

Eric D. Smith

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University of Alabama in Huntsville
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Education

Ph.D., University of Florida, 2004
M.A., Mississippi State University, 2000
B.A., Athens State University, 1997

Academic Appointments

Professor, Dept. of English, Univ. of Alabama in Huntsville, 2016-
Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Univ. of Alabama in Huntsville, 2012-2016
Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Univ. of Alabama in Huntsville, 2006-2012
Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Athens State Univ., 2005-2006
Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Univ. of Southern Mississippi, 2004-2005

Administration

2013-2021 Director, UAH Humanities Center

Publications

Books (4)

Scholarly Monographs (2)

Postcolonial Naturalism: Periodization, World-Literature, and the Anglophone Novel.
Liverpool, UK: Liverpool UP, 2023.

Globalization, Utopia, and Postcolonial Science Fiction: New Maps of Hope.
Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

Edited Volumes (2)

Phantasms of the Red Republic: The Cultural Afterlives of the Paris Commune. Historical
Materialism. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, [Forthcoming]

Parables of Freedom and Narrative Logics: Positions and Presuppositions in SF and Utopianism by Darko Suvin. *Ralahine Utopian Studies*. Vols 23 and 24. Oxford, UK: Peter Lang, 2021.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles (21)

“No Exit: Death Drive, Dystopia, and the Long Winter of the American Dream in Harold Ramis’s *The Ice Harvest*” *Utopian Studies* [forthcoming]

“Seeds of Destruction: Naturalism, Hysteria, and the Beautiful Soul in Lewis Nkosi’s *Mating Birds*.” *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 7.2 (2020): 158-75.

“Narrative Desolation and Postcolonial Naturalism in V.S. Naipaul’s *Guerrillas*.” *Genre: Forms of Discourse and Culture* 50.3 (2017): 371-95.

“‘Tired of Taking Sides’: Repressive Tolerance in Mira Nair’s *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.” *Adaptation* 10.3 (2017) 305-321.

“Universal Love and Planetary Ontology in Vandana Singh’s *Of Love and Other Monsters*.” *Science Fiction Studies* 43.3 (2016): 514-33.

“This Grave New World: Biopolitics and the Vampire Dystopia in *Daybreakers*” *The Minnesota Review* 86 (2016): 61-80.

“Feeling the 60s in the Age of Reagan: Failure, Repetition, and History in *Eddie and the Cruisers*.” *Literature / Film Quarterly* 43.1 (2015): 46-63.

“Bacchanal or Missa Solemnis? Shame, Symmetry, and Late Style in Robert Antoni’s *Carnival*.” *The Journal of West Indian Literature* 22.1 (2013): 7-32.

“‘Fictions Where a Man Could Live’: Worldlessness, Utopia, and the Void in Salman Rushdie’s *Grimus*.” *Twentieth-Century Literature* 58.2 (2012): 267-95.

“‘A Presage of Horror’: Cacotopia, the Paris Commune, and Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*.” *Criticism: A Quarterly for Literature and the Arts* 52 (2010): 71-90.

“‘The Only Way Out is Through’: Space, Narrative, and Utopia in Nalo Hopkinson’s *Midnight Robber*.” *Genre: Forms of Discourse and Culture* 42 (2009): 135-163.

“‘Ambiguity at its Best’: Historicizing G.V. Desani’s *All About H. Hatterr*.” *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature* 40 (2009): 111-134.

“‘Caught Straddling a Border’: A Novelistic Reading of Amitav Ghosh’s *In an Antique Land*.” *Journal of Narrative Theory* 37 (2007): 447-72.

- “A Voyage to Future Pasts: The Vengeance of Other Time in Ronald Wright’s *A Scientific Romance*.” *Critique* 48 (2006): 58-70.
- “The Ghost Machine: Spiritualism, Anachronism, and Alterior Acoustics in Erna Brodber’s *Louisiana*.” *The Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies* 12 (2005): 84-99.
- “‘How a Great Daily Organ is Turned Out’: ‘Aeolus,’ Techne, and the Recording of *Ulysses*.” *James Joyce Quarterly* 41 (2004): 455-468.
- “Pandering Caribbean Spice: The Strategic Exoticism of Robert Antoni’s ‘My Grandmother’s Erotic Folktales.’” *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 39 (2004): 5-24.
- “The Mimetic ‘Spirit of Denial’: Buck Mulligan and the Cultural Limits of Mockery.” *Papers on Joyce* 9 (2003): 19-33.
- “‘I Have Been a Perfect Pig’: A Semiosis of Swine in ‘Circe.’” *Joyce Studies Annual* 13 (2002): 129-146.
- “‘A Slow and Dark Birth’: Aesthetic Maturation and the Entelechic Narrative in James Joyce’s *Ulysses*.” *Modern Fiction Studies* 47 (2001): 753-73.
- “Johnny Domingo’s Epic Nightmare of History.” *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature* 31 (2000): 103-15.

Book Chapters (6)

- “Cognition and Event: A Purveyor of Truth’s Possible Worlds” in *Parables of Freedom and Narrative Logics: Positions and Presuppositions of SF and Utopianism*. Oxford, UK: Peter Lang, 2021.
- “Untimely Returns and Les Spectres Rouges” in *Phantasms of the Red Republic: The Cultural Afterlives of the Paris Commune* [Under contract with Brill, Historical Materialism Series]
- “Homo Homini Lupus: Human Nature and the Politics of Fantasy in Guy Endore’s *The Werewolf of Paris*” in *Phantasms of the Red Republic: The Paris Commune in Literature and Culture* [Under contract with Brill]
- “States of Nostalgia in the Genre of the Future: Panem, Globalization, and Utopia in *The Hunger Games* Trilogy.” With Kylie J. Korsnack. *Popular Fiction and Spatiality*. Ed. Lisa Fletcher. New York: Palgrave, 2016. 195-211.
- “Lessons from Elsewhere; or, Rethinking Democracy and Public Education Through Lois Lowry’s *The Giver*.” With Philip E. Kovacs. *Dystopia and Education*.

Eds. Jessica Heybach and Eric Sheffield. Charlotte, NC: Information Age, 2013: 99-116.

“‘A Slow and Dark Birth’: Aesthetic Maturation and the Entelechic Narrative in James Joyce’s *Ulysses*.” Rept. in *James Joyce’s Ulysses*. Modern Critical Interpretations. Ed. Harold Bloom. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003. 197-214.

Encyclopedia Articles (2)

“Robert Antoni.” *The Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Fiction*. Gen. ed. Brian W. Shaffer. Vol 3: *World Fiction*. Ed. John Clement Ball. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

“Robert Antoni.” *Encyclopedia of Literature and Politics*. Ed. M. Keith Booker et.al. Greenwood, 2005.

Review Articles (1)

Review 71 (2006): 173-76.

Works in Progress

Figuring the Contemporary in Popular Cinema: Genre, History, Event [Monograph]

“Truth versus Evil in Muriel Spark’s *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*” [planned]

Invited Presentations

Invited panel participant for “Disputing the Deluge with Darko Suvin.” December 12, 2021.

Invited roundtable participant for Phillip E. Wegner’s *Invoking Hope: Theory and Utopia in Dark Times*. Society for Utopian Studies. February 5, 2021.

“The End of the World as We Know It: The Modern Dystopia” Madison County High School. Gurley, AL. October 23, 2017.

“The Desire Called Postcolonial Science Fiction” North Alabama Science Fiction Association. Huntsville, AL. September 16, 2017.

“The Thrill is Gone? South African Cyberpunk and Lauren Beukes’s *Moxyland*” UAH Honors Lecture. Huntsville, AL. October 28, 2016.

“Towards a Theory of Postcolonial Naturalism: Narrative Desolation and the Impulse-Image in V.S. Naipaul’s *Guerrillas*” Brock University. St. Catherines, Ontario. January 14, 2016.

Invited symposium participant and discussion leader. Creating Futures Rooted in Wonder: Bridges between Indigenous, Science Fiction, and Fairy Tale Studies. Honolulu, Hawai'i. Sept. 16-19, 2015.

"Universal Love and Planetary Ontology: Beyond the Postcolonial in Vandana Singh's *Of Love and Other Monsters*" James Joyce, Science Fiction, and Other Modernist Wonders: A Symposium in Honor of R. Brandon Kershner. Gainesville, FL. Feb. 26, 2015.

"Valences of Utopia in Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games Trilogy*" UAH Honors Lecture. Huntsville, AL. Oct. 16, 2014.

"Zombies: A Living History of the Walking Dead; or, The Walking Dead as Living History" CLA Speakers Bureau Presentation, Stammtisch Discussion Group. Madison, AL. May 10, 2014.

"Postcolonial Science Fiction" Discussion Panel Participant, 35th Annual International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts. Orlando, FL. March 20, 2014.

"The Desire Called Postcolonial Science Fiction" Guest Speaker, University of Florida's 13th Annual English Graduate Organization Conference. Gainesville, FL. October 26, 2013.

"Francis Lawrence's *I Am Legend*: Dystopia or Anti-Utopia?" CLA Speakers Bureau Presentation, Tanner High School. Tanner, AL. Oct. 8, 2103.

"The Zombie in American Popular Culture: A Living History of the Walking Dead" UAHuntsville Latino/a Summer Institute. Huntsville, AL. July 20, 2011.

Conference Presentations

"Failures to Communicate: Penitent Freedom versus Radical Desire in *The Shawshank Redemption* and *Cool Hand Luke*" The Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference. Austin, TX. November 10, 2023.

"Future Perfect and the Vanishing Present: 'The Great Circularity' and Anti-Utopianism in Neel Mukherjee's *The Lives of Others*" The Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference. Charleston, SC. November 12, 2022.

"Seeds of Destruction: Naturalism, Hysteria, and the Beautiful Soul in Lewis Nkosi's *Mating Birds*" The International Society for the Study of Narrative Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA. March 6, 2020.

"Homo Homini Lupis: Human Nature and the Politics of Realism in Guy Endore's *The Werewolf of Paris*" 39th Annual Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts. Orlando,

FL. March 17, 2018.

“Narrative Desolation and Postcolonial Naturalism in V.S. Naipaul’s *Guerrillas*” 19th Annual Conference of the University of Florida’s MRG. Gainesville, FL. March 25, 2017.

“Universal Love and Planetary Ontology: Beyond the Postcolonial in Vandana Singh’s *Of Love and Other Monsters*” The Society for Utopian Studies 39th Annual Conference. Montreal, Canada. Oct. 25, 2014.

“Feeling the 60s in the Age of Reagan: Failure, Repetition, and History in *Eddie and the Cruisers*.” 16th Annual Conference of the University of Florida’s MRG. Gainesville, FL. March 28, 2014.

“Monstrosity and Universal Love in the Postcolonial Science Fiction of Vandana Singh” 35th Annual International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts. Orlando, FL. March 20, 2014.

“There’s No Splace Like Home: Domesticity, Difference, and the Long Space of Short Fiction in Vandana Singh’s *The Woman Who Thought She Was a Planet*” The Society for Utopian Studies 37th Annual Conference. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. October 5, 2012.

“Outside the Apartheid Allegory: The Dialectics of *District 9*” Popular Culture and American Culture Associations’ 43rd Annual Conference. Boston, MA. April 13, 2012.

“‘Fictions Where a Man Could Live’: Worldlessness, Utopia, and the Void in Salman Rushdie’s *Grimus*.” 20th Annual British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA. Feb. 25, 2011.

“‘A Presage of Horror’: Cacotopia, the Paris Commune, and Stoker’s *Dracula*.” Popular Culture and American Culture Associations’ 40th Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA. April 9, 2009.

“‘The Only Way Out is Through’: Space, Narrative, and Utopia in Nalo Hopkinson’s *Midnight Robber*.” The Society for Utopian Studies 32nd Annual Conference. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. October 5, 2007.

“The Ghost Machine: Anachronism and Alterior Acoustics in Erna Brodber’s *Louisiana*.” Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association 17th Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD. October 27, 2006.

“Rum, Sex, and Original Recipe: Consuming Caribbean Spice in Robert Antoni’s *My Grandmother’s Erotic Folktales*.” Central New York Conference on Language and Literature. Cortland, NY. Oct 30, 2004.

“‘I Have Been a Perfect Pig’: A Semiosis of Swine in ‘Circe.’” JJ on the Bay: The Sarasota James Joyce Birthday Conference. Sarasota, FL. Feb 1, 2002.

“Narrative Entelechy and *Ulysses*.” 15th Annual Miami Joyce Conference. Miami, FL. Feb. 3, 2001.

“Repolicizing Bakhtinian Approaches to Joyce’s *Ulysses*.” Modernist Studies Association 3rd Annual Conference. Houston, TX. October 13, 2000.

Courses Taught

Speculative Realities: Science Fiction
Science Fiction: ‘When It Changed’: SF Narrative and Transformation
Postcolonial Literature and Theory
Postcolonial Science Fiction
Fiction of the West Indies/Caribbean Literature
Honors English Seminar: Caribbean Tourism and Globalization
Honors English Seminar: Contact: Empire, Encounter, and the Other
Critical Theory Seminar: Adaptation, Translation, Repetition: Fidelities and Betrayals
Critical Theory Seminar: Be Realistic, Demand the Impossible! Realism, Revolution, and Representation
Critical Theory Seminar: The Ideology of Form: Adventures in Culture with Fredric Jameson
Studies in Contemporary British Literature
Literary Research Methods
Prospective Horizons: Utopia and Dystopia
The Novel: History and Theory
History of the English Language
World Literature II
American Literature II
Readings in Literature and Culture II: Monsters, Metamorphoses, and Modernity
Readings in Literature and Culture II: The End of the World as We Know It: The Modern Dystopia.
World Literature II Honors Seminar: Modernity and Form
Freshman Composition I
Freshman Composition II

MA Theses Directed

2022 Adrian Salajka
“Beyond the Supernova: Time, Space, and Utopia in *Outer Wilds*”

2021 Forrest Johnson
“The Doctor’s Demonic Dreams: Marlowe’s *Faustus* and

Modernity”

2018 Tia Smith

“‘Nobody wanted to speak on the true disposition of the world:’
Challenging American Historical Narrative in *The Underground
Railroad*”

Jasmine Moore

“Sankofa: Framing Afrofuturistic Dialectical Utopias in Nisi
Shaw’s *Everfair*, Nnedi Okorafor’s *Binti*, and N.K. Jemisin’s *The
Fifth Season*”

2013 Ryan Brown

“De-Democratization in the Novels of Aravind Adiga”

2010 Sheila Knight

“Out of the Ruins: Reconstructing the Symbolic in Three 9/11
Novels”

2008 Kyle Long

“Ideology and Infection in Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness* and
Tayeb Salih’s *Season of Migration to the North*”

University Service

2023

Planning Committee, Arora Endowed Lecture, CAHS

2022

Organizer, Graduate Student Conference, Dept. of English,
“Boundary, Abyss, Horizon: Rethinking ‘Frontier’ in Literature
and Culture”

Organizer, “What Can You Do with an English Degree?” Dept. of
English

Planning Committee, Dr. Mulk R. Arora Endowed Lecture in Arts,
Humanities and Social Sciences, CAHS

Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee, CAHS

Creative Writing Hiring Committee, Dept. of English

Curriculum Committee, Dept. of English

2021-

Justice and Equity Studies Program Advisory Committee, CAHS

2021

Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee, CAHS

2020-2021

University Review Board, UAH

2020

Reviewer, *Perpetua*, UAH

Co-organizer, Graduate Student Conference, Dept. of English,
“Boundary, Abyss, Horizon: Rethinking ‘Frontier’ in Literature
and Culture” (canceled due to Covid-19)

2019

Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee, CAHS

Faculty Research and Professional Development, Dept. of English

Student Research Committee, Dept. of English

Assessment Committee, Dept. of English

Co-organizer, Graduate Student Conference, “‘Always Coming
Home’: Thinking Utopia-in-Crisis”

UAH Faculty Appeals Committee

2018	UAH Faculty Appeals Committee EH 105 Honors Common Text Committee, Dept. of English UAH Research Infrastructure Fund Grant Committee Awards Committee, Dept. of English
2017	UAH Faculty Appeals Committee Lecturer Hiring Committee, Dept. of English
2016	Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee, CAHS Judge, UA System Honors Research Conference MFA Committee, Dept. of English Chair, Faculty Professionalization and Productivity Committee, Dept. of English
2015	Chair, Chair Search Committee, Dept. of English Awards Committee, CAHS STAR Selection Committee Dean Search Committee, CAHS
2014	Graduate Admissions Committee, Dept. of English Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee, CLA Self-Study Review Committee, Dept. of Philosophy Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on University Research SACS COC Reaffirmation Committee Learning Outcomes Committee, Dept. of English
2013-2014	Faculty Advisor, Sigma Tau Delta, Upsilon Mu Chapter
2012-2013	Faculty Appeals Committee
2012-2013	STS Organizational Committee, College of Liberal Arts Global Studies Program Steering Committee
2011-2014	Graduate Council
2011	Committee for Curriculum Review, Dept. of English Co-organizer, Graduate Student Conference, "Precarious Subjects: Borders, Interstices, and Instabilities in Literature and Culture" Univ. Committee for the development of the Arthur C. Clarke Center proposal Faculty/Staff Traffic Appeals Committee
2010	Faculty Search Committee, Dept. of English Judge, UA System Honors Research Conference
2009-2012	Prelaw Advisor, Department of English
2009	Co-organizer, Graduate Student Conference, "In Other Worlds: Estrangement, Cognition, and the SF Imagination"
2008-2009	Faculty Senate Governance and Operations Senate Committee
2007-2012	Honors Council
2007-2008	Curriculum Committee, College of Liberal Arts
2006-2013	Library Liaison, Dept. of English

Professional Service

2023	Awards Committee, Society for Utopian Studies
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- 2022 Ad hoc referee, *Genre: Forms of Discourse and Culture*
Ad hoc referee, *Extrapolation*
- 2021 Ad hoc referee, *Minnesota Review*
Book Proposal Reviewer, Bloomsbury Press
External Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion, Univ. Of
Massachusetts, Boston
External Reviewer for Promotion, Texas State Univ., San Marcos
- 2020 Ad hoc referee, *Literator* (South Africa)
Ad hoc referee, *Configurations*
Ad hoc referee, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*
Ad hoc referee, *Utopian Studies*
- 2019 Book Proposal Reviewer, Ralahine Utopian Studies Series,
Peter Lang
- 2018 Book Manuscript Reviewer, Liverpool Univ. Press.
Ad hoc referee, *The Wenshan Review* (Malaysia)
Book Proposal Reviewer, Liverpool Univ. Press
- 2017 Dissertation Committee Member, Clark Atlanta Univ.
- 2016 Ad hoc referee, *Science Fiction Film and Television*
Ad hoc referee, *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*
Ad hoc referee, *PMLA*
External Examiner, PhD Thesis, Brock University, Ontario,
Canada
- 2015 External Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion Candidate, Texas
State University, San Marcos
Book Manuscript Reviewer, "Future Thinking: Utopianism and
Postcolonial Literatures" by Bill Ashcroft, Routledge Press
Ad hoc referee, *Science Fiction Film and Television*
External Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion Candidate, Univ. of
Pittsburgh at Johnstown
Outside Reader, Dissertation Committee, University of Houston
- 2014 Ad hoc referee, *Extrapolation*
Ad hoc referee, *College Literature*
Ad hoc referee, *Journal for the Fantastic in the Arts*
- 2011 Ad hoc referee, *African American Review*

Awards and Honors

- 2016 Outstanding Faculty Award, CAHS
- 2015- Editorial Advisory Board, *Extrapolation*
- 2000-2004 Alumni Fellowship, Univ. of Florida
- 1998-2000 Howell H. Gwin Scholarship, Mississippi State Univ.
- 1998 Eugene Butler Award, Mississippi State Univ.

Professional Affiliations

Modern Language Association

Modernist Studies Association
Society for Utopian Studies
Popular Culture Association
International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts
International Society for the Study of Narrative

References

Tom Moylan, Glucksman Professor Emeritus and Director of the Ralahine Centre for Utopian Studies
School of Language, Literature, Culture and Communication
University of Limerick
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