

CURRICULUM VITAE
SONNET RETMAN

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University of Washington
American Ethnic Studies
Box 354380
Seattle, WA 98105

Education

- 1997 University of California, Los Angeles
 Ph.D., English
- 1989 Princeton University
 Bachelor of Arts, English and Women's Studies, *magna cum laude*

Professional Positions

- 2010-present Associate Professor, American Ethnic Studies;
 Adjunct Faculty: Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies; English; and CHID
 University of Washington
- 2002-2010 Assistant Professor, American Ethnic Studies;
 Adjunct Faculty: Women's Studies and English,
 University of Washington
- 2000-2002 Music Consultant & Head of Research Department for Sony Pictures' *Ali*
 (released December 25, 2001), directed by Michael Mann
- 2000-2001
 & 1998 Visiting Faculty, English Department,
 Occidental College
- 1999-2001 Lecturer, Women's Studies, Center for Afro-American Studies, and English
 UCLA
- 1998 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, English Department,
 UC Irvine
- 1997-1998 Lecturer, English Department, UCLA
- 1991-1995 Teaching Assistant, English Department, UCLA
- 1992-1996 Teaching Assistant, Academic Advancement Program (Summer Affirmative
 Action Program), UCLA

Honors and Awards

- 2014 Summer Digital Humanities Commons Research Fellowship, Simpson Center
- 2013-2014 Simpson Center Large-Scale Collaborative grant for the Women Who Rock Research Project/ EMP Pop Conference collaboration, Graduate Mentor workshop and course development, \$11,350 (Co-P.I. with Michelle Habell-Pallan, Angelica Macklin and Eric Weisbard)
- 2013 Undergraduate Research Mentor Award
- 2012-2013 Simpson Center Large-Scale Collaborative Research grant for the Women Who Rock Research Project (Un) Conference, Graduate Mentor workshop, course development and archive launch, \$11,683 (Co-P.I. with Michelle Habell-Pallan and Angelica Macklin)
- 2011-2012 Simpson Center Large-Scale Collaborative Research grant for the Women Who Rock Research Project (Un) Conference, Graduate Mentor workshop and course development, \$14,700 (Co-P.I. with Michelle Habell-Pallan and Angelica Macklin)
- 2010-2011 Simpson Center/ American Music Project of Seattle (AMPS) grant for the Women Who Rock Research Project (Un) Conference, Graduate Mentor workshop and course development, \$14,000 (Co-P.I. with Michelle Habell-Pallan)
- 2006-2007 Woodrow Wilson Junior Faculty Career Enhancement Fellowship
- 2006 Grant funding for *WPA: Public Arts in a Time of Crisis*, a national symposium, May 2006, Simpson Center for the Humanities Conference Award, \$10,000
- 2004-2005 4X4 Writing-Integrated Course Design Initiative, UW Faculty Grant, \$6,000
- 2004-2005 Simpson Center for the Humanities Society of Scholars
- 2004-2005 Simpson Center for the Humanities Research Cluster, "Understanding Stereotypes, Prejudice and Discrimination: New Avenues in Intergroup Relations"
- 1998-1999 UC Humanities Research Institute Postdoctoral Fellow, "Microcosms of Knowledge" Research Group
- 1996-1997 Grant funding for the disChord Popular Music Conference, April 1997, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, co-chaired with Daphne Brooks. (Funding from UC Humanities Research Institute, UC Institute for American Cultures, Getty Research Institute, and six UCLA departments.)
- 1996-1997 Agnes B. DeMille Departmental Dissertation Fellowship

- 1996 The Greenfield Research Fellowship at the Roosevelt Presidential Library
- 1995-1996 Booth/ Ewing Departmental Dissertation Fellowship
- 1994 The American Literature and Cultures Award, UCLA
- 1990-1991 UCLA Dean's Fellowship
- 1989 Sacks Prize for Best Thesis in American Literature, Princeton University

Publications

Books

Real Folks: Race and Genre in the Great Depression, Duke University Press, 2011.

Articles – Peer Reviewed

“ ‘Return of the Native’: Sterling Brown’s *A Negro Looks at the South* and the Work of Signifying Ethnography.” *American Literature*, Vol. 86, No. 1 (Spring 2014): 87-115.

“Langston Hughes’s ‘Rejuvenation Through Joy’: Passing, Racial Performance and the Marketplace.” *African American Review*, Vol. 45, No. 4 (Winter 2012), 593-602.

“*Black No More: George Schuyler and Racial Capitalism.*” *Comparative Racialization*, edited by Patricia Yaeger. Special issue of *PMLA* Vol. 123, No. 5, (October 2008): 1448-1464.

“Between Rock and a Hard Place: Narrating Nona Hendryx’s Inscrutable Career.” *Recall and Response: Black Women Performers and the Mapping of Memory*, co-edited by Jayna Brown and Tavia Nyong’o. Special issue of *Women and Performance: a journal of feminist theory*, Vol.16, No. 1 (March 2006): 107-18.

“Nothing was Lost in the Masquerade’: The Protean Performance of Genre and Identity in Charles Johnson’s *Oxherding Tale*.” *African-American Review* Vol. 33, No. 3 (Fall 1999): 417-37.

Articles and Essays – Invited

“The Depression and the Novel.” *The Oxford History of the Novel in English. Volume 6: The American Novel, 1870-1940.* Edited by Priscilla Wald and Michael A. Elliott. Oxford University Press, 2014.

“*What Was African American Literature?: Commentary*” *PMLA* Vol. 128, No. 2 (March 2013).

“Charles Johnson,” in *African American Writers*, Revised Edition. Edited by Valerie Smith. New York: Scribners, 2000. 393-411. (Bibliographical essay)

“Gloria Naylor,” (update) in *African American Writers*, Revised Edition. Edited by Valerie Smith. New York: Scribners, 2000. 599-613. (Bibliographical essay)

"Something more than a catalogue of celluloid rectangles in a government storehouse': Stryker's FSA Collection." *Museum Anthropology* Vol. 20, No. 2 (Fall 1996): 49-66.

Co-Authored Articles

--with Michelle Habell-Pallan and Angelica Macklin. "Notes on Women Who Rock: Making Scenes, Building Communities: Participatory Research, Community Engagement, and Archival Practice." *NANO* (New American Notes Online) special issue, "Digital Humanities, Public Humanities." Forthcoming 2014.

Book Reviews

Review of Lori Harrison-Kahan, *The White Negress: Literature, Minstrelsy and the Black- Jewish Imaginary*; Helen Heran Jun, *Race for Citizenship: Black Orientalism and Asian Uplift from Pre-Emancipation to Neoliberal America*; Cathy Schlund-Vials, *Modeling Citizenship: Jewish and Asian American Writing for American Literature*, forthcoming 2014.

Review of *Afromodernisms: Paris, Harlem, and the Avant-Garde*, ed. by Fionnghuala Sweeney and Kate Marsh (Edinburgh University Press, 2013) for *Choice, Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, December 2013.

Archive

Women Who Rock: Building Scenes, Making Communities Digital Oral History Archive, hosted by University of Washington Digital Initiatives, Co-Director with Michelle Habell-Pallan, Curatorial and Content Production Team
<http://content.lib.washington.edu/wwrweb/search.html#credits>

Work in Progress

Ethnography on the Color Line: Jim Crow Encounters in a Time of War (book length project)

Presentations

April 2014 "Improvising New Communities with Bodies in Motion" Roundtable, Convener and Moderator. *Go! Music and Mobility. Pop Conference*, Experience Music Project, Seattle, WA.

October 2012 "Artifacts and Evidence." Certificate in Public Scholarship Course. Walter Chapin Simpson Center, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

October 2012 Presentation on Women Who Rock Project to Undergraduate Research Exposed Seminar. Undergraduate Research Program. University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

July 2012 Class presentation on Women Who Rock Project to Borderlands Summer Institute in the Arts & Humanities. University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

April 2012 Diversity Brown Bag on Women Who Rock Project. Administration and Accounting Office. University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

- Feb. 2012 *Real Folks: Race and Genre in the Great Depression*. WIRED Book Presentation. Walter Chapin Simpson Center, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- Feb. 2012 *Fridays at the 5th*: Workshop for High School Students. “*Oklahoma!*: Race, Generic Integration and The History of the Musical.” 5th Avenue Theater Youth Program, Seattle, WA.
- January 2012 “Ethnography on the Color Line: Jim Crow Encounters on the Eve of War.” The Center for African American Studies and the Department of English. Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.
- January 2012 “Affect, Distance, Confession: Emotion and Popular Music.” Respondent. *Modern Language Association Annual Conference*, Seattle, WA.
- May 2011 “Literary Voices from the Left.” Discussant. *Race, Radicalism, and Repression in the Pacific Northwest and Beyond*. University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- April 2009 “Keynote: A Conversation with Nona Hendryx.” Co-Moderator with Daphne Brooks. *Dance Music Sex Romance: Pop and the Body Politic*. *Pop Conference*, Experience Music Project, Seattle, WA.
- April 2008 Pedagogy and Curriculum Brown Bag with Ralina Joseph and Habiba Ibrahim. Informal presentation. Women’s Studies Adjunct Series, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- April 2008 “Liminal Soul, featuring Gayle Wald, Eric Weisbard, Loren Kajikawa and Oliver Wang.” Moderator. *Shake, Rattle: Music, Conflict, and Change*. *Pop Conference*, Experience Music Project, Seattle, WA.
- April 2007 “Cultural Manifestations of (Non) Racial Identity.” Discussant. *Evolving Racial Identities, the Ideology of Colorblindness and the State*. University of Washington Institute for the Study of Ethnicity, Race and Sexuality (WISER), Seattle, WA.
- April 2007 “Langston Hughes’s ‘Rejuvenation Through Joy’ and the Folklore of Racial Capitalism.” Paper. *African American Scholarship: New Directions for the 21st Century*. *A Symposium*. J.J. Wright Institute for the Study of Southern African American History, Culture and Policy, Claflin University, Orangeburg, SC.
- April 2006 *WPA: Public Arts in a Time of Crisis*. “WPA: Interrogations.” Paper. National Symposium. Simpson Center for the Humanities, Seattle, WA.
- April 2006 “Black Composers, featuring Alex Ross, Janet Sarbanes, and Joe Schloss.” Moderator. *Ain’t That A Shame: Loving Music in the Shadow of Doubt*. *Pop Conference*, Experience Music Project, Seattle, WA.

- March 2005 " 'In the Face of American Standardizations': The Mechanics of Race and Reproduction in Black Modernist Fiction." Paper. Simpson Center for the Humanities Society of Scholars, Walter Chapin Simpson Center, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- April 2005 "Race and Taste, featuring Bob Christgau, Guthrie Ramsey and Gia Gordon." Moderator. *Music as Masquerade: Poseurs, Playas and Beyond*. Pop Conference, Experience Music Project, Seattle, WA.
- January 2005 "Conversations Across Anti-Racist and Transnational Feminisms." Co-Facilitator. Women's Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- January 2005 "Bending Stereotypes: The Politics of Drag, Performance and Theatricality featuring Vaginal Davis and Robert Lopez, aka El Vez." Moderator. Simpson Center for the Humanities Research Cluster, "Understanding Stereotypes, Prejudice and Discrimination: New Avenues in Intergroup Relations," Seattle, WA.
- April 2003 "A Dialogue Across Disciplines." Paper. *Music in the Making, Music in the Mind*, Ethnomusicology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Conference Papers

- March 2014 "Hepster Masculinity in War Time: Stormy Weather and the Dance of Signifying Ethnography." Mapping Spaces, Moving Bodies: Control, Resistance, and Disorientations. *American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting*, New York, NY.
- Jan. 2013 Roundtable participant and convener. "Trauma, Affect & Genre in African American Culture." Presidential session. *Modern Language Association Annual Conference*, Boston, MA.
- Nov. 2012 Roundtable participant. "Race, Religion, and Representations of a Savior in America: A Panel Discussion of *The Color of Christ: The Son of God and the Saga of Race in America* (Sept. 2012)." *American Studies Association Annual Conference*, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- March 2012 "Muddy the Waters: Other Stories of Love and Theft in the Making of the Delta Blues." *Sounds of the City*. Pop Conference, Experience Music Project & IASPM, New York, NY.
- October 2011 "Muddy the Waters: Other Stories of Love and Theft in the Making of the Delta Blues." *American Studies Association Annual Conference*, Baltimore, MD.
- January 2011 "Black Cultural Trauma and Performance." Presidential session. *Modern Language Association Annual Conference*, Los Angeles, CA.

- April 2010 "Girl in a Coma Tweets Chicana Futurism." Moderator and presenter. *The Pop Machine: Music and Technology*. Pop Conference, Experience Music Project, Seattle, WA.
- Nov. 2009 "The Collision and Collusion of Bodies and Disciplines; or, when Race and Gender walk into a Room." Difficult Dialogues. *National Women's Studies Association*, Atlanta, GA.
- Oct. 2007 "The World Comes Closer: Sterling Brown's Vision of the Folk in a Time of War." *American Studies Association Annual Conference*, Philadelphia, PA.
- March 2007 "Romancing the Real in *Sullivan's Travels*." *Narrative: An International Conference*, Washington, D.C.
- Oct. 2006 "Fictions of the Folk in the Great Depression." *Woodrow Wilson Junior Faculty Career Enhancement Fellowship Research Symposium*. Princeton, NJ.
- March 2006 "Teaching at the Intersection of Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies." Paper and roundtable participant. *National Association of Ethnic Studies Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, CA.
- April 2005 "How to Rock Like a Black Feminist." *Music as Masquerade: Poseurs, Playas and Beyond*. Pop Conference, Experience Music Project, Seattle, WA.
- Nov. 2004 " 'Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood': Black Women, Performance and Power." *American Studies Association Annual Conference*, Atlanta, GA.
- March 2004 "Race and the Collective in New Deal Narratives of the Sunshine State." *MELUS Conference*, San Antonio, TX.
- April 2003 "Vinyl Archaeology" *Skip a Beat: Rewriting the Story of Popular Music*. Pop Conference, Experience Music Project, Seattle, WA.
- April 2002 "Making the *Ali* Soundtrack." *Crafting Sounds, Crafting Meaning: Making Popular Music in the U.S.* Pop Conference, Experience Music Project, Seattle, WA.
- April 2000 "The All Consuming Color Line in George Schuyler's *Black No More*." *Narrative: An International Conference*, Atlanta, GA.
- Nov. 1998 "Westward Expansion: Caught in the Act of a Class Pass in *A Cool Million*." *American Studies Association Annual Conference*, Seattle, WA.
- April 1998 "I Become . . . Each of Them, The Whole of It': Metaphors of Inhabitation and Instruments of Representation in Agee's and Evans' *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*." *Narrative: An International Conference*, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

Teaching and Research Experience

Assistant and Associate Professor

University of Washington, American Ethnic Studies

Undergraduate:

AFRAM 101: Introduction to African American Studies
AFRAM 214: Survey of African American Literature
AFRAM 220: African American Film Studies
AFRAM 318: African American Short Fiction
AFRAM 320: Black Women in Drama
AFRAM 337: Rock the Archive: Hip Hop, Indie Rock and the Digital
AFRAM 340: The Literature of the Harlem Renaissance
AFRAM 358: The Literature of Black Americans
AFRAM 498: Postmodernist African American Fiction
AFRAM 498: African American Satire
AFRAM 498: Exhibiting Culture, Performing Race
AFRAM 498: Black Aesthetics
AES 212: Comparative American Ethnic Literature
AES 495: Senior Thesis

Undergraduate/ Graduate:

GWSS 490/ HUM 596: Rock the Archive: Popular Music Studies and Digital
Scholarship (Co-taught with Prof. Michelle Habell-Pallan and Angelica Macklin,
Winter 2013)
AES 498/ WS 542: Making a Scene: Girls and Boys Play Indie Rock (Co-taught with Prof.
Michelle Habell-Pallan, Winter 2011)
HUM 597D: Popular Music Criticism and the EMP Pop Conference (Spring 2010)

Professional Development Teaching:

Teachers as Scholars Seminar, "Manifest Destiny and Dispossession: Steinbeck, Nation
and Migration," October 2005.
American Ethnic Studies/ Seattle Public Schools Partnership: Professional Development
Seminars in American Ethnic Studies, June 2004 and 2005.

Visiting Faculty

Occidental College, English Department

ECLS 341: Understanding Manhood and the "Fallen" Woman in 19th Century U.S.
Narrative (Spring 2001)
ECLS 110: The American Experience: Introduction to American Literature (Fall 2000)
ECLS 341: Conjurations, Hoo Doo and Jes Grew: African-American Folklore and
Literature (Fall 2000)
ECLS 341: Race and the Law in 19th Century US Literature (Winter 1998)

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow

UC Irvine, English Department

ENG 103: Race and the Law in 19th Century US Literature, Pre-Law Program (Fall 1998)

Lecturer

UCLA, English Department, Women's Studies and Center for Afro-American Studies
ENG 104B/ AFRAM m104B: African-American Literature from the Harlem Renaissance to the 1960s (Winter 2000 and Winter 2001)
WS 110B: Introduction to Feminist Theory (Fall 2000)
ENG 4: Introduction to Literary Genre, Honors (Spring 2000)
AFRAM C101: Race, Law and the Literature of Segregation (Spring 2000)
ENG 178: Exhibiting Cultures: Visual Display and Spectacle in Twentieth Century Literature (Fall 1999)
ENG 189: The Object of Identity: The Politics and Poetics of Display in US Literature, 1900-1940 (Fall 1999)
ENG/ WS 107: American Women's Writing: The Place of Fact and Fiction, Memory and Identity (Spring 1998)
ENG 4: Introduction to Literary Genre, honors (Spring 1998)
ENG 95C: Introduction to Fiction (Winter 1998)
ENG 178: The New Deal and the "Real": 1930s Documentary Culture (Fall 1997)
ENG 189: In, Around and Afterthoughts on 1930s Documentary (Fall 1997)

Teaching Assistant

UCLA, English Department, 1991-5

UCLA, Academic Advancement Program (Affirmative Action Program), 1992-6

Research

Head of Research Department for Sony Pictures' *Ali* (December 25, 2001)
Directed by Michael Mann.

Research Associate for "Microcosms of Knowledge," cataloguing UCLA's collections and interviewing conservators for the UC Office of the President, 2000-2001.

Editorial Assistant for "Late Nineteenth Century: 1865-1910," *Heath Anthology of American Literature*, Fourth Edition. Edited by Paul Lauter, et al. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001.

Curatorial Assistant, African-American Film Series, *LA Festival*, 1993.

Service

University of Washington Committees

2012-2014 Social Science On-line Degree Implementation Steering Committee (under Dean Judy Howard and Professor Matt Sparke)

2014 Reviewer for the Mary Gates Endowment for Student Research Scholarship Program, Center for Experiential Learning and Diversity, Undergraduate Academic Affairs

- 2012-present MAP (Multi-Cultural Alumni Partnership) Board Member. Distinguished Alumna Selection Sub-Committee.
- 2008-present American Ethnic Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
- 2007-present Women Investigating Race, Ethnicity and Difference (WIRED)
- 2012-2013 American Ethnic Studies, African American Studies Assistant Professor Search Committee, Chair (Tetsudan Kashima and Shirley Yee)
- 2010-2011 American Ethnic Studies Graduate Program Director Committee (Shirley Yee and Bill George)
- 2007-2012 Faculty Council on University Libraries
- 2005-2006 English Department, African American Literature Search Committee
- 2005-2006 American Ethnic Studies, African American Studies Lectureship Search Committee
- 2005-2006 School of Drama, Dramatic Theory Search Committee
- 2005-2006 Minority Faculty Collective Resources for Diversity (CORD) Project
- 2003-2004 American Ethnic Studies, African American Studies Postdoctoral Search Committee
- 2002-2006 American Ethnic Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Editorial Board

American Literature, 2013-16

American Studies Journal, 2014-17

Manuscript Reviewer

University of Virginia Press, Northwestern University Press, Fordham University Press, Oxford University Press, Duke University Press, *American Quarterly*, *Contemporary Literature*, *African American Review*, *Women and Performance*, *Modernism/Modernity*, *American Studies Journal*, *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, *Oxford Bibliographies in American Literature*

Tenure External Referee

Department of English, Cornell University, 2013

Department of Anthropology and Museum Studies, Central Washington University, 2013

Grant Reviewer

Selection panel for the Junior Faculty Career Enhancement Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 2014

Selection panel for the Junior Faculty Career Enhancement Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 2013

Prize Committee

Judge for *African American Review's* Darwin T. Turner Prize for Best Essay overall and Joe Weixlmann Award, recognizing the Best Essay on a 20th- or 21st-Century Topic, 2011

Conference and Symposium Organizer

- April 2014 Conference Program Committee Member, EMP Pop Conference: *Go! Music and Mobility*, Seattle, WA.
- April 2014 Co-organizer, *Women Who Rock Conference: Making Scenes, Building Communities*. National music conference, University of Washington and Seattle University, Seattle, WA.
- April 2013 Conference Program Committee Member, EMP Pop Conference, Seattle, WA.
- March 2013 Co-organizer, *Women Who Rock Conference: Making Scenes, Building Communities*. National music conference, University of Washington and Seattle University, Seattle, WA.
- March 2012 Co-organizer, *Women Who Rock Conference: Making Scenes, Building Communities*. National music conference, University of Washington and Seattle University, Seattle, WA.
- Feb. 2011 Co-organizer, *Women Who Rock Conference: Making Scenes, Building Communities*. National music conference, University of Washington and Seattle University, Seattle, WA.
- April 2009 Conference Program Committee Member, EMP Pop Conference: *Dance Music Sex Romance: Pop and the Body Politic*, Seattle, WA.
- March 2009 Principal nominator. Professor Valerie Smith for the Walker Ames Series, 2009-2010. Approved by the Graduate School, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- Feb. 2009 Co-nominator. Professor Robin D.G. Kelley for *The Solomon Katz Distinguished Lectureship in the Humanities, 2009-2010*. Approved by the Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- April 2006 Co-organizer. *WPA: Public Arts in a Time of Crisis*. National Symposium. Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- 2004-2005 Lecture series. Simpson Center for the Humanities Research Cluster, "Understanding Stereotypes, Prejudice and Discrimination: New Avenues in

Intergroup Relations." Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities,
University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

May 1997 Co-chair with Daphne Brooks, *disChord: A Conference on Contemporary Popular Music*. National music conference, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.

Memberships

American Studies Association
Modern Language Association

Referees

Professor Paula Rabinowitz
Department of English
University of Minnesota
225A Lind Hall, 207 Church St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
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Professor Valerie Smith
Dean of the College
Woodrow Wilson Professor of Literature, Department of English
Princeton University
403 West College
Princeton, New Jersey 08544
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Professor Gayle Wald
Chair, Department of English
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences
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Professor Priscilla Wald
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Duke University
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