

## Erin K. Johns Speese, PhD

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### **Employment**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Duquesne University, 2014-Present

Temporary Faculty, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2013-2014

Graduate Teaching Assistant, West Virginia University, 2005-2013

### **Education**

PhD, English Literature, West Virginia University, 2007-2013

MA, English Literature, West Virginia University, 2005-2007

BA, English Literature, University of Pittsburgh, 2001-2005

### **Dissertation**

*The Modernist Sublime: Parenthood and the Intersubjective Sublime Subject in Faulkner, Forster, Lawrence, and Woolf*

Committee: Lisa Weihman (Director), Ryan Claycomb, Gwen Bergner, Adam Komisaruk, Lisa Rado (defended 2013)

### **Teaching Experience** (teaching portfolio available upon request)

#### Teaching Interests

British and American Modernist, Twentieth, and Twenty-First Century Literature; Long Nineteenth-Century British and American Literature; Aesthetics; Gender/Queer Studies; Transatlantic Studies; Science and Literature; Popular Culture; Film Studies; Composition and Rhetoric

#### Courses Taught/Scheduled

##### **Duquesne University, Department of English and Theater**

*Loving Publics: Gender, Race, and the Rhetoric of the Public Intellectual, UCOR 101: Thinking and Writing Across the Curriculum* (self-designed, research writing course), Fall 2016

Authors include Ta-Nehisi Coates, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Roxanne Gay, Melissa Harris-Perry, Angela Davis, and Beyoncé.

*UCOR100: Research and Information Skills* (self-designed, information literacy course), Fall 2016

*Memory and Revision, Honors Inquiry I*, (common texts, self-designed assignments), Fall 2016

Authors include Jhumpa Lahiri, Paula Vogel, Seth (Graphic Novelist), Claudia Rankine, Ta-Nehisi Coates, and Junot Diaz.

*The Color of Violence: Global Women Writing Violence, UCOR 102: Writing about Literature, Gender Cluster* (self-designed, writing about literature course), Spring 2016

Authors include Diamela Eltit, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Emma Donoghue, Violet Barungi, Nice Rodriguez, Adelheid Roosen, Mahasweta Devi, Ata Aidoo, Julie Okoh, Tsitsi Dangaremba, Gloria Anzaldúa, and a variety of Arab women poets.

*Engendering Rhetoric: Love and Violence in Media and Culture, UCOR 101: Thinking and Writing*

*Across the Curriculum* (self-designed, research writing themed around gender and violence), Fall 2015

*The Postmodern Condition: Literary Theory for the Modern Subject, ENGL 434W* (self-designed introduction to theory course), Fall 2015

Course emphasizes mostly nineteenth- and twentieth-century theorists and covers Feminist Theory, Queer Theory, Gender Theory, Postmodernism, Post Structuralism, Marxist Theory, Race Theory, Postcolonial Theory, Transnational Theory, Psychoanalysis, and Cultural Studies.

*Memory and Revision, Honors Inquiry I*, (common texts, self-designed assignments), Fall 2015

Authors include Edwidge Danticat, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Jeannette Walls, Stephen Chbosky, and Margaret Atwood.

*Canon Ball!: Rethinking American Literature for the Twenty-First Century Subject, American Literature II Survey* (self-designed, upper level undergraduate course), Spring 2015

Authors include Walt Whitman, Kate Chopin, Willa Cather, Ezra Pound, Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, Nella Larsen, Amy Lowell, William Faulkner, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Tennessee Williams, Ursula K. LeGuin, Kurt Vonnegut, Sandra Cisneros, Leslie Marmon Silko, Louise Erdrich, Art Spiegelman, and others.

*Global Englishes: The Subaltern Speaking in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, UCOR 102: Writing about Literature*, Global Literature Cluster (self-designed, writing about literature course), Spring 2015

Authors include Salman Rushdie, Joseph Conrad, Chinua Achebe, Nadine Gordimer, Bapsi Sidwaha, Anita Desai, Bharati Mukherjee, Edwidge Danticat, Jamaica Kincaid, Jessica Hagedorn, Katherine Mansfield, Leslie Marmon Silko, Derek Walcott, Tawfiq al-Halkim, and others.

*Multi-Ethnic Literature and the Bildungsroman, Honors Inquiry II* (Honors Freshman composition/literature course, self-designed), Spring 2015

Authors include Jhumpa Lahiri, Junot Diaz, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Gary Shteyngart, Sherman Alexie, and Jessica Hagedorn.

*Honors Inquiry I* (Honors Freshman composition/literature course, self-designed assignments), Fall 2014

Authors include Sandra Cisneros, Maxine Hong Kingston, Bram Stoker, David Harris-Gershon, Rebecca Skloot, and selected secondary, critical readings.

*UCOR 101: Thinking and Writing Across the Curriculum* (Composition course in a Learning Community, self-designed), Fall 2014

### **West Virginia University, Department of English**

*Modernist Identities and the Aesthetics of Form* (self-designed upper level undergraduate course), 2011

Authors include Virginia Woolf, Nella Larsen, D.H. Lawrence, William Faulkner, T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Willa Cather, W.B. Yeats, E.M. Forster, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Marianne Moore, Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, Amy Lowell, Jean Toomer, Langston Hughes, H.P. Lovecraft, H.G. Wells, Dashiell Hammet, and others.

*Science, the Mind, Identity, and British Literature from Romanticism to the Present* (self-designed upper level undergraduate course), 2012

Authors include the major Romantic poets (Coleridge, Wordsworth, Blake, Byron, Shelley, Keats) as well as Mary Shelley, Anna Letitia Barbauld, Felicia Hemans, the Victorian writers (Charles Dickens, Robert Louis Stevenson, Emily Bronte, Robert Browning, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Christina Rossetti, Elizabeth Gaskell), the modernists (Joseph Conrad, James Joyce, W.B. Yeats, T.S. Eliot, D.H. Lawrence, Katherine Mansfield, Virginia Woolf), post WWII/contemporary writers (Anthony Burgess, Zadie Smith, Nicholas Hornby, Alan Moore and David Lloyd), and others.

*Dystopian Spaces and Individual Identities* (self-designed lower level undergraduate course), 2012

Authors include Suzanne Collins, Jerome Holgate, Shirley Jackson, Yevgeny Zamyatin, George Orwell, Anthony Burgess, Ursula K. LeGuin, Margaret Atwood, Alan Moore and David Lloyd, Kate Wilhelm, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Paolo Bacigalupi, and others.

*Superheroes, Super Geeks, the Supernatural, and the Magical as Cultural Critique* (self-designed upper level undergraduate course), 2009

Texts include *True Blood*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Twilight*, *Harry Potter*, *Fringe*, *Bones*, *Watchmen*, and others as well as extensive secondary reading.  
*Composition and Rhetoric II* (self-designed second level composition course), 2007-2012  
*Composition and Rhetoric I* (self-designed introductory composition course), 2005-2007

### **Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Department of English**

*Who We Are Is What We Like: Popular Culture and Identity* (self-designed introductory composition course), 2013-2014  
*Reading Popular Culture* (self-designed second level composition course on academic research and writing), 2013-2014

### **Allegany College of Maryland, English Department**

*Introduction to Literature*, (self-designed introductory course), 2006

## **Publications**

### **Articles**

- “The Whipping Girl: ‘Corporeal’ Punishment in D.H. Lawrence’s *The Rainbow* and William Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying*.” *Twentieth-Century Literature*. Under Review.
- “Aren’t We Guilty Too?: The Censorship of D.H. Lawrence in the Ivory Tower.” *Rhizomes: Cultural Studies in Emerging Knowledge*. 26 (2014). Web.  
Link to article: <http://www.rhizomes.net/issue26/speese.html>
- “Our feelings become impressed with the grandeur of Omnipotence’: Mary Somerville’s Feminine Scientific Sublime.” *Prose Studies: History, Theory, Criticism*. 35.2 (2013): 171-188. Print.
- “Raping Prejudice: Mary Hays’s *The Victim of Prejudice, Gender, and Rape*.” *Work of Romanticism: Proceedings from the 2008 International Conference on Romanticism*. Ed. Christopher R. Clason. Lewiston: Mellen P, 2011. Print.
- “A Flip of the Coin: Gender Systems and Female Resistance in the Coen Brothers’ *No Country for Old Men*.” *No Country for Old Men: From Novel to Film*. Ed. Lynnea Chapman King, Rich Wallach, and Jim Welsh. Lanham: Scarecrow P, 2009. Print.
- With Kristin Smith. “Welcome to Stars Hollow: *Gilmore Girls*, Utopia, and the Hyperreal.” *Gilmore Girls and the Politics of Identity: Essays on Family and Feminism in the Television Series*. Ed. Ritch Kalvin. Jefferson: McFarland, 2008. Print.

### **Book Project** (Under contract at Routledge, Publication Date: April 2017)

#### *Gender and the Intersubjective Sublime in Faulkner, Forster, Lawrence, and Woolf*

This project explores how the modern novel restructures traditional conceptions of the Romantic sublime through complex depictions of parenthood. Using related strategies of representation, William Faulkner, E.M. Forster, D.H. Lawrence, and Virginia Woolf rewrite the traditional sublime as an intersubjective experience, dependent upon the recognition of social objectification and an ethics of reciprocal empathy between mothers and fathers. Ultimately, *The Modernist Sublime* contributes to modernist scholarship by exploring the dynamics of modernist representations of parenthood and by focusing attention on how modernist authors reconsider the function of the sublime in the modern world. Juxtaposing traditional aesthetics and Slavoj Žižek’s concept of the “sublime object of ideology” with recent theoretical work regarding identity, I argue that these modern novelists construct what I term a “sublime subject” (or a person who functions in the space of the traditional sublime object) in order to reveal the possibility of a sublime experience that favors emotional connection over reason. These novelists critique the objectification of the other in favor of a sublime experience that reveals the subject-shattering power of empathy.

## Book Project

### *Writing the Body Invisible: Female Public Intellectuals and the Navigations of the Corporeal Body*

This project explores the writing of female public intellectuals, especially women of color, from the twentieth to the twenty-first century. Examining the complex history between western Feminism and Global Feminisms, I examine the way the dominant narratives of Western Feminism come into conflict with narratives from women situated in the global margins. In particular, I look at female public intellectuals of color who have become visible to both Western culture and feminism through their navigations of the body. In looking at the work of Simone de Beauvoir, Gayatri Spivak, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie as well as female bloggers like Roxanne Gay, a narrative of the body emerges that counters the privilege of male intellectual's ability to be appreciated only for their mind. Ultimately, I argue that women's physical embodiment, conditioned through cultural norms of visibility predicated on the corporeal body, must be accounted for in understanding the female public intellectual as navigating the double bind of womanhood and intellectualism. In essence, in order for a woman intellectual's mind to be seen, her body must always at first be visible, and so, a very different history of intellectualism surfaces when considering a woman's space in the public sphere.

## Conference Presentations

- "Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Celebrity: Women, Race, and the Public Intellectual." Panel: 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Century Women Writers as Public Intellectuals. *Modern Language Association Convention*. Austin, TX. 8 January 2016.
- "Knee Deep in Sewage: Alice Hamilton, Feminism, Immigration, and Public Health." Panel: Revolutionary Women and Social Reform: 1880-1920. *Modernist Studies Association Conference*. Boston, MA. 20 November 2015. (Panel Organizer)
- "Transcending Hymens: Rupture, Childbirth, and the Sublime in H.D. and Mina Loy." Panel: H.D. and Others. *H.D. and Feminist Poetics Conference*. Bethlehem, PA. 19 September 2015.
- "The Whipping Girl: Ursula and 'Corporeal' Punishment in D.H. Lawrence's *The Rainbow*." Panel: *The Rainbow* and War. *Modern Language Association Convention*. Vancouver, BC. 8-11 January 2015. 9 January 2015.
- "Domesticating Science: Ida Freund and the Chemistry of Feminism." Panel: Rebel Modernism. *Modernist Studies Association Conference 16: Confluence and Division*. Pittsburg, PA. 7 November 2014.
- "Mater Sacer: Addie as Sublime Object in William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*." Panel: Modernist Aesthetics and the Spectacle of Violence. *Modernist Studies Association Conference 14: Modernism and Spectacle*. Las Vegas, NV. 19 October 2012.
- "Aren't We Guilty Too?: The Censorship of D.H. Lawrence in the Ivory Tower." Panel: 50 Years after the Lady Chatterley Trial: Lawrence and Censorship/Pornography/Obscenity. 2012 *Modern Language Association Convention*. Seattle, WA. 7 January 2012.
- "'But he dared not know her': Intersubjective Sublime Parenting in D.H. Lawrence's *The Rainbow*." Panel: Parenthood in American, British, and Australian Modernism. *Modernist Studies Association Conference 13*. Buffalo, NY. 8 October 2011. (Panel Organizer)
- "'Our feelings become impressed with the grandeur of Omnipotence': Mary Somerville's Feminine Scientific Sublime." *Curiosities: The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual British Women Writers Conference*. Ohio State University. Columbus, OH. 31 March 2011.
- "'Hecho en Mexico': (Re)production, Motherhood, and Environmental Justice in Karen Tei Yamashita's *Tropic of Orange*." *24<sup>th</sup> Annual MELUS Conference*. University of Scranton. Scranton, PA. 8 April 2010-11 April 2010.
- "Raping Prejudice: Mary Hays's *The Victim of Prejudice, Gender, and Rape*." *2008 International Conference on Romanticism*. Oakland University. Rochester, MI. 15 Oct 2008-10 Oct 2008.

“Boldly Going: Representation in *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and the *Star Trek* Community.”  
*Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Associations Conference*. Albuquerque,  
NM. 13 Feb 2008-16 Feb 2008. \*Awarded Heldrich-Dvorak Travel Fellowship

“Before the Acts: The Victorian (Mis)representation of Lucy Swithin in *Between the Acts*.” *Virginia Woolf: 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Art, Education, and Internationalism*. Miami University of  
Oxford. Oxford, OH. 6 July 2007-10 July 2007.

### **Research Seminars**

*Seminar*: “Gen M: Experiential/Experimental Time” with Lois Cucullu, Aaron Jaffe, and Rudolph Glitz,  
2012 Modernist Studies Association Conference  
Paper Presented: “The Temperature of Time: Hudson Hoagland’s ‘Chemistry of Time’ and  
Virginia Woolf’s Fiction”

*Seminar*: “Modernism and Violence” with Marian Eide, 2011 Modernist Studies Association Conference  
Paper Presented: “Mater Sacer: Addie as Sublime Object in William Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying*”

*Seminar*: “Modernist Death(s)” with Holly Laird, 2010 Modernist Studies Association Conference  
Paper Presented: “Only Disconnect: Ruth Wilcox, Death, and the Maternal Sublime Object in  
E.M. Forster’s *Howards End*”

*Seminar*: “After the National Paradigm: Literary History, Translation, and the Making of World  
Literature” with Rebecca Walkowitz, Seminar in Literary and Cultural Studies, West Virginia  
University, 2010

*Seminar*: 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the T.S. Eliot Society, 2009  
Paper Presented: “Androgyny or Gender Switching?: Tiresias in *The Waste Land*”

*Seminar*: Graduate Student Workshop with Elizabeth Grosz, Jackson Distinguished Lecture Series, West  
Virginia University, 2006

### **Grants**

*Online Course Development Grant, Duquesne University, 2015-2016*  
Grant to design an online platform for the UCOR 101 (Composition I) course for the  
Duquesne University English Department.

### **Awards, Scholarships, and Assistantships**

*West Virginia University Dissertation Fellowship*, Spring 2013  
*West Virginia University English Department Dissertation Fellowship*, 2010-2011  
*Awarded Runner-Up to the West Virginia University English Department Excellence in Teaching Award*,  
2012  
*WVU Graduate Teaching Assistantship with Jackson Scholarship*, 2011-2012, 2007-2010  
*WVU Graduate Teaching Assistantship with Crocker Scholarship*, 2005-2007

### **Professional and University Service**

*Duquesne University*

IHP 104 Coordinator, 2015-2017, Oversee the development of the Honors introductory research  
writing curriculum, the scheduling of courses, and the instructors for all IHP 104  
sections.

First Year Writing Committee, 2015-2016, Serving on the committee tasked with the First Year  
Writing program curriculum, writing contest, and online teaching.

PhD Program Benchmark Study Committee, Spring 2015, Served on the committee to organize  
an assessment of the current PhD program at Duquesne University in response to the  
recent report on doctoral programs in English by the Modern Language Association

Speaker Committee, 2014-2015, Served on the committee that organizes speakers who  
come to campus

IHP 104 Committee, Spring 2015 Served on the committee that designs the curriculum for the introductory writing/literature honors course.

*Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

Liberal Studies English Committee, 2013-2014, Served on a sub-committee that developed the curriculum document for the English Department that outlined the structure of required, entry level Liberal Studies English courses

Created and oversaw English Department Twitter Feed, 2013-2014

*D.H. Lawrence Society of North America*

Secretary of the D.H. Lawrence Society of North America, 2016-2017

Executive Committee Member of the D.H. Lawrence Society of North America, 2012-2015

Administrative Assistant to the President of the D.H. Lawrence Society of North America, 2012

*West Virginia University*

Student Activities Coordinator for the English Graduate Organization, 2007-2008, 2009-2010, Organized the Graduate Colloquium at West Virginia University and expanded it from a university to regional conference

English 101 Mentor, 2006-2007, Mentored incoming graduate teaching assistants in English 101 and served on the textbook committee

*Center for Victims*

Oversaw community engagement projects for my undergraduate composition courses; Fall 2014

*Westmoreland Literacy Program*

Tutor in adult literacy, 2010-Present

**Professional Affiliations**

Modern Language Association, Modernist Studies Association, D.H. Lawrence Society of North America

**References** (dossier available on request)

Greg Barnhisel, Chair/Associate Professor of English, Duquesne University

Lisa Weihman, Associate Professor of English, West Virginia University

Ryan Claycomb, Assistant Dean of Honors College, Associate Professor of English, West Virginia University

Bryna Sigel Finer, Associate Professor of English, Director, Liberal Studies English and Writing Across the Curriculum, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Holly Laird, Frances W. O'Hornett Professor of Literature, University of Tulsa