

## Courtney Thorsson

August 2026

### Employment

|         |                                                                        |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2024-   | Professor of English, University of Oregon                             |
| 2023-26 | Faculty Fellow, Clark Honors College, University of Oregon             |
| 2015-24 | Associate Professor of English, University of Oregon                   |
| 2009-15 | Assistant Professor of English, University of Oregon                   |
| 2009-10 | Postdoctoral Fellow in African American Literature, Rutgers University |

### Education

Ph.D., English, Columbia University, 2009

M.A., English, Columbia University, 2004

B.A., English and African American Studies, University of Virginia, 2000

### Publications

#### Books

*The Sisterhood: How a Group of Black Women Writers Changed American Culture*. Columbia University Press, hardcover November 2023, paperback April 2025, audiobook February 2026.

- Reviewed in [Publisher's Weekly](#), [Kirkus Reviews](#), [Library Journal](#), the [Times Literary Supplement](#), [Choice](#), [The Nation](#), [Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society](#), [The Journal of American History](#), [Resources for Gender and Women's Studies: A Feminist Review](#), [Global Black Thought](#), [Criticism](#), [Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature](#), and [Resources for American Literary Study](#), [American Literary History](#), [African American Review](#)
- Honorable Mention, 2024 William Sanders Scarborough Prize, Modern Language Association
- [Brooklyn Public Library Book Prize 2024 longlist](#)
- [2025 Oregon Book Award finalist](#)
- Literary Freedom Project [One Book One Bronx](#) selection for 2025
- Book Publication Award, Office of the Provost, University of Oregon
- *Town and Country* "[Must-Read Books of Fall 2023](#)" and "[Best Books of November 2023](#)"; *LitHub* "[Ultimate Fall Books 2023 Preview](#)"; *Library Journal* "[Editors' Fall Picks](#)"; *Los Angeles Times* "[Books We Can't Wait to Read This Fall](#)," and "[18 Best Nonfiction Books](#)" of 2023; Association of University Presses "[Work that Sparks Conversation](#)"; *TheGrio*, "[Ultimate Holiday Gift Guide](#)"; [2023 Seminary Co-op Notables](#); African American Intellectual History Society's *Black Perspectives* "[The Best Black History Books of 2023](#)"; Black Women's Studies Association selection for Black History Month 2024; [National Endowment for the Humanities Black History Month Bookshelf](#) selection 2024; [Powell's Bookstore Black History Month recommendation](#) 2024; [Museum of African American History Stone Book Award official submission](#) 2024

*Women's Work: Nationalism and Contemporary African American Women's Novels*. University of Virginia Press, 2013.

- Reviewed in *American Literature*, *American Literary History*, *Journal of American Culture*, *Novel*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Studies in the Novel*, and *Choice*.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

"[Vertamae Grosvenor's Revolutionary Recipes](#)," *MELUS: Multi Ethnic Literature of The United States*. 50.1 (Spring 2025): 30-53.

"*The Chaneyville Incident* and The Research Narrative in Contemporary African American Literature," *Studies in the Novel*. 55.1 (Spring 2023): 17-36.

"'They could be killing kids forever!': The Atlanta Child Murders in African American Literature," *African American Review*. 53.4 (Winter 2020): 315-332.

- Winner of the 2020 Weixlmann Prize for best essay in *African American Review* on twentieth- and twenty-first-century literature.

"Foodways in Contemporary African American Poetry: Harryette Mullen and Evie Shockley," *Contemporary Literature*. 57.2 (Summer 2016): 184-215.

Co-author, "Black Women's Food Work as Critical Space." *Gastronomica* 15.4 (Winter 2015): 34-49.

"Gwendolyn Brooks's Black Aesthetic of the Domestic." *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States* 40.1 (Spring 2015): 149-176.

"James Baldwin and Black Women's Fiction." *African American Review* 46.4 (Winter 2013): 615-31.

"Dancing Up A Nation: Paule Marshall's *Praisesong for the Widow*." *Callaloo* 30.2 (2007): 644-52.

### Book Chapters

"'Before you erase this, wait': Toni Morrison in her archives, her network, and her rage." *Sites of Memory: Toni Morrison and the Archive* edited by Kinohi Nishikawa and Autumn Womack. Princeton University Press, forthcoming 2026.

"If ever there was a Black woman's town, New York was it': Toni Morrison's New York." *Toni Morrison In Context* edited by Stephanie Li. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2027.

"[The Sisterhood and Its Legacies](#)," *Cambridge History of African American Poetry* edited by Keith Leonard. Cambridge University Press, 2026. 423-440.

"Kitchen, Nation, Diaspora: Ntozake Shange's African American Foodways." *Foodscapes: Food, Space, and Place in a Global Society* edited by Carlita Greene. Peter Lang, 2018. 199-222.

### Book Reviews

Review of *Monstrous Work & Radical Satisfaction: Black Women Writing Under Segregation* (2024) by Eve Dunbar. *Criticism*, forthcoming issue 66.2.

[Review of \*Open Admissions: The Poetics and Pedagogy of Toni Cade Bambara, June Jordan, Audre Lorde, and Adrienne Rich in the Era of Free College\* \(2024\) by Danica Savonick.](#) *American Literary History*, February 2026.

Review of *From Slave Cabins to the White House: Homemade Citizenship in African American Culture* by Koritha Mitchell. *Legacy* 38.1-2 (2021): 163-65.

"Fairy Tales of Race and Nation," Review of *Gingerbread* by Helen Oyeyemi. *Public Books*, April 9, 2019.

"Why Now?: Recent Writings on Black Power and the Black Panther Party." *Callaloo* 32.2 (2009): 670-75.

Review of *Building Houses Out of Chicken Legs: Black Women, Food & Power* by Psyche Williams-Forsen, *Atlantic Studies* 5.1 (2008): 146-48.

### Selected Invited Writings

Exhibition copy for 1973-1976 letters between Gayl Jones and Toni Morrison, Random House Records Exhibit, Columbia University Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, opening January 2027.

Blog post, "[Beyond the Famous Few: Five Women Who Shaped Black History and Literature](#)," Columbia University Press, February 2024.

Excerpt from *The Sisterhood*, "[How Michele Wallace Sought Black Women's Liberation Through Art: Courtney Thorsson on the Emergence of a Black Feminist Literary Culture in America](#)," *LitHub*, November 2023.

Podcast Script, "[The Sisterhood, 1977 Photograph](#)," *Remarkable Receptions* Podcast, August 2022. Available on platforms including Apple podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, and Google Podcasts.

- Most downloaded episode of *Remarkable Receptions*, a Mellon-Funded Initiative of the History of Black Writing Project.

Podcast Script, "[Toni Morrison's Beloved](#)," *Remarkable Receptions* Podcast, June 2022. Available on platforms including Apple podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, and Google Podcasts.

### **Selected Interviews, Profiles, and Media Coverage**

"[The Sisters Are In, So Check the Front Line': An Interview with Courtney Thorsson, Author of \*The Sisterhood\*](#)" by Jordan A. Rothacker, *Statement of Record*, March 2025.

[Interview](#) by Mark Anthony Neal for *Left of Black*, John Hope Franklin Institute, Duke University, June 2024. Web series.

[Interview](#) by N'Kosi Oates for *New Books Network*, May 2024. Podcast.

[Interview](#) by DuEwa Frazier, *Nerdacity*, March 2024. Podcast.

Contributor, "[Making Toni Morrison](#)" episode of [Making](#), WBEZ Chicago, March 2024. Public radio show and podcast.

"[The Sisterhood Celebrates Black Feminist Writing](#)," *CAS Connections*, University of Oregon, January 2023.

"[Literary Sisters: Two Years That Changed Our Culture](#)" by Henry Houston, *Oregon Quarterly*, November 2023.

[Interview](#) by Jeff O'Neal, *First Edition*, Book Riot. November 2023. Podcast.

"[The Sisterhood Changed the Literary Landscape in the '70s](#)," Interview by Catherine Huff, ALL ARTS, the WNET Group. November 2023.

"[Embracing Life and Literature](#)," Profile, Clark Honors College Newsletter. October 2023.

["Three Upcoming Columbia University Press Publications,"](#) *Cultural Front*. August 2023.  
["Dr. Thorsson Receives Provost Book Publication Award,"](#) U Oregon College of Arts and Sciences.  
 August 2023.  
["The Musical History of Jelly,"](#) *The Sporkful*. August 2019. Podcast.  
["UO Today Interview by Paul Peppis,"](#) April 2014. Television and web.  
 "Books Aren't Dead" Interview by Tasia Milton. Fembot Collective. March 2014. Podcast.

### **Selected Fellowships and Awards**

|         |                                                                                                      |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026    | Herman Award for Specialized Pedagogy, University of Oregon                                          |
| 2024-28 | Collegiate Faculty Award, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oregon                         |
| 2021-23 | Norman H. Brown Faculty Fellowship, University of Oregon                                             |
| 2021    | Faculty Research Award, Office of the Vice President for Research & Innovation, University of Oregon |
| 2018-19 | Public Scholar Award, National Endowment for the Humanities                                          |
| 2018-19 | Ernest G. Moll Research Professorship, Oregon Humanities Center (declined)                           |
| 2016    | Fund for Faculty Excellence Award, University of Oregon                                              |
| 2015-16 | College Scholars Teaching Fellowship, University of Oregon                                           |
| 2014    | Early Career Award, Office of Research and Innovation, University of Oregon                          |
| 2013-14 | Junior Professor Development Award, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oregon               |
| 2013-14 | Faculty Research Award, Office of Research and Innovation, University of Oregon                      |
| 2012-13 | Ernest G. Moll Research Professorship, Oregon Humanities Center                                      |
| 2012    | Faculty Research Grant, Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon               |
| 2010-11 | New Faculty Award, University of Oregon                                                              |
| 2009-10 | Postdoctoral Fellowship in African American Literature, Rutgers University                           |

### **Selected Invited Presentations**

"Curatorial Short: Toni Morrison and Gayl Jones," Toni Morrison Exhibit, Rare Books and Manuscript Library, Columbia University, online, February 2027 (scheduled).  
["The Sisterhood: How A Network of Black Women Writers Changed American Culture, Author talk with Courtney Thorsson,"](#) New York State Public Library, online, October 2026 (scheduled).  
 "Teaching Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*," talk and workshop for Core Curriculum Instructors, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 2026.  
 Guest Author, Literary Freedom Project [One Book One Bronx](#) book club meeting about chapter 4-6 of *The Sisterhood*, online, December 2025.  
 Panelist, ["Black Arts, Black Spaces, and Black Performance,"](#) Conversations in Black Freedom Studies, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, online, October 2025.  
 Guest Speaker, [African American Studies Faculty-Graduate Seminar "The Black 1980s: Promises of Inclusion, Perils of Access,"](#) Princeton University, February 2025.  
 Letter to Black Women Writers Groups, ["Queendom of Literary Women,"](#) Baltimore Book Festival, Baltimore, Maryland, September 2024 (read on my behalf by journalist Bry Reed).  
 Roundtable, "Feminist Collective/s" Feminisms Unbound Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (GCWS), a collaboration among the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Brandeis University, and Tufts University, online, April 2024.  
 Discussion of *The Sisterhood* with Autumn Womack and the Department of English Intersections Working Group, undergraduate class guest lecture, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, March 2024.

- Presentation and Q&A with The Charlottesville Chapter of The Links, Inc., Annual Book Brunch, Charlottesville, Virginia, March 2024.
- "Engaging *The Sisterhood* with Courtney Thorsson," public reading and conversation, undergraduate class visit, and brown bag book discussion with graduate students, University of Georgia, March 2024.
- Reading from *The Sisterhood* and public conversation with Tara Betts, Seminary Coop, Chicago, Illinois, February 2024.
- Panel discussion about *The Sisterhood* with Farah Griffin, Margo Jefferson, and Patricia Spears Jones, Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race (CSER), Columbia University, New York, New York, February 2024.
- Discussion of *The Sisterhood* with Evie Shockley, Harriet's Bookshop, Philadelphia, PA, January 2024.
- Panelist, "[Celebrating 40 Years of the History of Black Writing and Black Women's Writing](#)," University of Kansas, Virtual Event, November 2023.
- "That's A Farah Thing!: A Few First Principles," Flowin': Breakthroughs in Black Feminist Jazz and Literary Studies—A Conference in Celebration of Farah Jasmine Griffin, Yale University, September 2022.
- Panelist, "[Creation Is Everything You Do: Shange, The Sisterhood, and Black Collectivity](#)," Barnard College, March 2021.
- "Black Feminisms," Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race Graduate Seminar "Methods in American Studies," Columbia University, March 2021.
- "The Sisterhood, Literary Organizing, and The Archive," African American Literature and Culture Now Symposium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, November 2019.
- "Frederick Douglass in Contemporary African American Novels," Frederick Douglass and Literary Crossroads NEH Institute, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL, July 2019.
- "Douglass and Black Women," Frederick Douglass and Literary Crossroads NEH Institute, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL, July 2019.
- "The Sisterhood and Black Women's Literary Organizing," University of Georgia, Athens, GA, February 2019.
- Panel Chair, "Black Poetics," Race and Resistance Conference, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, October 2016.
- Panel Chair, "Soul Survivals: Black Cultural Production in the 1970s," Race and Resistance Conference, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, October 2016.
- Keynote Speaker, "Women's Work: Nationalism and Contemporary Black Women's Novels," Radical Historiographies Conference, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, March 2014.
- "Vertamae Grosvenor's Revolutionary Recipes," University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, January 2014.
- Participant, "Multiplying Standpoints and Participatory Feminisms" Conference, Fembot Collective, Portland, Oregon, July 2013.
- Presenter, Faculty Forum on Race and Ethnicity, Rutgers University, April 2010.
- Panelist, closing roundtable, Celebrating African American Literature Conference, Pennsylvania State University, October 2009.

### **Selected National and International Presentations**

- Panel organizer and moderator, "Intimate Inheritance and Uses of Poetry," Furious Flower IV, Harrisonburg, VA, September 2024.
- Panelist, "Pure Imagination: How Art Sparks Change," *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books, Los Angeles California, April 2024.
- Panelist, "[Black Women's Collectives](#)," Virginia Festival of the Book, Charlottesville, Virginia, March 2024.

- "Diminishing Returns and Insurgent Forces: Black Feminism in The Academy," Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, January 2024.
- Roundtable Participant, "The *Toni Morrison: Sites of Memory* Exhibition and Black Feminist Curation," Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, January 2024.
- "'June was the catalyst': June Jordan, the Sisterhood, and Literary Activism," Phillis Wheatley Poetry Festival, Jackson State University, November 2023.
- Roundtable Participant, "Insurgent Black Feminist Poetics: An Authors Session," American Studies Association, New Orleans, LA, November 2022.
- "The Sisterhood and Black Women's Literary Organizing," African American Literature and Culture Society, American Literature Association, San Francisco, CA, May 2018.
- "Boundaries of Race, Place, and Form: The Atlanta Child Murders in African American Literature," Modern Language Association, Austin, TX, January 2016.
- Roundtable Participant, "Radical Curators, Vulnerable Genres," Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, January 2014.
- "Foodways in Twenty-First-Century African American Poetry," Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, January 2014.
- Roundtable Participant, "The Good, The Bad, The Unforgivable: Black Women's Food Work as Spaces of Dissent and Strategic Acquiescence," American Studies Association, Washington D.C., November 2013.
- "Foodways and African American Poetry," Celebrating African American Literature, Pennsylvania State University, October 2013.
- "Women's Work: Nationalism and Contemporary Black Women's Novels," African American Literature and Culture Society, American Literature Association, Boston, MA, May 2013.
- "Vertamae Grosvenor's Revolutionary Recipes," Foodways: Diasporic Diners, Transnational Tables and Culinary Connections, University of Toronto, October 2012.
- "James Baldwin and Black Women's Fiction," Celebrating African American Literature, Pennsylvania State University, September 2011.
- "'There were lives in the buildings': Gwendolyn Brooks's Black Aesthetic of the Domestic," Northeast Modern Language Association, New Brunswick, NJ, April 2011.
- "Mapping and Moving Nation: Gloria Naylor's *Mama Day*," Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, December 2009.
- "Inscribing Community: Toni Morrison's *Paradise*," Celebrating African American Literature, Pennsylvania State University, October 2009.
- Panel Chair, "James Baldwin: In His Time/In Our Time," Suffolk University, Boston March 2009.
- "Cooking Up Community: Ntozake Shange," Modern Language Association, San Francisco, CA, December 2008.
- Moderator, "Graduate Scholar Presentations," Conversation Series, Institute for Research in African American Studies, Columbia University, Spring 2008.
- "A Language to Dwell In: James Baldwin's *Another Country*," James Baldwin: Work, Life, Legacies, Queen Mary University, London, June 2007.
- "Dancing Up A Nation: Paule Marshall's *Praisesong for the Widow*," Black Diaspora in the South and the Caribbean, Louisiana State University, March 2007.
- "America ain't entered the question at all: Mapping Home and Community in Gloria Naylor's *Mama Day*," Envisioning Home, City University of New York, November 2006.

### Selected Local Presentations

[Reading from \*The Sisterhood\*, public conversation with Ericka Warren](#), and Q&A, Clark Honors College Alumni, University of Oregon Alumni Association, University of Oregon Black Alumni Network. Online, April 2024.

- Reading from *The Sisterhood* and public conversation with Mat Johnson, Powell's, Portland, Oregon, February 2024.
- Oregon Humanities Center Wine Chat about *The Sisterhood* with Faith Barter, Capitello Wines, Eugene Oregon, January 2024.
- Reading from *The Sisterhood* and Q&A with students, faculty, and staff, Clark Honors College, University of Oregon, November 2023.
- Discussion Leader, Karla Holloway's *A Death in Harlem*, Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon, January 2020.
- Panelist, Teaching Ta-Nehisi Coates's *Between the World and Me*, Common Reading Program, University of Oregon, May 2016.
- African American Literary Studies, Faculty Fireside, Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society, University of Oregon, April 2015.
- "Women's Work: Nationalism and Contemporary Black Women's Novels," Works in Print, English Department, University of Oregon, April 2014.
- Moderator, Arlene Keizer presentation and discussion of Kara Walker exhibit, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Eugene, Oregon, February 2014.
- "Revolutionary Recipes: Foodways and African American Literature," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Eugene, Oregon February 2013.
- "Revolutionary Recipes: Foodways and African American Literature" Works in Progress, Oregon Humanities Center, University of Oregon, November 2012.
- Moderator, "Dangerous Dependencies: Domestic Slavery and Servitude in the Americas" roundtable, University of Oregon, May 2012.
- "Vertamae Grosvenor's Revolutionary Recipes," Works in Progress, Food in the Field Research Interest Group, University of Oregon, May 2012.
- "Women's Work: Nationalism and Contemporary African American Women's Novels," Women Faculty Research Series, Center for Study of Women and Society, University of Oregon, April 2012.
- "Vertamae Grosvenor's Revolutionary Recipes," Place and Displacement in African American Literature Symposium, University of Oregon, March 2012.
- Moderator, "New Approaches to the Study of Slavery and Abolition in the Americas," Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies, University of Oregon, November 2010.

### **Selected Event Organizing**

- Co-Organizer, Mary Helen Washington public talk, class visit, and meetings with students and faculty, May 2026.
- Co-Organizer, Wikipedia edit-a-thon in conjunction with exhibit "ReEnvisioned: Contemporary Portraits of Our Black Ancestors" by Jeremy Okai Davis at the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History, April 2026.
- Organizer, Matt Sandler book talk and discussion, *The Black Romantic Revolution: Abolitionist Poets at the End of Slavery*, November 2020.
- Organizer, Tanisha Ford talk, "The Politics of Style: Black Women, Social Movements, and Global Fashion Economies," University of Oregon, April 2016.
- Co-Organizer, "Hands Up & Breathe: A Conversation About Racial Justice and Hip Hop Culture with Jeff Chang and James Peterson," University of Oregon, March 2015.
- Organizer, screening of *Reflections Unheard: Black Women in Civil Rights* and discussion with director Nevline Nnaji, University of Oregon, April 2014.
- Organizer, "Racial Representations: African American Literature Since 1975" symposium, University of Oregon, April 2013.

Organizer, "Place and Displacement in African American Literature" symposium, University of Oregon, March 2012.

Organizer, reading, talk, and interview with author Mat Johnson, University of Oregon, May 2011.

## **Teaching**

### Undergraduate

#### *University of Oregon*

Honors College 101: Poetry of Black Liberation  
 English 104: Introduction to Fiction  
 English 106: Introduction to Poetry  
 Honors College 221: Black Women's Short Fiction  
 English 241: Introduction to African American Literature  
 English 316: Black Women's Novels  
 English 360: African American Writers 1870-1920  
 English 360: Black Feminist Literature  
 ENG 360: Black Women's Novels  
 English 391: Nineteenth-Century American Novel  
 Ethnic Studies 399: The Harlem Renaissance  
 English 403: Directed Study for Honors Thesis  
 Honors College 424: Contemporary African American Women's Novels  
 Honors College 421/444: Black Feminist Literature  
 Honors College 421/444: Toni Morrison and Friends  
 English 468: Contemporary Black Fiction  
 English 479: Major Authors: Toni Morrison  
 English 498: Contemporary African American Women's Novels

#### *Rutgers University*

English 251: Black Literature 1930 to the Present

#### *Columbia University*

University Writing 1010: Freshman Composition  
 English 3011: Critical Reading, Critical Writing  
 African American Studies 3930: African American Foodways  
 English 4624: Contemporary African American Women's Novels

### Graduate

#### *University of Oregon*

English 510: Contemporary Black Women's Fiction  
 English 568: Contemporary Black Fiction  
 English 579: Major Authors: Toni Morrison  
 English 598: Contemporary African American Women's Novels  
 English 605: Independent Study: Race, Ethnicity, and Identity  
 English 605: Independent Study: African American Literature to 1900  
 English 605: Independent Study: Article Revision and Submission  
 English 660: African American Foodways  
 English 660: Contemporary Black Fiction  
 English 660: Twenty-First-Century Black Fiction

Dissertations

Director

- 2020-22 Carmel Ohman, English, "Writing Erotic Freedom in Black Feminist Fiction and TV, 1973-2019"
- 2016-18 Angela Rovak, English, "Make Something Besides A Baby: Race, Gender, and Reproductive Science in Black Women's Twentieth Century Novels"
- 2012-14 Bethany Jacobs, English, "Refusing Mothers: The Dystopic Maternal in Contemporary American Women's Literature"
- Member
- 2023 Holly Lowe Jones, Black Archives and Kinship Networks in *Playboy* 1960s-1990s
- 2022-23 Sabrina Sherman, English, "Historicizing Coalitional Politics & Passing Narratives"
- 2020-22 Will Conable, English, "Intimate Other: The Rhetorics of Race, Gender, and Place in A Southern Environmental Imagination"
- 2019-22 Cassie Galentine, English, "Race, Hygiene, and Environmental Justice in U.S. Multiethnic Working-Class Literature"
- 2018-20 Carmel Ohman, English, "Writing Erotic Freedom in Black Feminist Fiction and TV, 1973-2019"
- 2015-19 Margaret Bostrom, English, "Clearing the Static: Challenging the Limits and Repetitions of Single-Issue Feminisms in the Era of Women's Studies' Institutionalization"
- 2017-18 Celena Simpson, Philosophy, "The Mixed-Race W.E.B. Du Bois: Historical and Contemporary Insights"
- 2015-18 Helen Huang, English, "We Have No Bananas: Cultural Imaginings of the Banana in America from 1880-1945"
- 2015-18 Sean Peterson, Music, "Something Real: Rap, Resistance, and the Music of the Soulquarians"
- 2015-17 Taylor McHolm, English and Environmental Studies, "Representational Challenges: Nature, Race, and Form in Literature of Environmental Justice"
- 2013-16 Ramona Tougas, Comparative Literature, "Performing Work: Internationalism and Theatre of Fact Between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R."
- 2011-14 Jeni Rinner, English, "Mid-Century American Poets and the Identity of Place"
- 2011-13 Phoebe Bronstein, English and Cinema Studies, "Televising the South: Race, Gender, and Place in TV Dramas"

Master's Theses

Member

- 2014-15 Andy Mueller, English, "Representation and Abstraction in Gwendolyn Brooks's 'Two Dedications'"
- 2011-12 Jessi DiTillio, Art History, "Perverse Fascination: Medium, Identity, and Performativity in the Art of Kara Walker"
- 2010-11 Sarah Sandri, Folklore, "Performativity, Gender and Ethnicity in African Dance Communities in the U.S."

Undergraduate Theses

## Director

- 2026- Chase Merrill, "Not Your Mule: Black Girlhood, Identity, and the Burden of Leadership"  
U Oregon First-Year Research Experience Award, Summer 2026
- 2020-21 Emily Duru, McNair Scholars Program, "Black Women's Coming-of-Age in Contemporary American Literature"
- 2015-16 Sam Rodgers, English Honors and Clark Honors College, "James Baldwin Across Literary Forms"  
U Oregon English Department Thelma and Stanley Greenfield Award for Best Thesis, Spring 2016  
U Oregon Humanities Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Fall 2015
- 2014-15 Mallory Davis, McNair Scholars Program, "Of Cost and Consequence: Examining the Price of White Liberalism in James Baldwin's *Another Country*"

## Member

- 2025-27 Benjamin Sage, Business Administration, Clark Honors College
- 2026 Kate Withers, Creative Writing, Clark Honors College
- 2025-26 Lena Nguyen, Art and Technology, Clark Honors College
- 2025-26 Peter Fengler-Johnson, Human Physiology, Clark Honors College
- 2025-26 Esmee Fuller, Human Physiology, Clark Honors College
- 2025-26 Clara Lechman, History, Clark Honors College
- 2025-26 Paris Woodward-Ganz, English, Clark Honors College
- 2025-26 Beatrice Kahn, History and English, Clark Honors College
- 2023-24 Justin Mouledous, Environmental Sciences, Clark Honors College
- 2023-24 Kavi Shrestha, Global Health and Political Science, Clark Honors College
- 2023-24 Morgan Glenn, Environmental Sciences, Clark Honors College
- 2023-24 Lynn Choi, Human Physiology, Clark Honors College
- 2023-24 Amalia Carkeek-Hercey, English, Clark Honors College
- 2023-24 Catherine Morley, Romance Languages, Clark Honors College

Graduate Exam Committees

## Director

- 2022 Megan Butler, Major Field: African American Literature From 1965-Present; Paper: "Literature of the Spirit: Black Women's Literary Tradition as Resource for Spiritual Sustenance and Religious Instruction"
- 2021 Holly Jones, Breadth Fields: Critical Race Theory, Medical Humanities
- 2020-21 Sabrina Sherman, Breadth Fields: Black Feminisms and Literature, 20th-Century U.S. Novels; Major Field: Twentieth and Twenty-First Century African American Literature
- 2019-21 Jiesha Stephens, Breadth Fields: U.S. Multiethnic Literature 1945-Present, Black Sexuality Studies; Major Field: U.S. Black Literature and Culture, 1965-present; Paper: "Imaginative Histories: The Body as Archive in Ana Maurine Lara's *Kohnjehr Woman*"
- 2015-16 Angela Rovak, Breadth Fields: Feminist Theories, Post-1945 American Novels; Major Field: African American Literature; Paper: "Eugenics Discourse in the Harlem Renaissance: Reproductive Science, the Birth Control Movement, and Nella Larsen's Novels"

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| 2011-12 | Bethany Jacobs, Breadth Fields: Race Theory, Modernism; Major Field: American Fiction Since 1945; Paper: "Matriarchal Threat in the Novels of Octavia Butler"                          |
| Member  |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2022    | Holly Jones, Major Field: Late 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Black American Literature (1940-2000); Paper: Black artists in <i>Playboy</i> magazine after the Civil Rights era              |
| 2021    | Emalydia Flenory, Breadth Field: Pre-1945 Representations of Black Sexuality                                                                                                           |
| 2021    | Jesse Heine, Breadth Field: Black Feminisms and American Literature                                                                                                                    |
| 2017    | Alex Cavanaugh, Breadth Field: Post-1945 U.S. Literature                                                                                                                               |
| 2015    | Margaret Bostrom, Major Field: Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature; Paper: "The Personal, the Political, and the Poetic: Feminist Histories and the 1974 National Book Award for Poetry" |
| 2015    | Avinnash Tiwari, Major Field: African American Literature; Paper: "No Longer Torn Asunder: Living and Writing Double Consciousness"                                                    |
| 2015    | Carmel Ohman, Breadth Field: Theories of Race and Ethnicity                                                                                                                            |
| 2015    | Jungyeon Yoon, Breadth Field: Critical Race Theory                                                                                                                                     |
| 2014    | Danielle Seid, Major Field: Asian American and African American Literature; Paper: "'All I'm Asking For Is My Skin': Kim Fu's <i>For Today I Am A Boy</i> "                            |
| 2012    | Jessica Crane, Major Field: Literature of the Long Eighteenth Century 1700-1832; Paper: "Reading Cugoano: Journey, Jeremiad, and Social Justice"                                       |
| 2012    | Sarah Ray Rondot, Breadth Field: Race, Ethnicity, and Identity                                                                                                                         |
| 2012    | Hannah Godwin, Major Field: British and American Modernism; Paper: "Scalpels and Babes: Reproductive Ideology in Djuna Barnes <i>Ladies Almanack</i> "                                 |
| 2011    | Dan Platt, Major Field: American Fiction Since 1945; Paper: "Failing to Identify: Toxic Risk and Collective Organization in David Foster Wallace's <i>Infinite Jest</i> "              |
| 2010    | Jeni Rinner, Major Field: Twentieth-Century American Literature; Paper: "Gwendolyn Brooks and Place: The Odd Aural Construction of 'In the Mecca'"                                     |

## Service

### English Department

|            |                                                                                                            |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026-      | Graduate Admissions Committee                                                                              |
| 2026-      | Director, English Honors Program                                                                           |
| 2026-      | Mentor to Assistant Professor                                                                              |
| 2022-23    | Composition Committee                                                                                      |
| 2021-22    | Chair, Third-Year Review Committee                                                                         |
| 2020-22    | Diversity Committee                                                                                        |
| 2020-21    | Chair, Search Committee, Director of Composition                                                           |
| 2019-20    | Curriculum Committee                                                                                       |
| 2019-20    | Tenure Review Committee                                                                                    |
| 2019-21    | Mentor to Postdoctoral Fellow in Ethnic American Literature                                                |
| 2018, 2020 | Judge, Janine Thornton Essay Competition for Best Graduate Student Essay about African American Literature |
| 2017-18    | Chair, Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Nineteenth-Century African American Literature             |
| 2017-18    | Tenure Review Committee                                                                                    |
| 2015-16    | Chair, Diversity Committee                                                                                 |
| 2015       | Ad Hoc Committee on Tenure Track Faculty Professional Responsibilities                                     |
| 2014-15    | Ad Hoc Committee on Merit Review Policy                                                                    |
| 2014       | Merit Review Committee (elected)                                                                           |

|            |                                                                                                              |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2014, 2016 | Judge, Sarah Harkness Kirby Award for Best Graduate Student Essay                                            |
| 2013-15    | Diversity Committee                                                                                          |
| 2013       | Volunteer, Student Academy to Inspire Learning                                                               |
| 2012-15    | Judge, Malarkey Prize for Best Graduate Student Essay about African American Literature and Culture (annual) |
| 2011-13    | Designated Advisor to English Majors                                                                         |
| 2011-13    | English Department Council (elected)                                                                         |
| 2011-13    | Curriculum Committee                                                                                         |
| 2010-11    | Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Native American Literature                                          |

#### Clark Honors College

|         |                                                                          |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026    | Ad-hoc Working Group on Writing Intensive Courses                        |
| 2025-26 | Timely Graduation / Faculty Advising for Student Retention Working Group |
| 2023-24 | Search Committee, Career Faculty in Natural Science (3 positions)        |

#### College of Arts and Sciences

|         |                                                                                |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | Chair, Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences                      |
| 2022-23 | Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences                             |
| 2016-23 | Participating Faculty, Politics, Culture, and Identity Graduate Specialization |
| 2015-16 | Advisory Board Member, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies    |
| 2013-   | Participating Faculty, Food Studies Program                                    |
| 2013-   | Affiliate Faculty, Department of Women's and Gender Studies                    |
| 2011-   | Affiliate Faculty, Center for the Study of Women in Society                    |
| 2011-17 | Participating Faculty, Ethnic Studies Department                               |

#### University of Oregon

|           |                                                                           |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026-2028 | University Library Committee                                              |
| 2023      | Action Team Member, Isaac Julien Exhibit, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art  |
| 2022      | NEH Summer Stipend Application Reviewer, Research Development Services    |
| 2021      | Provost's Faculty Advisory Committee for the Institutional Hiring Plan    |
| 2020      | Grant Application Reviewer, Center for the Study of Women in Society      |
| 2017-18   | Mentor to Junior Faculty, Division of Equity and Inclusion                |
| 2013-15   | University Diversity Committee                                            |
| 2013-14   | Advisory Team Member, Kara Walker Exhibit, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art |

#### Professional

##### Editorial Board Member

|       |                                 |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 2013- | <i>Food and Foodways</i>        |
| 2012- | <i>The James Baldwin Review</i> |

##### Article Reviewer for Academic Journals

|                  |                                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 2026             | <i>Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism</i> |
| 2024             | <i>College Literature</i>                          |
| 2022, 2023, 2026 | <i>African American Review</i>                     |
| 2022             | <i>Feminist Media Histories</i>                    |
| 2020, 2021       | <i>Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature</i>         |
| 2019-24          | <i>Contemporary Literature</i>                     |
| 2018             | <i>Southern Quarterly</i>                          |
| 2014             | <i>The Scholar &amp; Feminist Online</i>           |

2013-19 *PMLA: Publication of the Modern Language Association*  
 2013-19 *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*  
 2013 *Comparative Literature*  
 2013 *Journal of Africana Religions*  
 2013-18 *Ada: A Journal of Gender, New Media, and Technology*  
 2012 *Journal of American Studies*

Manuscript Reviewer for Academic Presses

2026 University of Minnesota Press  
 2026 Duke University Press  
 2025 Columbia University Press  
 2024, 2025 Yale University Press  
 2023 University of North Carolina Press  
 2018, 2023 University of Virginia Press

External Reviewer for Promotion and Tenure Cases

2026 Georgetown University  
 2025, 2026 Mississippi State University  
 2025 Dartmouth College  
 2023 University of South Alabama  
 2015 Columbia University

Other Professional Service

2016 Jurist, John Dos Passos Prize