

Eric D. Smith

Eric.Smith@uah.edu

Department of English
University of Alabama in Huntsville
263 Morton Hall
Huntsville, AL 35899
(256) 824-2374

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 (3)

Figuring the Contemporary in U.S. Popular Cinema: Genre, History, Event. London,
UK: Bloomsbury [Forthcoming]

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 (1)

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* 34.3 (2023): 380-98.

“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 (5)

- “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.
- “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

Review 71 (2006): 173-76.

Works in Progress

“Fire on the Mountain”

“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 review]

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

Invited Presentations

“Literature, History, Theory, Utopia” Eugene Current-Garcia Distinguished Scholar Keynote Address, ACETA Annual Conference, February 22, 2025.

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

Invited international 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

"Ubiquity Simultaneity Frenetic Standstill: Resonance and History in *Everything Everywhere All at Once*" 27th Annual Conference for the University of Florida Critical Theory Reading Group. Gainesville, FL, March 28, 2025.

"Naturalist Anti-Utopianism and the Limits of Sympathy in Neel Mukherjee's *The Lives of Others*" ACETA Annual Conference. Huntsville, AL. February 23, 2024.

"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 Critical Theory Reading Group. 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 Critical Theory Reading Group. 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
Science Fiction: Utopia and Science Fiction
Postcolonial Science Fiction
Fiction of the West Indies/Caribbean Literature
Honors English Seminar
Critical Theory Seminar: Adaptation, Translation, Repetition: Fidelities and Betrayals
Critical Theory Seminar: The Ideology of Form: Adventures in Culture
Critical Theory Seminar: Symptoms of the Contemporary in US Popular Cinema
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

Awards and Honors

2025-2026	College of Arts and Sciences Representative, Academic Affairs Committee, Athens State University Board of Trustees
2025	CAHS Nominee, University Distinguished Research, Creative Achievement, and Scholarly Performance Award
2024	ICON Alum Award, Athens State University
2024-2027	Board of Visitors, Athens State University
2024	Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Distinguished Scholarship, Association of College English Teachers of Alabama
2016	Outstanding Faculty Award, UAH, CAHS
2015-	Editorial Advisory Board, <i>Extrapolation</i>
2000-2004	Alumni Fellowship, Univ. of Florida
1998-2000	Howell H. Gwin Award, 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
 Limerick, Ireland
 Tom.moylan@ul.ie

Rolf Goebel, Distinguished Professor Emeritus
 Department of World Languages and Cultures
 301 Sparkman Drive, Morton Hall 303
 University of Alabama in Huntsville
 Huntsville, AL 35899
 256.824.2344
 goebelr@uah.edu

Phillip E. Wegner, Professor, Marston-Milbauer Eminent Scholar
 Department of English,
 University of Florida
 Turlington Hall 4115
 Gainesville, FL 32611-7310

352.294.2813

pwegner@english.ufl.edu

Sherryl Vint, Professor

Department of English

1202 Humanities and Social Sciences Building

University of California, Riverside

Riverside, CA 92521

951.827.7836

sherryl.vint@ucr.edu