

Curriculum Vitae
Kinitra D. Brooks, Ph.D.

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Leslie Endowed Chair of Literary Studies, Michigan State University, 2018-Present

Ricardo K. Romo Endowed Professor, Honors College, 2016-2017

Associate Professor of English, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2016-Present

Assistant Professor of English, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2009-2016

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2008-2009

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2008

M.P.H. in International Health and Development, Tulane University, 2001

B.A. in English Literature, Xavier University of Louisiana, 2000

RESEARCH

Black Feminist Theory; Black Women in Horror, Science Fiction and Fantasy; Black Women in Popular Culture; 20th-21st c. African American and Afro-Caribbean literature and culture; Black Speculative Studies and Afrofuturism.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Advancing Equity Through Research Fellowship, The Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University, 2018-2019.

Technology Grant, Office of Information Technology (OIT), 2018.

Ricardo Romo Endowed Professorship of the Honors College, 2017-2018.

Feminist Research Seminar Grant, *Beyoncé's Lemonade Lexicon: Black Feminism and Spirituality in Theory and Praxis*, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan, 2017-2018.

Fellow, Women of Color Leadership Project, National Women's Studies Association, 2016.

Faculty Success Program, National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity, University of Texas at San Antonio College of Liberal and Fine Arts, Spring 2013.

Research Development Leave, UTSA, College of Liberal and Fine Arts, Spring 2013.

Professor Bootcamp, UTSA, Teaching and Learning Center, 2010.

The Provost's Academy on Critical Thinking, UTSA, Teaching and Learning Center, 2009.

College of Liberal and Fine Arts Postdoctoral Fellowship, UTSA, 2008.

Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2008.
(Declined)

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

Searching for Sycorax: Black Women's Hauntings of Contemporary Horror (2017). Rutgers University Press.

Edited Collection (Scholarly)

The Lemonade Reader: Beyoncé, Black Feminism, and Spirituality. With Kameelah L. Martin. Contracted with Routledge Press. (Forthcoming)

Edited Collection (Creative)

Sycorax's Daughters (2017) With Susana M. Morris, and Linda D. Addison. Cedar Grove Publishing.

Articles

"The Potential for Black Art at the San Antonio Museum of Art." *The International Review of African American Art*. 27:1 (2017) 13-17.

"Speculative Sankofarration: Haunting Black Women in Contemporary Horror Fiction." With Stephanie Schoellman & Alexis McGee. Special Issue: Speculating Futures: Black Imagination & the Arts. *Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora* 42:1-2 (2016) 237-248.

"The Importance of Neglected Intersections: Race and Gender in Contemporary Zombie Texts and Theories." *African American Review* 47: 4 (Winter 2014) 461-475.

"Maternal Inheritances: Trinity Formations and Constructing Self-Identities in *Stigmata* and *Louisiana*." *FEMSPEC* 12:2 (2012). 17-46, 199.

"Finding the Humanity in Horror: Black Women's Sexual Identity in Fighting the Supernatural." *POROI* 7: 2 (June 2011) 1-14.

Book Chapters

"Reconciling the Tensions of the Creole and the Congo." *Box of Bones*. Edited by Ayize Jama-Everett and John Jennings. Rosarium Publishing. Summer 2018.

"Ontologies of Orisha Technology: West African Spirituality in Afrofuturistic Visions." *Unveiling Visions: The Alchemy of the Black Imagination*. Art + Design Exhibition. September 2015 – January 2016. The Schomburg Center of Harlem. New York, NY.

Book Reviews/Encyclopedia Entries

"The Multiple Pasts, Presents, and Futures of Nnedi Okorafor's Literary Nigeria." Rev. of *Lagoon* (2014) and *Book of Phoenix* (2015) by Nnedi Okorafor. *Los Angeles Review of Books*. 13 April 2016.

Rev. of *Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage* by Kathryn Edin and Maria Kefalas. *Journal for International Women's Studies*. 2009. 234-235.

"Homeplace," "Maternal Alienation," "Matrifocality," In *Encyclopedia of Motherhood*. Ed. Andrea O'Reilly. 3 vols. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Reference, 2010. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*.

Blog Posts

“What Becky Gotta Do to Get Murked? White Womanhood in Jordan Peele’s *Get Out*”
<http://verysmartbrothas.com/what-becky-gotta-do-to-get-murked-white-womanhood-in-jordan-peeles-get-out/>

EDITORIAL

Co-editor with Susana M. Morris. Book Series. *New Suns: Race, Gender, Sexuality & the Speculative* at Ohio State University Press.

Board Member and Peer Reviewer. *Journal of Research on Women and Gender*.

PRESENTATIONS**Invited**

“Emerging Scholars: Publishing Your First Book.” Panelist. American Studies Association. Atlanta, GA. November 2018.

“Black Panther: Blackness Through a Comic Book Lens.” Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. February 2018.

“Black Panther: A Hero and A Movement.” Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. 6th Annual Black Comic Book Festival. New York, NY. January 2018.

“Religions of the African Diaspora: Beyond Zombies, Ancestors, and Giant Apes.” World Fantasy Conference. San Antonio, TX. November 2017.

“Strange Fruit & Lemonade: Music, Race, Gender, Class, Place.” Texas State University, San Marcos, TX. October 2017.

“Technology to Enhance the Learning Experience.” University of Texas at San Antonio. San Antonio, TX. Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars. October 2017.

“Translation, Contemplating, and Speculating: Black Radical Imagination through Digital Transmedia.” Elektrik Revival: Remixing the Black Speculative South. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. May 2017.

“I Used to Be Your Sweet Mama’: Beyoncé at the Crossroads of Blues and Conjure in *Lemonade*.” University of Oregon, Eugene, OR. February 2017.

“I Used to Be Your Sweet Mama’: Beyoncé at the Crossroads of Blues and Conjure in *Lemonade*.” Keynote Speaker. Intersections: Identity and Ideology. Texas A&M University-San Antonio. February 2017.

Big Talk on Race and Hollywood. Invited Panelist. Valenti School of Communication. University of Houston, Houston, TX. February 2017.

“Towards a Black Women’s Horror Film Aesthetic.” *Terror on Tape*. Invited Panelist. Yale University, New Haven, CT. May 2016.

“Feelin Ourselves: The Evolution of Black Women in Entertainment.” Co-presented with Autumn Knight. Invited Lecture for Art Installation. She Works Flexible Museum. Houston, TX. June 2015.

“What If Slavery Was Our Apocalypse?: Afrofuturism and The Speculative in Contemporary Black Fiction.” Juneteenth Invited Lecture. Carver Branch Library. San Antonio Public Libraries. June 2015.

“The Hoodoo Experience: Literature, Spirituality, and Identity.” Invited Panelist. *Astroblackness 2: The Surreal, The Speculative, and The Spooky*. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA. March 2015.

Multimedia Screening of *Wake* (2010), *Danger Word* (2013), *DayBlack* (2014).

- Respondent. *Astroblackness 2: The Surreal, The Speculative, and The Spooky*. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA. March 2015.
- “The Legacy of the Venus Hottentot in Contemporary Rap Culture.” Invited Lecture. Igo Branch Library. San Antonio Public Libraries. February 2015.
- “Taking the Zombi Back from Zombie” Invited Panelist. South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Durham, North Carolina. November 2012.
- Tulia, Texas*. Commentary. American Studies Association. San Antonio, TX. November 2010.
- “New Directions in African American Literary and Cultural Studies.” Roundtable Discussion Participant, Black American Literature and Culture. Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. December 2009.
- “Maternal Abjection in Black Women’s Literature.” Panelist. Symposium on African American Studies, University of Texas at San Antonio. April 2008.

Refereed

- “Wakanda Forever: Afro-Feminist Futures and the Black Cinematic Imagination.” Panelist. National Women’s Studies Association. Atlanta, GA. November 2018.
- “Imagining Black Feminist Futures: Afrofuturisms, Black Utopias, and Sonic Rhetorics.” Moderator. National Women’s Studies Association. Atlanta, GA. November 2018.
- “Marooning with the Ancestors in Beyoncé’s *Lemonade*” Panelist. National Women’s Studies Association. Baltimore, MD. November 2017.
- “Race and Gender on TV: Viewing as Resistance.” Panelist. National Women’s Studies Association. Baltimore, MD. November 2017.
- “The (Corpo)Real Monstrosity of Black Women: Finding Agency in Revising the Grotesque.” The Kristeva Circle Meeting. University of Pittsburgh. October 2017.
- “Decolonizing Genre in Nnedi Okorafor’s *Lagoon*, Nalo Hopkinson’s *Sister Mine*, and NK Jemisin’s *The Fifth Season*.” Session Creator/Panelist. National Women’s Studies Association. Montreal, Canada. November 2016.
- “Tuning In/Playing Out: Race, Gender, TV, and Decoloniality.” Invited Panelist. National Women’s Studies Association. Montreal, Canada. November 2016.
- “Leading Ladies: Black Women, Fantasy, Reality, Precarity and Made for TV?” Round Table Discussion. National Women’s Studies Association. Milwaukee, WI. November 2015.
- “Black Women Writing Fluid Fiction: An Open Challenge to Genre Normativity.” Session Creator/Panelist. National Women’s Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico. November 2014.
- “A Maternal Inheritance: Constructing Identity of the Self in the Trinity Formation in Phyllis Alesia Perry’s *Stigmata* and Erna Brodber’s *Louisiana*.” Panelist. Collegium for African American Research. Paris, France. April 2011.
- “Severing the Heads of Decrepit Stereotypes: The Black Superwoman in the Land of Zombies.” Panelist, Postapocalyptic Utopias and Dystopias. Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, PA. December 2009.
- “Finding the Humanity in Horror: Black Women’s Identity in Fighting the Supernatural.” Panelist. South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Atlanta, GA. November 2009.

WORKS IN PROGRESSSole Author***Book Projects***

Divinely Monstrous: Black Women Conjuring the Grotesque in Popular Culture, moves decidedly into black women's visual culture to include the artwork of Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle, Ellen Gallagher, and Avy Jetter as well as the music videos of Beyoncé, Nicki Minaj, and Missy Elliot, and visual renderings of monstrous black women in folklore such as La Diabliesse, The Boo Hag, and The Ciguapa. *Divinely Monstrous* examines the potentially problematic nature of racially gendered manifestations of the monstrous black woman in folklore of the African diaspora as well as contemporary film and television. The book uses the framework of The Conjure Woman to demonstrate how black women incorporate visual iterations of the grotesque and the divine to subvert the false constructions of black women as monstrous in aesthetic and/or moral construction.

Fieldwork In Progress**Book Proposal June 2018**

The Gender & Horror Handbook is an interdisciplinary guide to the multiple intersections of gender and horror from folklore to gothic literature to contemporary film and media.

Solicited by Routledge Press**Book Proposal October 2018**

The Nalo Hopkinson Reader is a critical companion to the work of fantastical Afrofuturist writer, Nalo Hopkinson. Hailed as a literary heir to Octavia Butler, Hopkinson defies genre dictates by steeping her works in the shape-shifting traditions of the Caribbean. This text provides black feminist analytical frameworks for her seven novels: *Brown Girl in the Ring* (1998), *Midnight Robber* (2000), *The Salt Roads* (2003), *The New Moon's Arms* (2007), *The Chaos* (2012), *Sister Mine* (2013) and two short story collections: *Skin Folk* (2001) and *Falling in Love with Hominids* (2015).

Book Proposal December 2018***Articles:***

"The Conjure Woman's Garden." This paper uses black women's tradition of gardening to explore the cosmologies of Conjure Feminism.

In Progress.

"Marooning with the Ancestors in Beyoncé's Lemonade." This paper discusses how Lemonade offers a narrative of resilience and healing for black women.

Submitted to *The Lemonade Reader* edited by Kinitra Brooks and Kameelah Martin.Co-authored

Black Women in Horror: Critical Perspectives with Susana Morris and Linda Addison is an edited set of scholarly criticism on contemporary black woman-centered horror texts and new short fiction from rising black women horror writers. This collection is the first solely focused on presenting multiple approaches to reading the positionality of black women in the horror genre.

Revising Submission Spring 2018

The Lemonade Reader with Kameelah Martin will be the tangible result of the Feminist Research Seminar grant awarded by the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Michigan. The reader will feature articles from twelve black feminist scholars with specializations ranging from Womanist Theology to Ethnomusicology.

Under Contract with Routledge Press

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Texas at San Antonio, 2008-Present:

Undergraduate Courses – Black & Brown Futures; Black Women, Beyoncé & Popular Culture; The African American Novel; Black Women in Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror; The Supernatural in African American Literature; Race and Gender in Film; Mothering in American Literature; From Text to Film; Horror Text and Theory; Vodou in the African American Novel; Caribbean Women Writers; Black Speculative Fiction.

Graduate Courses – Afrofuturism; Speculative Black Women; Deconstructing Destructive Mothers: “Bad” Mothers in the Literature of Women of Color; African American Women’s Writing; Black Women in Science Fictions, Fantasy, and Horror; Topics in American Literature: Horror Text & Theory; Introduction to Graduate Studies; African American Literature; Zora Neale Hurston and the Harlem Renaissance.

In The News

“‘Get Out’ isn’t typical black Oscar bait. That’s one reason so many people think it deserves to win.” (March 2018)

<https://mic.com/articles/188045/get-out-isnt-typical-black-oscar-bait-thats-one-reason-so-many-people-think-it-deserves-to-win#.FYcb7ZU03>

“Superheroes movies are really white. Here are 6 diverse heroes who deserve their own film” (Jan 2018)

<https://mic.com/articles/187496/superheroes-movies-are-really-white-here-are-6-diverse-heroes-who-deserve-their-own-film#.WCEaCV5E9>

“Beyoncé Is the Leonardo da Vinci of Instagram” (Nov 2017)

<https://www.thecut.com/2017/11/beyonce-is-instagrams-leonardo-da-vinci.html>

“Beyoncé 101: The Rise of Teaching Queen Bey in College” (Sept 2017)

<http://www.billboard.com/articles/news/lifestyle/7973629/beyonce-college-classes-now-exist>

“See the Far-reaching Impact of Beyoncé’s *Lemonade*” (Feb 2017)

<http://time.com/4631309/beyonce-lemonade-impact/>

“Beyoncé’s ‘Lemonade’ album but a sip of her evolving feminist story” (Feb 2017)

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/nation-now/2017/02/20/beyoncs-lemonade-album-but-sip-her-evolving-feminist-story/96472706/>

“UTSA’s Beyoncé Class Creates Safe Space for Students” (Oct 2016)

<http://www.sacurrent.com/ArtSlut/archives/2016/10/03/utsas-beyonce-class-creates-safe-space-for-students>

“An Interview with Dr. Kinitra Brooks, Who Teaches a Class On Beyoncé” (Oct 2016)

<http://verysmartbrothas.com/intvw-with-dr-kinitra-brooks/>

“UTSA’s New Course of Black Feminism” (Oct 2016)

<http://texasweek.blogspot.com/2016/10/utsas-new-course-of-black-feminism.html>

“Texas University’s Class on Beyoncé’s Lemonade Will Explore Black Feminism in the US” (Sep 2016)

<https://mic.com/articles/155338/texas-university-s-class-on-beyonc-s-lemonade-will-explore-black-feminism-in-the-us#.MNGz3dDXn>

“This University Is Teaching an Entire Course Based on Beyoncé’s Lemonade” (Sep 2016)

<http://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/university-teaching-entire-based-beyonces-lemonade/story?id=42445886>

SERVICE

Dissertations:

English Department Dissertation, Chair

Stephanie Schoellman, Spring 2018. *Dis(curse)ive Discourses of Empire: Hinterland Gothics Decolonizing Contemporary Young Adult and New Adult Literature and Performance.*

English Department Dissertation, Member

Chesya Burke, *Black Girl Magic: Reimagining Black Women Speculative Fiction Artists Within the Spirituality of Womanism.* University of Florida. In Progress.

Alexis McGee, Summer 2018. *Legacies of Black Womanhood in Blues and Hip Hop: A Critique of Feminism, Sonic Rhetoric, and Language.*

Elizabeth Cali, PhD. Spring 2014. *Unexpected Revolutionaries: Troubling Nineteenth-Century African American Feminist and Masculinist Nationalisms.*

Roberta Barki Hurtado, PhD, Spring 2013. *Not Flesh of Empire: Psychological Enfleshment in Puerto Rican Women’s Literature.*

Terri Pantuso, PhD, Spring 2009. *Reading Silence Actively: Recovering the Maternal Narrative in Contemporary Women’s Novels.*

Theses:

Honors College Senior Thesis Committee, Member

Tanisha Hurd. BA Spring 2014

Honors College Senior Thesis Committee, Chair:

Eloy E. Gonzalez, BA, Fall 2012. “What to Expect.”

Honors College Senior Thesis Committee, Chair:

Taryn Frisce, BA, Fall 2012. “The Sincerest Form of Flattery: A Creative Exploration of the Growing Fan Fiction Genre.”

English Department Graduate Thesis Committee, Chair:

Michael Lee Gardin, MA, Fall 2009. "Toward a New Third Space Mothering: Motherhood and Institutions in Cristiana Garcia's *Dreaming in Cuban* and Ana Castillo's *So Far From God*"

English Department Graduate Thesis Committee, Member:

Melissa Whitney, MA, Spring 2009. "Tina McElroy Ansa's *Ugly Ways* and *Taking After Mudear: Mother-Daughter Psychological Diasporas.*"

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION AND VISITING SCHOLAR HOSTING

Planet Deep South Presents: Black & Brown Futures Conference	2018
Co-chair	
Black Kirby	2017
Coordinator, Host	
Jewelle Gomez	2016
Coordinator, Host	
Trudier Harris, Brackenridge Visiting Professor	2015
Coordinator, Host	
Erna Brodber	2014
Coordinator, Host	
Ibi Zoboi	2013
Coordinator, Host	
Harry Benshoff	2012
Coordinator, Host	
Black and Brown Feminisms in Hip Hop Media Symposium	2011
Co-founder, Co-chair	

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Provost Search Committee	2017 – 2018
Presidential Task Force on Sexual Assault	2017
The Graduate Council	2014 – 2016

COLLEGE SERVICE

COLFA Academic Policy and Curriculum Committee	2013 – Present
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DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

PhD Graduate Advisor of Record	2017 – Present
Merit Committee	2016 – Present
PhD Graduate Program Committee	2013 – 2015
M.A. Graduate Program Committee	2011 – 2013
Department Faculty Advisory Committee	2010 – 2014
College Faculty Advisory Committee	2010 – 2011
Library Liaison	2010 – 2011
Humanities Committee	2009 – 2011

EXTRAMURAL SERVICE

Astroblackness 3: Planet Deep South Symposium, Planning Committee 2016

SAMLA, Program Committee, Chair 2014

NWSA, Proposal Reviewer 2014

MLA, Executive Committee of MLA Discussion Group on Science Fiction and Utopian
and Fantastic Literature, 2011 – 2013

SAMLA, Program Committee, Member 2010 - 2013

SAMLA, Chairperson, African-American Literature, 2010

SAMLA, Chairperson, Comparative Literature (II), 2008

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS

Monographs: Oxford University Press; University of Texas Press.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Studies Association (ASA)

Modern Language Association (MLA)

National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)