

SARAH J. TREMBATH, EDD

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PROFESSORIAL LECTURER

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, DC
Department Of Literature, Writing Studies Program

EDUCATION

American University, 2023

Ed.D. in Education Policy and Leadership

Dissertation: *Decoloniz[er]ing the Mind: A Critical Rhetoric and Composition Framework and Decolonial Curriculum for Professors of First-Year Students*

Dir. by Samantha Cohen (chair), Sarah Marsh, Eva Mejia, Maddox Pennington, & Marnie Twigg

Howard University, 1996

M.A., English

Thesis: Black Existentialism in *Brown Girl, Brownstone*, by Paule Marshall and *Go Tell it on the Mountain*, by James Baldwin

Dir. by Eleanor Traylor (chair), John Tim Reilly (Advisor), John Woodson, & Jennifer Jordan

Temple University, 1992

B.A., Psychology; Sociology minor, English concentration

Senior independent study: Black Women Writers as Healers

Directed by Sonia Sanchez

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS AND COURSES TAUGHT

Professorial Lecturer, Writing Studies Program, American University, Washington, DC,
Fall 2014-present.

College Writing 100

LIT 225, African Literature

College Writing 106, writing intensive

LIT 490 Independent Study

LIT 381/AMST 330, Storytelling

LIT 121 Creative Aesthetic Inquiry

Lit 731, Teaching Composition, mentor

Summer Transition Enrichment Program

LIT 311 Orwell Colloquium, co-director

LIT 335 Topics in African American Lit.

LIT 235 African American Literature

CORE 105 Complex Problems, Critical Reading

College Writing 101, research seminar, critical reading

Adjunct Instructor, Dept. of Literature and Languages, Marymount University, Arlington, VA,
Spring 2012-Summer 2016; and Summer 2017, Summer 2018, Summer 2019.

Freshman Composition I and II

American Literature Survey I and II

Short Fiction

Intro to College Reading

Intro to College Writing

Great Women Writers

Adjunct Instructor, Dept. of English, Esperanza College of Eastern University, Philadelphia, PA,
Fall, 2008-Spring 2012.

Faith, Reason, and Justice

Public Speaking

Freshman English 101 and 102

Freshman English 102 (on-line/in-class hybrid)

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

College of Arts and Sciences DEI Fellow
Department of Literature Coordinator of Anti-Racist Pedagogy
Critical Race, Gender, & Culture Studies Faculty Affiliate
Antiracist Research and Policy Center Faculty Advisor, Pedagogy Subcommittee

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Co-founding co-chair: American University Critical Information Literacy committee, 2023-present.
Judge, Best Undergraduate Essay, 2023-2024.
Writing Studies Program Merit Committee, present.
Judge, Robyn Rafferty Mathias Student Research Conference, College of Arts & Sciences, 2023.
Chair: American University Information Literacy committee, 2018-2020; member 2016-present.
Member: American University Writer as Witness committee, 2017-2020, 2022-present.
Judge: Louise Young Award for student writing, American University, 2022, 2024.
Member, Writing Studies Program, Reappointment and Promotions Committee, intermittent, as required.
Mentor, senior thesis students: Dept of Literature, intermittent, as requested by students.
Mentor, independent study students: Dept of Literature, intermittent, as requested by students.
Member: numerous faculty search committees, American University, intermittent, as available.
Project lead: American University Antiracist Subject Guide, 2020
Organizer and Participant: Antiracist Teach-In II for the Department of Literature and Library, American University, March 15, 2020
Organizer and Participant: Antiracist Teach-In I for the Department of Literature and Library, American University, Feb 5, 2020
Member: CAS Dean's EPC Curriculum Committee, 2020-2022.
Co-Director with Marianne Noble: American University Department of Literature Colloquium on George Orwell's 1984, American University, Oct 18, 2017.
Organizer: "Teaching Cross-Culturally in a Way That Promotes Tolerance, Civil Discourse, Critical Thinking and Good Writing!" College Writing Program Teaching Round Table with Dr. Lily Wong and Prof. Edward Helfers, American University, Feb 8, 2017.
Judge: Shades of Blue poetry contest, Marymount University, Feb, 2016.
Judge: BluInk student literary journal writing contest, Marymount University, Feb, 2016.

AWARDS

Mellon Grants for research, 2022, 2024
DEI Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences, American University, 2021-2023
Merit scholarship, American University Ed.D. program in Education Policy & Leadership, 2020-2023
American Studies Association Gloria Anzaldúa Award for Independent Scholars, 2019

Creative writing residency, Lazuli Literary Group/Mount Tremper Arts, 2019
Jane Stanhope Award for Outstanding Teaching, A.U. College Writing Program, 2016
Creative writing fellowship, Hambidge Center for the Arts and Sciences, 2008
Outstanding American Teachers, 2007
Who's Who Among American Teachers, 2005

PUBLICATIONS

This Past Was Waiting for Me [rev. 2nd ed., in press, Lazuli Literary Group, 2024].

“Active Engagement” in *The Critical Reader*, Washington Independent Review of Books, March 11, 2024.

Decoloniz[er]ing the Mind: A Critical Rhetoric and Composition Framework and Decolonial Curriculum for Professors of First-Year Students [doctoral dissertation], American University School of Education, December, 2023.

Review of *To Free the Captives: A Plea for the American Soul* by Tracy K. Smith, Washington Independent Review of Books, Nov. 21, 2023.

“Swaying with Wicked Grace” in *From the Attic* anthology [best of the *Grace in Gravity* series], (Washington, DC: American University Press, 2023).

Review of *Against White Feminism: Notes on Disruption* by Rafia Zakaria, Washington Independent Review of Books, Sept. 27, 2021.

“Found Poem,” in *25th Anniversary Poetry Ink Anthology* (Philadelphia: Moonstone Arts Press, 2021), poem submitted for publication.

Review of *Just Us: An American Remembrance* by Claudia Rankine, Washington Independent Review of Books, Oct. 14, 2020.

“Crossing the Empathy Bridge,” *Voicemale* magazine, Vol. 24, No. 74, Fall 2020.

“Carried and Carved by the Wind,” *Movable Type* literary magazine, inaugural issue, August 2020.

“Teaching Black Lives in College When Black Life Didn’t Matter that Much K-12,” *Radical Teacher*, Vol. 116, March 2020.

Review of *Remembrance* by Rita Woods, *Washington Independent Review of Books*, Jan 29, 2019.

“Apostasy” poem in *2019 Featured Poets Anthology* (Philadelphia: Moonstone Arts Press, 2020).

It Was the Scarlet That Did It chapbook (Philadelphia: Moonstone Arts Press, 2019).

Review of *Gravity is the Thing* by Jaclyn Moriarty, Washington Independent Review of Books, August 23, 2019.

Review of *Malawi's Sisters* by Melanie S. Hatter, Washington Independent Review of Books, May 22, 2019.

This Past Was Waiting for Me (Washington, DC: Sankofa Love Project, 2018).

- “Hillcrest Has Long Been a Haven for DC’s Black Middle Class. Will it Stay that Way?” *DCist*, July 30, 2018, dcist.com.
- “‘He Too?’ What Happens in the Arts When the Innovators Fall?” Culture Rant, *Santa Fe Writers Project Quarterly*, Issue XIV, Summer 2018, sfwp.com.
- “Haiti, Crossing Borders of the Mind.” *The Rumpus*, “Torch” series, June 5, 2018, therumpus.net.
- “Swaying with Wicked Grace,” in *Grace in Darkness: Volume VIII, Grace in Gravity* anthology (Washington, DC: American University Press, 2018).
- “The Lens Magnifies, The Mirror Reflects: What Photos from the Race War Show Us about Ourselves,” *The Rumpus*, September 25, 2017, therumpus.net.
- “Jazz Interaction with Symbols” poem, *Azure: A Journal of Literary Thought*, Vol. 2, Spring/Summer, 2017.
- “Language Orthodoxy, the Adichie Wars, and the Western Feminism’s Enduring Myopia,” *The Rumpus*, April 6, 2017, therumpus.net
- “4 Compassionate Ways to Support Black Folks after Racist Tragedies,” *Everyday Feminism*, November 7, 2016, everydayfeminism.com
- “5 Ways Black Folks Might Feel (that White Allies should Consider Before Checking In),” *Everyday Feminism*, October 30, 2016, everydayfeminism.com
- “The Old Man,” chapter from *Deep Rooted Cane* in *Azure: A Journal of Literary Thought*, Vol. 1 (Issue 10), Spring/Summer, 2016.
- “Elegy for Women over the Edge (Middle Passage)” poem, *Sally Hemmings Dreams*, August 7, 2016, sallyhemingsdreams.tumblr.com
- “4 More Things Adults Can Do to Address Child Victimization,” article *Everyday Feminism*, August 7, 2014, everydayfeminism.com
- “4 Things Adults Can Do to Address Child Victimization,” article *Everyday Feminism*, July 31, 2014, everydayfeminism.com

SELECT PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Moderator, “Muzzled Expressions,” main conference panel, Washington Writers Conference, Bethesda, MD, May 13, 2023.
- Panelist, [Critical reading of culturally biased material], Robyn Rafferty Mathias Student Research Conference, American University College of Arts and Sciences, Washington, DC, March 25, 2023.
- Panelist, [on the effect of “The Great Replacement Theory” on minority participation in our democracy], Muslim Public Affairs Council webinar, Washington, DC, February 22, 2023.
- Moderator, “Black Women in White Spaces,” Busboys and Poets, Washington, DC, January 22, 2023.
- Discussant, with Dave Trachtenberg and David Keplinger, “Mindful Inclusion: Practicing Self-Care with Compassionate Action,” Mindfulness Initiative, American University, Washington, DC, Nov 10, 2022.

Cofacilitator, with Teo Valdés, “Writin’ and Citin’” [Workshop on academic citation conventions]. School of Education doctoral residency, American University, September 30, 2022.

Roundtable Participant, Launch of the Reimagined Antiracist Research and Policy Center, American University, Mindfulness Initiative, September 22, 2022.

Presenter, with Meg Bentley and Núria Villanova, [Antiracism in the Hard Sciences], Faculty DEI Discussion Series, American University College of Arts and Sciences, Washington, DC, Dec. 15, 2021.

Featured Speaker: “‘Still Sort of Weeping the Substance’: Sugar Cane and Blood in the Artist’s Imagination,” Lazuli Reading Series, Lazuli Literary Group, Brooklyn, NY, March 2021.

Presenter, with Maddox Pennington, “Antiracist Pedagogy,” Faculty DEI Discussion Series, American University College of Arts and Sciences, Washington, DC, March 15, 2021.

Panelist: “Writing through Trauma” Part II, Barrelhouse Conversations and Connections Conference, George Mason University, Arlington, VA, Feb 6, 2021.

Cofacilitator: Decoloniality group in “Updating Your Materials with Antiracist Best Practices,” 32nd Annual Ann Ferren Conference on Teaching, Research, and Learning, American University, January 8, 2021.

Organizer, Department of Literature and Library Antiracist Teach-In I and II, Feb 5, 2020 & August 26, 2020.

Panelist, “Antiracism and Decoloniality in the Humanities,” American University Antiracist Policy and Research Center event, July 22, 2020

Panelist: “Writing a Better Future: The Sociopolitical Power of Storytelling,” 1455 Literary Festival, Winchester, VA, July 17, 2020.

Presenter: “Content and Innuendo in K-12 History Books: The Need for Undergraduate Deprogramming and Teacher Reeducation,” Term Faculty Scholarship Forum, American University, Washington, DC, February 12, 2020.

Presenter: “From the Gap Between Mask and Skin: #Dontmutedc as Radical Black Resistance to Epicolonial Audacity” on “Sorry Not Sorry: Historical Refusal and Black Art” panel, Build as We Fight, Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Honolulu, HI, November 8, 2019.

Featured speaker: “Protest Poetry and the Legacy of Ntozake Shange,” A Continuing Talk about Race series, 14th Street Busboys and Poets, Washington, DC, December 2, 2018.

Presenter: “Counter-Narratives and Balancing Narratives in Strangers in their Own Land,” College Writing Program Pre-Semester Colloquium, American University, Washington, DC, August 22, 2018.

Presenter, with Prof. Molly Dondero: “A Book in Your Own Class: Teaching Strangers in their Own Land,” University-wide teach-in session on the freshman Writer as Witness text. American University Center for Teaching, Research, and Learning, Washington, DC, August 16, 2018.

Panelist: “Writing through Trauma,” 1455 Summer Literary Festival, Winchester, VA, July 19, 2020.

Panelist: “Does Size Matter?” [Discussion on Publisher Choice.] Barrelhouse Conversations and Connections Conference, George Mason University, Arlington, VA, May 12, 2018.

Panelist: “Poetry of Engagement: A Panel Discussion.” Barrelhouse Conversations and Connections Conference, George Mason University, Arlington, VA, May 12, 2018.

Panelist: “Balancing Act: Neutrality in the Classroom?” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Book Fair and Convention, Tampa, Florida, March 7-11, 2018.

Presenter: “‘Who Controls the Past, Controls the Future; Who Controls the Present, Controls the Past’ (or What Goldstein’s Book and Winston’s Diary Reveal about the Buried History of British Imperialism).” American University Department of Literature Colloquium on George Orwell’s 1984, American University, Washington, DC, October 18, 2017.

Panelist: Forum on the Charlottesville Riot, A Continuing Talk about Race series, 14th Street Busboys and Poets, Washington, DC, September 3, 2017.

Presenter, with Prof. Adam Tamashasky and Prof. Amanda Choutka: “You Gon’ Be Alright Teaching [Jeff Chang’s] We Gon’ Be Alright.” University-wide teach-in session on the freshman Writer as Witness text. American University Center for Teaching, Research, and Learning, Washington, DC, August 17, 2017.

Presenter: “Teaching Tips and Self-Care Ideas for Facilitators and Peer Leaders,” AU x 2 First-Year Curriculum on Social Identity and Race, American University, Washington, DC.

Presenter: “Mindfully Constructed Class Culture: Tools to Teach Intersectionally, Multiculturally, and Cross-Racially” presentation with librarian Derrick Jefferson, 28th Annual Ann Ferren Conference on Teaching, Research, and Learning, American University, January 13, 2017.

Host: “Peacemaking in the Nation’s Capitol: A Talk with Human Rights Activist Ronald Moten,” American University, Washington, DC, October 20, 2016.

Presenter: “NGH, WHT’s on Your Reading List? (Considering What’s Canonical in the Hip Hop Studies Classroom)” Paper presented at Remixing the Art of Social Change teach-in, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC, Nov. 4, 2016.

Presenter: “S Street Rising and Counter-Narratives,” College Writing Program Pre-Semester Colloquium, American University, Washington, DC, August 24, 2016.

Panelist: WVAU’s student-led panel on Hip Hop and activism: “The Significance of Kendrick Lamar’s ‘Alright,’” American University, Washington, DC, March 22, 2016.

Organizer and facilitator: “‘You Must Learn’: The Legacy of Hip Hop Scholarship” talk at Bender Library by Words, Beats, Life executive director, Mazi Mutafa, American University, Washington, DC, March 21, 2016.

Panelist: “Beyond ‘Diversity’: Alternative Approaches to Anti-Racist Pedagogy,” 27th Annual Ann Ferren Conference on Teaching, Research, and Learning, American University, Washington, DC, Jan 8, 2016.

Presenter: “Remixing Blues People for the Classroom: Using Baraka’s Book and Digitally Archived Sound to Historically Situate Hip Hop,” Paper presented at Remixing the Art of Social Change teach-in, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC, Nov. 12-14, 2015.

SELECT CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND EDITORIAL WORK

Editor in Chief of *The Critical Rhetorician* [grant-funded web-based critical reading and writing project in process].

Project leader and coauthor, American University AntiRacist LibGuide, 2019-2020.

Reader for early draft of Dolen Perkins-Valdez’s *Take My Hand* (2022), 2019.

Copy editor, *Protecting Civil Rights in the DC Region*, by the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. Washington, DC: 2014.

Copy editor, *The Art of Implementation: Gender Frameworks for Transforming National and Regional Climate Change Decision Making*, by Rebecca Pearl-Martinez & Lorena Aguilar. New York, NY: Global Gender Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2012.

Researcher/writer, Faith, Reason, and Justice curriculum for Esperanza College of Eastern University, 2011.

Researcher/writer, History and Culture of Hip Hop curriculum for Howard County Community College, 2009.

Technical and production editor for *The Black Panther Party Reconsidered*, by Charles E. Jones, Ed. Baltimore, MD: Black Classic Press, 1998.

Technical and production editor for *Study Strategies for Lifelong Learning*, by Claire Ellen Weinstein and Laura M. Hume. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 1998.

Contract copy editor and proofreader for *Sex Addiction & Compulsivity: The Journal of Treatment and Prevention* Volume 5. Philadelphia, PA: Taylor & Francis (1998).

Contract copy editor and proofreader for *Journal of Constructivist Psychology* Volume 11. Philadelphia, PA: Taylor & Francis (1998).

Contract copy editor and proofreader for *Reading & Writing Quarterly: Overcoming Learning Difficulties* Volumes 13-14. Philadelphia, PA: Taylor & Francis (1997-1998).

Contract copy editor and proofreader for *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy* Volumes 23-24. Philadelphia, PA: Taylor & Francis (1997-1998).

Contract copy editor and proofreader for *Review of General Psychology* Volume 1. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association (1997).

Technical and production editor for *Creating Culturally Responsive Classrooms*, by Barbara Shade, Cynthia Kelly, and Mary Oberg. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 1997.

Technical and production editor for *Bridging Separate Gender Worlds: Why Men and Women Clash and How Therapists Can Bring Them Together* by Carol L. Philpot et al., Eds. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 1997.

Technical and production editor for *Recovered Memories of Abuse: Assessment, Therapy, Forensics*, by Kenneth S. Pope and Laura S. Brown. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 1996.

Technical and production editor for *Overcoming Student Failure: Changing Motives and Incentives for Learning*, by Martin V. Covington and Karen Manheim Teel. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 1996.

Technical and production editor for *Finding Solutions to Social Problems: Behavioral Strategies for Change*, by Mark A. Mattaini and Bruce A. Thyer, Eds. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 1996.

Technical and production editor for *Ethnocultural Aspects of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: Issues, Research, and Clinical Applications*, by Anthony J. Marsella et al. Washington, DC: 1996.

CREATIVE PERFORMANCES AND READINGS

Moderator for launch of Marita Golden's *A Woman's Place*, Jan 22, 2023.

Reader of poetry from *It Was the Scarlet that Did It*: "Inspiration Information: A #BLM Reading and Discussion," 1455 Literary Festival, Winchester, VA, July 17, 2020.

Reader: Toni Morrison Tribute, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC, February 15, 2020.

Featured reader of excerpts from *It Was the Scarlet that Did It*: Readings on the Pike, Arlington, VA, November 19, 2019.

Reader of excerpts from *This Past Was Waiting for Me*: Term Faculty Scholarship Forum, American University, Washington, DC, October 30, 2019.

Featured reader of excerpts from *This Past Was Waiting for Me*: Readings on the Pike, Arlington, VA, March 18, 2019.

Reader (with Yao Glover and Kenneth Carroll): "Like It Is, I Tell It," performance and discussion by three descendants of the Black Arts Movement, American Poetry Museum, Washington, DC, February 10, 2019.

Host and reader: Launch party for independent release of *This Past Was Waiting for Me* (with Kenneth Carroll, Darrell Perry, Yao Glover, and Hollynd Karapetkova), Busboys and Poets, Takoma Park, MD, January 20, 2019.

Reader: *This Past Was Waiting for Me* at the DC area Women Writers of Color event (hosted by Marita Golden), Mitchellville, MD, January 5, 2019.

Reader: Performed selection of *This Past Was Waiting for Me* at the DC area Women Writers of Color event (hosted by Marita Golden), Burtonsville, MD, September 8, 2018.

Reader: Read at launch party for *Grace in Darkness* anthology, Washington, DC, May 7, 2018.

Faculty reader: Performed selections from *This Past Was Waiting for Me* at Shades of Blue: Marymount University Anniversary Reading, Arlington, Virginia, February 17, 2016.

Poet: Performed selection from *This Past Was Waiting for Me* and selection from Sonia Sanchez's Under a Soprano Sky in honor of the work of Sonia Sanchez at Moonstone Poetry at Philly CAM, Who Do You Love? Philadelphia, PA, September 1, 2015.

Featured artist: Performed poetry from *This Past Was Waiting for Me*, DiverseCity Fund Awards Banquet, Washington, DC, December 4, 2013.

Poet: Performed poetry from *This Past Was Waiting for Me*, Lesole's Dance Project's A Night of Expression: II, Ubuntu Studio, Mount Rainier, MD, November 16, 2013.

Poet: Performed poetry from *This Past Was Waiting for Me* in collaboration with jazz guitarist Taj Johnson, at Blue Lights in the Basement event, Flava, Washington, DC, September 19, 2103.

Featured artist: Performed poetry from *This Past Was Waiting for Me*, DiverseCity Fund Awards Banquet, Washington, DC, June 25, 2013.

Guest poet: Performed poetry from *This Past Was Waiting For Me* with rock band Thaylobleu, at Lumen8 Anacostia, Ward 8 festival, Washington, DC, June 22, 2013.

Featured artist: Performed poetry from *This Past Was Waiting for Me*, Lesole's Dance Project's A Night of Expression: I, Ubuntu Studio, Mount Rainier, MD, March 13, 2013.

INTERVIEWS AND EXCERPTS

Interviewed on *Some Things Considered* podcast [Topic: invitational rhetoric and storytelling], April 24, 2024.

Interviewed on *The Sankofian* podcast: "The Use of the 'Sankofian Ethic' in Disrupting Traditional Academic Writing Instruction," Jan. 11, 2024.

Excerpted in Literary Hub: "What the Reviewers Say: Just Us: An American Conversation, by Claudia Rankine," Oct. 25, 2020.

Interviewed in "AU Launches Anti-Racist Pedagogy Library Subject Guide: Unveiled at First Anti-Racist Teach-In," by Patty Hausman, College of Arts and Sciences News, August 28, 2020.

Excerpted in Literary Hub: "What the Reviewers Say: Remembrance, by Rita Woods," Feb 10, 2020.

Featured in "Housekeeping and the Hybrid Text" [podcast] interview with Sarah Trembath, by V. Efua Prince, womenandwriters.com, February 5, 2020.

Featured in "It Was the Scarlet that Did It, An Interview with Sarah Trembath," by Hannah Greico, Empty Mirror, November 7, 2019.

Interviewed in "A Conversation with Sarah Trembath," by Brooke Olson, *Gravity and Grace* webpage, April 18, 2018.