991)

The Literature of Balaraba Ramat Yakubu and the Emerging Genre of Littattafai na Soyayya: A Prognostic of Change for Women in Hausa Society. African Studies Program University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1998

“Why Danjuma Katsina Failed to Get It Right.” *New Nigerian Weekly*. 14 March 1998.

“Islamic-Hausa Feminism and Contemporary Kano Market Literature: A ‘Radical’ Revision of Qur’anic Codes in the Works of Balaraba Ramat Yakubu” – *Research in African Literatures* (Winter 2002)

“Islamic-Hausa Feminism Meets Northern Nigerian Romance: The Cautious Rebellion of Bilkisu Funtuwa” – *African Studies Review* (Spring 2003)

“Hausa Women Writers Confronting the Traditional Status of Women in Modern Islamic Society: Feminist Thought in Nigerian Popular Fiction” – *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature* (Fall 2003),

“Reading Between the Lines: The Black Cultural Tradition of Masking in Harriet Jacobs’s *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*” - *Frontiers: A Journal of Women’s Studies* Vol. 31 (1), 2010

“Kwanzaa and African-American Identity: Is It Time for a New Paradigm?”,

Forthcoming in *Agora: Luther College in Conversation* (Spring 2010)

Book Reviews

Stephanie Newell, *Marita: or the Folly of Love in Research in African Literatures* (Fall 2003)

Stephanie Newell (ed.), *Readings in African Popular Fiction in Research in African Literatures* (Fall 2003)

Encyclopedia Entries

Balaraba Ramat Yakubu, in *Dictionary of African Biography*, Henry Louis Gates, ed., Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2011.

Zaynab Amina Alkali, in *Dictionary of African Biography*, Henry Louis Gates, ed., Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2011.

Bilkisu Ahmed Funtuwa, in *Dictionary of African Biography*, Henry Louis Gates, ed., Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2011.

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Manuscript Reviewer for *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*

Manuscript Reviewer for *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies*

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Balaraba Ramat Yakubu: The Voice of Change for Hausa Women in Contemporary Popular Literature,” presented at the African Literature Association, Michigan State University, 1997.

“Hausa-Islamic Feminism and Figurative *Ijtihad* (“Qur’anic Interpretation) in Kano Market Literature,” presented at the African Literature Association, Kansas University, 2000.

“Hausa-Islamic Feminism and Kano Market Literature: Cultural Re-interpretation in the Works of Balaraba Ramat Yakubu,” presented at the Institute of Global Cultural Studies, 2001.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Globalizing the Interdisciplinary Humanities Course,” Association of Integrative Studies Conference, Portland, Oregon, October 5, 2000.

“Race and Democracy: Challenging Students and Ourselves,” The Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning, Minneapolis, February 14, 2002.

“Team Teaching a Course on Race: Challenging Students and Ourselves,” National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education, New Orleans, June 2, 2002.

“Reading Between the Lines: The Black Cultural Tradition of Masking in Harriet Jacobs’s *Incidents of the Life of a Slave Girl*,” Melus Conference, Scranton, April 9, 2010.

OTHER LECTURES

“Nigerian Popular Literature, an Intersection of Islam and African Feminist Thought,” sponsored by Luther’s Women Studies Program, Fall 2004.

“Prejudice and Privilege: Where do you stand?,” a diversity-awareness workshop presented at the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize Forum, Luther College.

“A Paideia Capstone Experience: Race, The American Dilemma,” Luther College, April 11, 2002.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic Advisor for UCLA Athletics and the Men’s Basketball Team, Summer 1989 to Spring 1991.

Diversity Trainer for the Decorah Juvenile Probation Services, Spring 2001.

REFERENCES

Martin Klammer, Ph.D.
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(608) 263-2335 cwerner@facstaff.wisc.edu

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