

PATRICIA LYNN BROWN

5385 Declan Street
Riverside, California 92504
(951)662-0611
e-mail: pls.ms1935@gmail.com

Education

- Ph.D. American literature
African American literature (emphasis)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, December 2002
- M.A. American literature
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 1995
- B.A. English *magna cum laude*
Communications minor
Western Illinois University, May 1992

Teaching Credential

Professional Clear Single Subject – English
California Baptist University, May 2004

Work Experience

Professor (2006-Present), Azusa Pacific University – English Department
Director, Ethnic Studies Program (2012-2016), Azusa Pacific University
Adjunct Professor (spring 2014), California State University, Dominguez Hills
Adjunct Professor (fall 2013), Pasadena City College – English Division
Adjunct Professor (2003-2006), Azusa Pacific University – Human Development Department
Language Arts Teacher (2003-2006), Riverside Unified School District – Earhart Middle School
Instructor (1992-2002), University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign – English Department

Dissertation

“Gendering the Pulpit: Religious Discourse and the African-American Female Experience”

Advisory Committee: Professor Emily Watts (chair), Professor Alice Deck, Professor Chester Fontenot,
Professor Bruce Michelson

Gendering the Pulpit: Religious Discourse and the African-American Female Experience traces the entry of African-American women into the practice of preaching, focusing on Jarena Lee (1783-185?), Julia Foote (1823-1901), Maria Stewart (1803-1879), and Sojourner Truth (1797-1883). It is my contention that these women’s interpretive strategies and pulpit rhetoric contributed to a discourse that promoted freedom – for women, and for African-Americans. Their pioneering efforts opened the doors for other African-American women to challenge

conventional theories of religion and spirituality. Secondly, this study traces the continued pattern of African-American women renegotiating religious discourse. Twentieth century writers, Zora Neale Hurston and Alice Walker, continued the legacy, in their fiction, of reshaping and expanding the boundaries of religious discourse for African-American women as their position in American culture changed. They can be considered the literary daughters of Lee, Foote, Stewart, and Truth since they work within the same rhetorical framework of self-empowerment.

Teaching Experience

American Ethnic Literature, 2014-Present
Literary Movements (Harlem Renaissance), 2014-Present
Significant Authors (Toni Morrison), 2013-Present
American Literature (since 1865), 2011-Present
American Literature (beginning to 1865), 2009-Present
The African American Experience 2009-Present
African American Literature 2006-Present
Introduction to Literature 2006-Present
 Freshmen Writing Seminar 2006-Present
Composition: Theory and Practice 2003-2013
Language Arts (middle school) 2003-2006
 Children's Literature 2003
 Language Principles and Processes 2003
 Introduction to African-American Literature, Part I, Spring 2002
 Introduction to African-American Literature, Part II, Fall 2001
 Introduction to American Literature, Spring 2001, Fall 2000
 Introduction to Fiction, Fall 1999, Spring 1998
 English (Upward Bound College Prep Academy), Summer 1996-2000
 Reading (Upward Bound College Prep Academy), Summer 1996-2000
 English (Principal's Scholars Program), Fall 1994
 Composition (UIUC Bridge/Transition Program), Summer 1993
 Rhetoric, 1992-2000

Teaching Assistant

 Introduction to African-American Literature, Part I, Fall 1993, '96, '97
 Introduction to African-American Literature, Part II, Spring 1997, '99, '01

Honors, Organizations, Fellowships

Alice Watkins Diversity Award recipient, 2020
SURE Grant recipient (APU), 2016
Nominee for the Alice Watkins Diversity Award (APU), 2011, 2014, 2015
 Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society, 2009
 Illinois Consortium Equal Opportunity Program Fellowship (UIUC), 1994-98
 Nominee for Outstanding Teaching Award (UIUC), 1995
 Incomplete List of Excellent Teachers (UIUC), 1992, 1996, 1998
 Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, 1991
 All American Scholar Collegiate Award, 1990
 Ambassador for Diversity (WIU), 1990

Publications

“What’s Love Got To Do With It?: Christianity, Africanism, and Privilege Marilynne Robinson’s *Jack*.” *Christianity and Literature* Ed. Mark Eaton 2022 vol. issue page

“Gendering the Pulpit: Introduction to Jarena Lee’s Autobiography.” *Learning the Good Life: Wisdom from the Great Hearts and Minds That Came Before*. Eds. Jessica Wilson and Jacob Stratman. Michigan: Zondervan Academics, 2022, 183-187.

“Reimagining the Diaspora: Literature of the Harlem Renaissance.” *Africana World in Perspective: An Introduction to Africa and the African Diaspora*, 1st edition. Ed. Michael Mewenda Kithinji. Iowa: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2020, 275-298.

“Marilynne Robinson and the African American Experience.” *Balm in Gilead*. Eds. Timothy Larsen and Keith L. Johnson. Illinois: InterVarsity Press. 2019. 100-121.

“Harriet Tubman will be singing a clear note on our currency.” Los Angeles Daily News. April 28, 2016.

“Rendering the African-American Woman’s God Through *The Color Purple*.” *Alice Walker’s The Color Purple*. Ed. Kheven LaGrone. New York: Rodopi Press, 2009. 61-76.

Conference Papers

“Decolonizing Syllabi: Selecting and Teaching Diverse Texts” Conference on Christianity and Literature in LaMirada, California, April 2022.

“The Blacker the Berry: Essence of the Harlem Renaissance.” Keynote speaker for the Harlem Renaissance Library Exhibit (rare collections) at Azusa Pacific University, February 2020.

“The Problem with a White Male God in Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*.” Harvard Theology Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts, April 2019.

“Marilynne Robinson and the African American Experience.” Wheaton Theology Conference, Wheaton, Illinois, April 2018.

“Moral Boundaries of Motherhood: A Case for Margaret Garner.” Conference on Christianity and Literature in San Diego, California, May 2017.

“The Precarious Burden of Margaret Garner.” National Association of African American Studies National Conference in Dallas, Texas, February 2017.

“Journey to Sankofa,” scriptwriter and director. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrHs1dBTrmA&t=98s>

“Art or Propaganda: the Use of Words During the Harlem Renaissance.” Conference on Christianity and Literature in Riverside, California, May 2016.

“Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*: the Spiritual (In)effectiveness of the Film and Novel.” Conference on Christianity and Literature in Seattle, Washington, May 2015.

“Toni Morrison’s Fiction: Effortless Transitions Between the Secular and Sacred.” Conference on Christianity and Literature in Santa Barbara, California, May 2014.

“Belief and Unbelief: In Search of Christianity During the Black Arts Movement.” National Association of African American Studies National Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, February 2013.

“BAM! What Happen to Christian Belief During the Black Arts Movement?” Conference on Christianity and Literature in Seattle, Washington, May 2012.

“Choosing the Better: The Dichotomy of a Martha and Mary Spirit.” Common Day of Learning, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, California, March 2012.

“Surrendering to the Air: Milkman’s Journey and the Motif of Flight in Toni Morrison’s *Song of Solomon*.” Conference on Christianity and Literature in Costa Mesa, California, May 2011.

“Power From on High: Pioneering Female Preacher Jarena Lee.” National Association of African American Studies National Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, February 2011.

“Sold! To the Highest Bidder: The Precarious Condition of the Slave Family.” Conference on Christianity and Literature in Riverside, California, March 2010.

“Her Sermon, Her Life: Religious Discourse in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” National Association of African American Studies National Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, February 2009.

“An Analysis of Black Dialect in Hurston’s Fiction as a Form of Realism.” American Literature Association Ninth Annual Conference in San Diego, California, May 1998.

“‘God Ain’t a He or a She, But a It’: The Redefining of Religion As a Tool of Empowerment for Alice Walker’s Celie in *The Color Purple*.” National Association of African American Studies National Conference in Houston, Texas, February 1998.

“Bakhtin’s ‘double-voice’ and DuBois’ ‘double-consciousness’ in Dorothy West’s *The Living Is Easy* and *The Wedding*.” American Literature Association Symposium on African-American Literature in San Jose del Cabo, Mexico, November 1997.

“The Bible as an Abolitionist Tool; Samuel Sewall’s *The Selling of Joseph*.” Rock Mountain Modern Language Association in Spokane, Washington, October 1995.

Professional Contributions and Development

The Church as Ally: Putting an End to COVID-19 Inequities and Racialized Police Brutality, panelist. Azusa Pacific Seminary, June 2020.

International Conference of Higher Education, panelist for workshop – “Marginalization and Reconciliation.” Ghana, Africa, June 2018.

Student Congress on Racial Reconciliation (SCORR), panelist for workshop – “Journey to Sankofa: A Tour of the Jim Crow South into our Present-Day Racial Issues.” Biola, February 2018.

The Margaret J. Weber Distinguished Lecture Series: Dr. Cornel West “Justice Matters,” Pepperdine Graduate School of Education & Psychology, spring 2017.

Seventh Biennial Conference of the Toni Morrison Society, principal discussant in the roundtable discussion on “*The Black Book* and Documenting Black History in the Age of Digital Media,” summer 2016.

Ethnic Studies Summit, Chapman University, spring 2016

Faculty Seminar in the Liberal Arts, faculty participant, summer 2014.

Christians on Diversity in the Academy, faculty participant, spring 2014.

Faculty Seminar in the Liberal Arts, faculty participant, summer 2013.

Faculty Writing Course: Journal Publication (Grad 531). Azusa Pacific University, spring 2013.

Nouns, Verbs and Peanuts: Solving the Mystery of Getting Published, A Seminar on Academic Writing (Union University) faculty participant, September 2012.

Faculty Writers’ Retreat (Azusa Pacific University) faculty participant, May 2012.

Council of Independent Colleges and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History “Slave Narrative Seminar” (Yale University) faculty participant, June 2009.

Research and Teaching Interests

African American literature

African American experience

American Literature

Composition

Harlem Renaissance literature

Toni Morrison literary studies

Women’s studies and literature

African-American dialect tradition

Slave narratives

Religious studies and literature

Academic Affiliations

Toni Morrison Society
National Association of African American Literature
Conference on Christianity in Literature
Modern Language Association
American Literature Association
Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society
National Association for the Advancement of Color People
ESSENCE Program, Board of Directors
Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association

Academic and Community Service

Conference Chair, Western Region Conference on Christianity and Literature, March 2020
General Education Assessment Committee, APU, 2018-2019
Lead faculty, Journey to Sankofa Abroad (Ghana), APU, summer 2018
Faculty lecturer, "Come Back to CLAS, Last Lecture," APU, October 2017
Diversity Ambassador facilitator, "Supporting First Generation Students in CLAS," APU, fall 2017
Lead faculty, Journey to Sankofa Civil Rights Tour, APU, summer 2017
Faculty panelist, Diversity Mosaic, Common Day of Learning, APU, March 2017
Faculty panelist, "Look Where He's Brought Us From..." Black Student Assoc., APU, Feb 2017
Faculty facilitator, "Faculty Dialogue Event: Making Space for Civil Conversation Across Difference," APU, January 2017
Group facilitator/mentor for Writing 1 instructors, APU, 2016-Present
Faculty facilitator for teaching best practices on "The Cultural Plunge," APU, fall 2016
Faculty panelist, Diversity in Leadership on Campus, Black Student Association, APU, Feb 2016
Regional Representative, Western Region of the Conference on Christianity & Literature, 2015-Present
Diversity Ambassador, APU, 2014-Present
Primary Coordinator for the English Department's Program Review, APU, 2015-2016
English Department Lead Faculty, APU, 2014-2016
Conference Chair, Western Region Conference on Christianity and Literature, May 2012
Chair of academic assessment for the English department at APU, 2011-Present
Advisor for Black Student Association at APU, 2010-2015
Program Review Committee at APU, 2009-2013
Honors Program Task Force at APU, 2011-2012
Interim Director for the Pew College Society at APU, Fall 2011
Interim Advisor for Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society at APU, Fall 2009
Financial Secretary and Treasurer of the CME Church SCR Ministers' Spouse, 2012-Present
Assistant to the Director of the Board of Christian Ed. at Hays Tabernacle Church, 2011-Present
Liaison of the Missionary Society at Hays Tabernacle Church, 2011-Present
Director of the Board of Christian Ed. at Amos Temple Church, 2004-2011
Liaison of the Missionary Society at Amos Temple Church, 2002-2011
Children's Church teacher at Amos Temple and Hays Tabernacle, 2005-Present
Director of the Education Department at Alpha & Omega Church of Jesus Christ, 1995-2002
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 2002 -Present

Languages

French (reading knowledge)

Spanish (reading knowledge)

Reference

Professor David Esselstrom, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, California

Professor Chester Fontenot, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia

Sandra Kato, Ph.D., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign