

Curriculum Vitae
James H. Watkins

Berry College
Department of English, Rhetoric, and Writing
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EDUCATION

- 1990-1995 Ph.D. in English
University of Florida
Dissertation: "Locating the Self: Southern Identity, White Masculinity, and the
Autobiographical 'I'"
- 1988-1990 M.A., English, University of Florida
- 1982-1986 B.A., English, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023-present Professor of English, Rhetoric, and Writing
- 2002-2023 Associate Professor of English, Rhetoric, and Writing
- 1995-2002 Assistant Professor of English
Berry College
Box 350, Mt. Berry, GA, 30149

- Current courses: RHW 102: First Year Seminar in Writing and Rhetoric II
ENG 201: Themes in Literature: Reading the U.S. South
ENG 201: Themes in Literature: Environmental Literature
ENG 240: Literary Criticism and Research
ENG 330-A: Topics in the Literature of Race, Region, and Environment:
Environment in Literature of the American South
ENG 341: Studies in 20th-Century Literature: The Fabulous Fifties
ENG 339: Topics in Race, Ethnicity, and National Identity in Literature:
Native American Literature
ENG 420: Studies in Genre and Theory: Autobiography
ENG 450: Advanced Seminar in Literary Studies: US Southern
Autobiography

- Past Courses: RHW 101: First Year Seminar in Writing I
ENG 220: American Literature I: Colonial to Civil War
ENG 221: American Literature II: Civil War to Present
ENG 333: 19th-Century American Literature
ENG 335: 20th-Century American Literature
ENG/FLM 418: The American West in Film and Literature
ENG 428: African American Literature
ENG 432: Studies in Southern Literature
ENG 450: Senior Thesis Project
HON 201: Honors Colloquium: Selfhood and Literature

HUM 200: E Pluribus Unum: Moments in American Democracy
BCC 100: First Year Seminar

1988-1995 Graduate Teaching Assistant
Department of English, University of Florida

Courses Taught: ENG 2023: Survey of American Literature I, from Crane to Present
ENG 1145: Special Topics in Writing: Writing About the South
ENG 1102: Writing About Literature
ENG 1101: Expository and Argumentative Writing

TEACHING INTERESTS

U. S. Southern Literature	Native American Literature
Autobiography Studies	Literature and the Environment
American Literature (general)	Rhetoric and Writing

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Editor and Introduction, *Southern Selves: From Mark Twain and Eudora Welty to Maya Angelou and Kaye Gibbons: A Collection of Autobiographical Writing*. New York: Vintage, 1998.

Journal Articles (refereed)

- “Familiar Stranger: Double Self-Portraiture in the Art of Howard Finster.” *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*. Vol. 39 (2024). 347-43.
- “Plain Talk”: Autobiographical Authority and the Living Word in Don West's *Clods of Southern Earth*.” *Southern Quarterly*. 56.4 (Summer 2019). 27-44.
- “Returning to Mississippi by Choice”: Autobiographical Self-Location and the Performance of Black Masculinity in James Meredith's *Three Years in Mississippi*.” *Mississippi Quarterly* Spring 2016 (69.2) 253-75.
- “The Double-Weave of Self and Other: Ethnographic Acts and Autobiographical Occasions in Marilou Awiakta's *Selu: Seeking the Corn-Mother's Wisdom*.” *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 30.1 (2006): 5-16.
- “Sword Holes in the Sofa: Documenting the Autobiographical in Ross McElwee's *Sherman's March*.” *North Carolina Literary Review* 11 (2002): 99-111.
- “Self-Location and the Racial Other: Reading *Cross Creek* as Southern Autobiography.” *Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Journal of Florida Literature* 11 (2002): 15-43.
- “The Use of *I*, *Lovely* and *Terrifying Word*: Autobiographical Authority and the Representation of ‘Redneck’ Masculinity in [Harry Crews's] *A Childhood*.” *The Southern Quarterly: A Journal of the Arts in the South* 37.1 (Fall 1998): 15-26.

Journal Articles (non-refereed)

- “Setting Off the Yeager Bomb.” In “Remembering Patricia Yeager: A Written Roundtable.” *Mississippi Quarterly*. 67.1 (Winter 2014): 19-21.

Book Chapters

- “Larry Brown.” *American Writers Supplement XXI*. General Editor, Jay Parini. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Publishers, 2011. 35-49.

- “Drinking Poisoned Waters: Traumatized Masculinity and Southern Regional Identity in Contemporary Memoir.” *White Manhood in the Recent South*. Ed. Trent Watts. Louisiana State University Press, 2008. 220-33.
- “Aquijeros de espada en el sofá: Documentando lo autobiográfico en *Sherman’s March* de Ross McElwee/“Sword Holes in the Sofa: Documenting the Autobiographical in Ross McElwee’s *Sherman’s March*.” *Landscapes of the Self: The Cinema of Ross McElwee / Paisajes del yo: El cine de Ross McElwee*. Eds. Efrén Cuevas and Alberto N. García. Ediciones Universidad de Navarra, S.A. 2008. (Reprint in bilingual collection of essays on U.S. filmmaker Ross McElwee, published in Spain.) 153-79.
- “Autobiography and Memoir (1960-Present).” Ed. Carolyn Perry and Mary Louise Weeks. *The History of Southern Women’s Literature*. Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 2002. 447-54.
- “‘The Use of *I*, Lovely and Terrifying Word’: Autobiographical Authority and the Representation of ‘Redneck’ Masculinity in *A Childhood*.” Ed. Erik Bledsoe. *Perspectives on Harry Crews*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2001. 15-28.

Reference Book Entries

- “Autobiography.” *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture. (Literature)* Ed. Thomas Inge. U Presses of Mississippi, 2008.
- “William Alexander Percy.” *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture. (Literature)* Ed. Thomas Inge. U Presses of Mississippi, 2008.
- “Class.” *The Companion to Southern Literature: Themes, Genres, Places, People, Movements, Motifs*. ed. Joe E. Flora and Lucinda Mackethan. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2001.
- “Federal Writers Project.” Flora and Mackethan.
- “Horses/Horse Racing.” Flora and Mackethan.
- “Law, 1900-Present.” Flora and Mackethan.
- “Men’s Diaries and Journals.” Flora and Mackethan.
- “Old South.” Flora and Mackethan.
- “Yoknapatawpha.” Flora and Mackethan.

Book Reviews

- Review of *Keeping the Faith: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives, A Memoir*. Tuscaloosa: U of Alabama P, 2011. Forthcoming in the *Southern Humanities Review*, 46.4 (Fall 2012).
- Review of *Just Below South: Intercultural Performance in the Caribbean and U.S. South*, ed Jessica Adams, Michael Bibler, and Cécile Accilen (U of Virginia P, 2007), for H-Southern-Lit, H-Net Reviews, December 2009.
- Review essay. *Flannery O’Connor’s Radical Reality*, ed. Jan Nordby Gretlund and Karl -Heinz Westarp (Columbia, SC: U of South Carolina P, 2006) and *Madison Jones’ Garden of Innocence*, ed. Jan Nordby Gretlund (Odense, Denmark: U P of Southern Denmark, 2005), in *The Flannery O’Connor Review*, Volume 5 (2007): 173-75.
- Review of *Literary Savannah*, ed. Patrick Allen. *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 83.2 (Summer 1999): 354-55.
- Review of *Act Like You Know: African American Autobiography and White Identity*, by Crispin Sartwell. *South Atlantic Review* 64.2 (Winter 1999): 176-79.

Review of *Being a Boy Again: Autobiography and the American Boy Book*, by Marcia Jacobsen. *South Atlantic Review*, 61:1 (Winter 1996): 169-71.

PRESENTATIONS

- “Family Memoir in the Anthropocene: Urban Situated Selfhood in Sarah M. Broome’s *The Yellow House*. Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Atlanta GA. 28 June 2022.
- “Celebrity on the Lam: *True Detective Magazine*’s Serialization of Robert E. Burns’ *I am a Fugitive from the Georgia Chain Gang*.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association annual conference. Birmingham, AL. November 3, 2018.
- “Area X as Site of Purity and Contamination: Ecological Liminality in Jeff VanderVeer’s *Southern Reach Trilogy*.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature biennial conference. University of Texas. Austin, TX, February 17, 2018.
- “Emancipation’s Unfinished Business: James Meredith’s Northern Sojourn.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature biennial conference. Boston University. Boston, MA, March 10, 2016.
- “Roundtable: Remembering Patricia Yeager.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature biennial conference. Boston University. Boston, MA, March 11, 2016.
- Session moderator: Music II. Society for the Study of Southern Literature biennial conference. Boston University. Boston, MA, March 13, 2016.
- ““Seeking a Back of Beyond”: Encountering the Wild in Horace Kephart’s *Our Southern Highlanders*,” presented at the annual meeting of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 8, 2014.
- “Self-Fashioning in Paradise: Performing the Outsider Artist in Howard Finster’s Paradise Garden,” presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature, George Mason University-Arlington, Arlington, VA, March 28, 2014.
- ““One Must Love What is His’: Reverse Migration and the Performance of Black Masculinity in James Meredith’s *Three Years in Mississippi*,” presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, 3/31/12.
- “Written on the Lam: Sensationalism, Social Criticism, and Testimonial Power in *I am a Fugitive from a Georgia Chain Gang!* Presented at the biennial Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference in New Orleans, LA, April 4, 2010.
- “ ‘Clodhoppers of the World Unite!’: The International Roots of Don West’s Southern Agrarian-Proletariat Poetry.” Presented at the biennial Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference at Williamsburg, VA, April 9, 2008.
- ““So Little Margin for Error’: Labor, Paternity, and Mortality in Harry Crews’ *A Childhood*.” Presented at the Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference at Birmingham, AL, April 1, 2006.
- “A Compass for Our Journey: Ethnographic Acts and Autobiographical Occasions in Marilou Awiakta’s *Selu: Seeking the Corn-Mother’s Wisdom*.” Presented at the Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference at Chapel Hill, NC, March 27, 2004.
- ““Big Enough and Then Some’: Mary Hood’s Little Victoria and *How Far She Went*.” Invited lecture at the *Reading Today’s Southern Writers* International Symposium, the University of South Carolina-Beaufort.” January 16, 2004.
- “Telling Lives: Reframing the South in Southern Women’s Autobiography.” Invited lecture at “Many Voices, Many Forms” Symposium on Contemporary Southern

- Literature, University of Alabama-Huntsville, April 5, 2002.
- “Homing in on White Masculinity: The Contemporary Southern Family Memoir as Trauma Recovery Narrative.” Presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature in Lafayette, LA, March 16, 2001.
- “Redefining ‘the South’ in Contemporary African American Women’s Autobiographies: Charlayne Hunter-Gault’s *In My Place* and Deborah McDowell’s *Leaving Pipe Shop*.” Presented at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association annual meeting in Atlanta, November 9, 2001.
- “Historical Trauma, Regional Identity, and the Location of White Southern Masculinity in Ross McElwee’s *Sherman’s March*.” Presented at the “Autobiography and Changing Identities” Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, July 30, 2000.
- “Representing the Good Old Boy in the Postmodern South: Discursive Strategies in the Autobiographical Works of Harry Crews, Larry Brown, and Tim McLaurin.” presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, April 8, 2000.
- “Defended Borders and Guarded Thresholds: Public Honor, Private Selfhood, and Personal Reticence in Autobiographies of Southern White Men.” Presented at the Twenty -Third Annual Colloquium on Literature and Film, Morgantown, West Virginia, October 16, 1998.
- “Autobiographical Writing and the Southernness of the Southern Writer.” Invited lecture presented at the Tenth Annual Southern Festival of Books, Nashville, TN, October 9, 1998. (My lecture was broadcast on C-SPAN 2’s *Book-TV* several times during the weekend of Oct. 9-11, 1998).
- “‘The Rotten Spot at the Center of My Life’: The Image of the Broken Father in the ‘Redneck’ Autobiography.” Presented at the Fourteenth Annual Southern Writers Symposium, ayetteville, NC, September 17, 1998.
- “Self-Representation of the Poor White and the Continued Perception of Southern Difference.” Presented at the Popular Culture Association in the South/American Cultural Association in the South Convention, Savannah, GA, October 16, 1996.
- “What is a Southern Autobiography? Representations of the Self and the South in Rawlings’s *Cross Creek*.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society, Tallahassee, FL, March 1995.
- “History and the Problem of Representation: Ethical and Practical Challenges to Teaching the Slave Narrative.” Presented at the Florida College English Association Conference, St. Petersburg, FL, February 1995.
- “Laying Claim to the South: Southern Autobiography, White Masculinity, and the Representation of Regional Identity.” Presented at the “Textual Regions and Regional Texts” Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, November 1994.

OTHER APPEARANCES

- Co-Moderator, *Downstream: Indigenous Perspectives on Conservation*. Coosa River Basin Initiative. 2024. Eight episodes.
- Program moderator, “The Southern Writer in the World: Interior Spaces,” Southern Women Writers Conference, Berry College, Mt. Berry, GA, September 22, 2005.
- Program organizer and moderator, “Life Writing in the South,” annual meeting of the Modern Language Association, Washington, D.D., December 28, 2001.

Program organizer and Moderator, “Contemporary Southern Women Writers,” annual meeting of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, November 9, 2001.

Program moderator, “Film and Autobiography” session, Autobiography and Changing Identities Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada, July 29, 2000.

Program moderator, “Life Writing and Personal Remembrance,” Southern Women Writers Conference, Berry College, Mt. Berry, GA, April 14, 2000.

Program moderator, Eleventh Annual Southern Festival of Books, Nashville, TN, October 9, 2000. Introduced featured speaker, author Will D. Campbell, and led Q&A session with author.

Interview. “Contemporary Southern Writers.” *The Connection*. National Public Radio, August 6, 1998. (*The Connection* is a nationally syndicated, hour-long live radio program based in Boston. I shared the program with novelist Barry Hannah. Taped transcript available upon request.)

Program moderator, “Contemporary Claims: Redefining Race and Class in the South,” Southern Women Writers Conference, Berry College, Mt. Berry, GA, April 18, 1998.

RECOGNITIONS

Vulcan Teaching Excellence Award, college-wide award for excellence in teaching, Berry College, April 2010.

Writing-Across-the-Curriculum Award, Berry College, April 2010. College-wide teaching, award for excellence in using writing as a means of critical engagement in Writing-Intensive classes.

Humanities and Social Science Fellowship, University of Florida, 1993-1994

University Graduate Student Teaching Award, 1992-1993 (university-wide, one of only nine awarded in that academic year)

Department Graduate Student Teaching Award, 1991-1992 and 1989-90

SERVICE (selected)

Co-chair, Writing Across the Curriculum Committee (FA rep, 2022-present)

Chair, Faculty Assembly ad hoc Committee on Berry Land Use.

Search Committee Member, College Library Director.

Search Committee member, STEM Science Teacher Spring 2022.

Co-Chair, Search committee for Assistant Professors in Ethnic Studies and Global English Literature (Fall 2021)

Academic Council 2010-2012, 2016-2020.

Chair, Environmental Studies Committee, 2012-2015

Chair, Department of English, Rhetoric, and Writing, 2005-2008

Executive Council Member, Society for the Study of Southern Literature, 2004-2006 & 2007-2009 terms)

Co-Director, 2003, 2009, and 2012 Berry College Southern Women Writers Conference

Advisory Board member, *North Carolina Literary Review* (2009-present)

Advisory Board member, *Southern Women's Review* (2012-present)

Advisory Board member, Ninebark Press (2010-present)

Faculty Advisor, Epsilon Kappa chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, English Honor Society (2015-present)

Reviewer, *Journal of Appalachian Studies*

Reviewer, *Southern Spaces: An Interdisciplinary Journal About the Regions, Places, and Cultures of the American South*

Reviewer, *Southern Quarterly: A Journal of Arts and Letters in the South*

Chair, 2008 C. Hugh Holman Award committee, SSSL

Chair, Evans Green Committee (2008-2010)

Assistant Director, 2000 Berry College Southern Women Writers Conference

Chair, Berry College Film Minor Committee (Spring 1997-Summer 1999)

Chair, Berry College Continuing Education Committee (Spring 1998-Spring 1999)

Liaison for Society for the Study of Southern Literature to the Modern Language Association (2001)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Society for the Study of Southern Literature

South Atlantic Modern Language Association

REFERENCES

Christina Bucher, Chair of English, Rhetoric and Writing, Berry College, Box 350, Mt. Berry, GA 30149, 706 233-4076, cbucher@berry.edu.

Kirsten Taylor, Interim Dean of the Evans School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Berry College, Box 5034, Mt. Berry, GA 30149, (706) 236-2297, ktaylor@berry.edu.

Kathryn McKee, Director, Center for the Study of Southern Culture and McMullan Associate Professor of English and Southern Studies, University of Mississippi, 209 Barnard Observatory, University, MS, 38677. 662 915-3372. kmckee@olemiss.edu.