

CURRICULUM VITAE

DR. CHERYL R. HOPSON

English and African American Studies
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY 42101
(270) -745-6477

CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor of English and African American Studies 2019-present
Department of English and African American Studies, WKU

Assistant Professor of African American Studies 2016-2019
Department of Diversity and Community Studies, WKU

EDUCATION

PhD, English, University of Kentucky, 2008

Dissertation: “In the Name of the Mother: Reading Generational Female Family Relations in the Writings of Alice and Rebecca Walker”

Committee: Susan Bordo (Chair, UKy), Virginia Blum (UKy), Dwight Billings (UKy), Janet Eldred (UKy)

MA, English, Radford University, 1997

Thesis: “Heritage: Dorothy Louise Holly Taylor Dobbins and Mrs. Viola Taylor Simpson”. Jeffrey Saperstein (Chair, RU)

BA, English, Roanoke College, 1995

FELLOWSHIPS

Meardes Cannon Fellowship, Emory University’s MARBL 2013
Dissertation Year Fellowship, Southern Regional Education Board 2007-2008
Lymon T. Johnson Fellow, University of Kentucky 2002-2007

AWARDS

WKU 2017-2018 University/College Faculty Award for Research/Creativity 2018

GRANTS

WKU UC Quick Turn-Around Grant Spring 2018
WKU Provost’s Minority Faculty Development Fund Fall 2017
WKU Provost’s Minority Faculty Development Fund Spring 2017

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

Hopson, C. “The U.S. Women’s Liberation Movement and Black Feminist ‘Sisterhood.’”
Provocations: A Transnational Reader in the History of Feminist Thought. Eds. Susan

Bordo, Ellen Rosenman, and E. Cristina Alcade, University of California Press, April 2015.

Hopson, C. "Zora Neale Hurston as Womanist." *Critical Insights: Zora Neale Hurston*. Ed. Sharon L. Jones, Salem Press, 2013.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Hopson, C. "Not Tragically Fat! On Shame", *Frontiers*. (accepted)

Hopson, C. "Breaking Silences: A Contemporary Black Feminist Reading of Rebecca Walker's *Baby Love: Choosing Motherhood after a Lifetime of Ambivalence*," *Meridians* 18.1 (April 2019): 227-243.

Hopson, C. "'Tell Nobody but God': Reading Mothers, Sisters, and 'The Father' in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*," *Gender and Women's Studies*, 1.1 (March 2018):1-15.

Hopson, C. "The Shifting Selves and Realities of Rebecca (nee Leventhal) Walker." *Watchung Review*, 1.1 (April 2017): 67-75.

Hopson, C. "Alice Walker's Womanist Maternal." *Women's Studies: An Inter-disciplinary Journal*, 46.3 (February 2017): 221-233.

Book Reviews

Hopson, C. *Strategic Sisterhood: The National Council of Negro Women and the Black Freedom Struggle*, *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* Vol. 118, No. 2 (Spring 2020).

Poetry Books

Hopson, C. *Fragile*. Poetry Chapbook. Finishing Line Press, September 2017.

Hopson, C. *Black Notes*. Poetry Chapbook. Finishing Line Press, July 2013.

Poems

Hopson, C. "Alice Carmelia," *Zora's Den: An Anthology* (accepted).

Hopson, C. "The Way My Body Knows," *Rise Up Review*, October 15, 2018.
<http://www.riseupreview.com/Cheryl-Hopson.html>

Hopson, C. "Send My Roots Rain," *Not Very Quiet: A Twice Annual Online Journal of Women's Poetry*, 2 (March 10, 2018).

Hopson, C. "I Imagine Our Difference as a Flower Garden," *Wraith Infirmity Muses Literary Magazine*, 1.1 (Summer 2017).

Hopson, C. "Aretha Sings," *Wraith Infirmity Muses Literary Magazine*, 1.1 (Summer 2017).

Hopson, C. "Let the Haunting Come," *Wraith Infirmity Muses Literary Magazine*, 1.1 (Summer 2017).

Hopson, C. "My Eyes Become Telescopic in their Search for You," *Dove Tales: An International Journal of the Arts, Writing for Peace*, May 2017.

Hopson, C. "I Study War Poems," *Dove Tales: An International Journal of the Arts, Writing for Peace*, May 2017.

Hopson, C. "Palimpsest," *Dove Tales: An International Journal of the Arts, Writing for Peace*, May 2017.

Hopson, C. "1983," *Wounwapi / we write /: A Journal of Oglala Lakota College*, October 2016.

Hopson, C. "Constellations." *Wounwapi / we write /: A Journal of Oglala Lakota College*, October 2016.

Hopson, C. "Conversation Begets." *The Toronto Quarterly*, Issue Eight, November 1, 2011.

Hopson, C. "Goodbye Lucille (In Memoriam)." *Border Crossing, an International Literary Journal*, Spring 2011.

Hopson, C. "A Love Song." *Border Crossing, an International Literary Journal*, Spring 2011.

Poetry Reviews

Hopson, C., Review of Jane Olmsted's *Seeking the Other Side*, 2015. Horse Less Press, March, 2016.

Hopson, C., Review of Rachel Eliza Griffiths' *Lighting the Shadow*, TheThePoetry.com, March, 2016.

Hopson, C., Review of Frances Driscoll's *Seaglass Picnic*, The Hollins Critic, February 2016.

Hopson, C. Review of Frances Driscoll's *Seaglass Picnic*, TheThePoetry.com, September 2015.

Hopson, C., Review of Cynthia Atkins' *In the Event of Full Disclosure*, TheThePoetry.com, August 2015.

In Progress

In Search of Eatonville's Zora: A Black Feminist Biography of Zora Neale Hurston, (invited) book proposal in-development for Reaktion Books Ltd., London, UK.

“These Sweet Trees”: June Jordan, Alice Walker, and Womanist Friendship (invited) book chapter for edited collection on 20th and 21st century women’s friendship relations.

Book review of *Mothers without Their Children* (invited) for Demeter Press.

ENG 305 course development – current and ongoing.

INVITED TALKS

“Resistance and Reclamation in the Poetry of June Jordan,” Southern Kentucky Bookfest, Knically Center, Bowling Green, Kentucky, April 20-21, 2018.

“Kindred Spirits: Alice and Rebecca Walker on Truth, Truth-Telling and a Black Feminist Status Quo.” *Generations*. Gender and Women’s Studies Program, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY, April 10, 2015.

“‘The Most Beautiful Woman I Ever Saw’: Reading Black Female Same-Sex Desire in Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*.” Pi Kappa Phi Lecture Series, Augusta State University, Augusta, GA, October 2, 2012.

“A Discussion of Masculinity and Mixed-Race Identity in Ernest Gaines’s *A Lesson Before Dying*.” Elderscholars Program, Roanoke College, Salem, VA, October 28, 2010.

“‘The Big Mulatto from Poulaya’: Reading Biracialism and Identity in Ernest Gaines’s *A Lesson Before Dying*.” National Endowment for the Arts, The Big Read Roanoke Valley, Barnes and Noble Bookstore, Roanoke, VA, March 13, 2010.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Directed by Desire: On the Poetics of June Jordan,” College English Association Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 28-30, 2019.

“These Sweet Trees: June Jordan, Alice Walker, and Womanist Friendship,” Society for the Study of American Women Writers Triennial Conference, Denver, Colorado, November 7-11, 2018.

Negotiating Silence in Barbara Smith’s Short Story “Home” and in *Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology*,” National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, November 16 -19, 2017.

“The Sweat and Anxiety of My Existence: Alice Walker on Womanism,” National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, November 16 -19, 2017.

“An Element of Delight”: Alice and Rebecca Walker on Truth and the (Womanist/Black feminist) Mother/Daughter Relationship. Association for the Study of African American Life and History Conference. Cincinnati, Ohio, September 27 – October 1, 2017.

“Breaking Silences: A Contemporary Black Feminist Reading of Rebecca Walker’s *Baby Love: Choosing Motherhood after a Lifetime of Ambivalence*,” First Annual Kentucky Gender and Women’s Studies Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, September 16, 2017.

“‘A Word Chosen Not Simply Applied’: Revisiting Alice Walker’s Womanist Concept.” Fourth Annual Black Doctoral Network Conference. Atlanta, GA, October 27-29, 2016.

“‘Revisiting Womanism.’” Pop Culture Association in the South & American Culture Association in the South Conference. Nashville, TN, October 13-15, 2016.

“‘Accepted in the Eye of the Storm’: Yearning for Family/Recognition in Rebecca Walker’s Debut Novel *Ade: A Love Story*.” College Language Association National Convention, Houston, TX, April 6-9, 2016.

“‘I kissed both my mother and Lucy on the cheek’: Eroticizing the Mother in Elizabeth Lorde-Rollins’s ‘The Coming Out of a ‘Gay Pride’ Child.’” Society for the Study of American Women Writers Triennial Conference, Philadelphia, PA, November 4-8, 2015.

“‘A Self in Relation’: 20th Century American Women Writers Imagine and Write Female ‘Family’ Relations.” Panel chair and organizer.” Society for the Study of American Women Writers Biennial Conference, Philadelphia, PA, November 4-8, 2015.

“‘Breaking Away from the Familiar’: Rebecca Walker’s Third-Wave Feminist Maternal.” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 1-4, 2015.

“‘Us got tuh...practise on treasurin’ our younguns’: Reflecting on John Pearson as a ‘FamilyMan’ in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Jonah’s Gourd Vine*.” College Language Association National Convention, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 26-29, 2014.

“‘Kindred Spirits: Alice and Rebecca Walker on ‘Truth,’ ‘Truth-Telling,’ and the Black Feminist Status Quo.” National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, November 7-10, 2013.

“‘An Altar to the Unattainable’: Intra-racism and ‘White Worship’ in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” College Language Association Convention, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, April 10-13, 2013.

“‘The Most Beautiful Woman I Ever Saw’: Reading Black Female Same-Sex Desire in Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*.” Southern Women Writers Conference, Berry College, Rome, Georgia, September 20-23, 2012.

“‘The First Giggle I Heard in Three Years’: Reading Laughter, Friendship, and Healing in Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*.” Southeastern Women’s Studies Association Conference, Washington, D.C., March 29-31, 2012.

“‘A Far-Away, Meditative Air’: Envisioning the Nonwhite Female Subject in Kate Chopin’s *The Awakening*.” INCS: Picturing the Nineteenth Century Interdisciplinary Conference, Lexington, KY, March 22-25, 2012.

“Third Wave Feminist: Who Is She and What Is She to You?” Third Wave Feminism: Reflections on a Generational Marker (Roundtable), National Women’s Studies Association, Atlanta, Georgia, November 10-13, 2011.

“Whose Sustainability: Women’s Studies and Education for Sustainability.” (Moderator), National Women’s Studies Association, Atlanta, Georgia, November 10-13, 2011.

“The Politics of Black Feminist Generations: My Thoughts in Four Movements.” Third Wave Feminism: Reflections on a Generational Marker (Roundtable), 2011 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, June 9-11, 2011

“‘They Calls Me Yellow / Like Yellow Be My Name’: Sisterhood and Biracialism in Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*.” The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, Louisville, KY, February 18-20, 2010.

“Writing/Revising the Self as Artist and Mother: A Critical Reading of Alice Walker’s ‘One Child of One’s Own.’” Society for the Study of American Women Writers, Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Oct. 21-24, 2009.

STUDY ABROAD/AWAY

Faculty co-leader, AFAM Studies Study Abroad Trinidad and Tobago May 2017

SERVICE

WKU Graduate Council (PCAL Representative) – 2019-present

Kentucky Museum Board – 2017-present

WKU DCS Gender and Women’s Studies Scholarship Committee – 2017-2018

WKU DCS Ella Baker Scholarship Committee – 2017-2018

WKU UC College Study Abroad Committee – 2016-2018

WKU Center for Citizenship and Social Justice Advisory Committee, 2016-2018

WKU University College Student Complaint Committee, 2016-2018

WKU UC Graduate Curriculum Committee, 2016-2018

WKU DCS Search Committee, 2016-2017

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Book Reviewer, Demeter Press, *Mothers without Their Children* (2019).

Book Reviewer, Kentucky Historical Society, *Strategic Sisterhood: The National Council of Negro Women and the Black Freedom Struggle* (2018). Review written and accepted

May 2019.

Society for the Study of American Women Writers Book Edition Award Committee
Member, August 2017 – 2018

Manuscript Reviewer, *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies*,
April 2017

Manuscript Reviewer, *Soundings*, September 2016.

Manuscript Reviewer, *Meridians* journal, July 2016.

Manuscript Reviewer, *The Black Scholar* journal, April 2016.

College Language Association Creative Writing Committee Member, 2014-2016

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

College English Association

Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW)

College Language Association (CLA)

Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), Graduate

Kentucky Women Writers Conference (KWWC)

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Kentucky Foundation for Women Board Member	2019-present
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Kentucky Museum	2017-present
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Hope Harbor, Board Member	July 2018-2019
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STUDENT RESEARCH

Upshur, Elizabeth. "Break Us Beautiful," Master of Fine Arts, Creative Writing Program,
Department of English, Third Reader. July 2018.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Workshop on craft for the Twenty-Second Annual Mary Ellen and Jim Wayne Miller
Celebration of Writing, October 28, 2018, 10am until noon, the Kentucky Building.

ISEC Graduation and Stole Ceremony, May 6, 2019, DSU Auditorium. Stole presented to
Essence Mask.

ISEC Graduation and Stole Ceremony, April 2018, DSU Auditorium. I presented stoles
to MFA Creative Writing graduate Elizabeth Upshur, and to graduating senior, Shaylin
K. Martin.

Kentucky Women Writers Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky,
September 11-13, 2018. Conference attendee.

Society for the Study of American Women Writers Creative Writers Reading, a reading
from *Fragile* (2017), SSAWW conference, Denver, Colorado, Saturday, November 10,
2018, 8:30-9:30pm, Denver Downtown Westin.

SOKY Book Fest, April 20-21, 2018, Knically Conference Center, Bowling Green, KY,
42101. I developed and presented a poetry workshop on Resistance and Recovery in the

Poetry of June Jordan (4/20/18), and participated in a poetry reading with fellow authors on 4/21/18. <https://sokybookfest.org/info/schedules/>

17th Annual Community Kwanzaa Celebration, December 28, 2017, State St. Baptist Church, Bowling Green, KY, 42101. I presented on the Principle of Nia, and read from my recent poetry chapbook, *Fragile*.

A Night of Poetry. A co-reading with poet Trish L. Jagers, Downtown Library, October 25, 2017, Bowling Green, KY.

Generations. Drs. Rebecca Brown (Plain by the River) and Cheryl Hopson (Fragile), WKU Faculty House, October 11, 2017, Bowling Green, KY.

DCS African American Studies Program Faculty Representative, WKU Students of Color Social (MASTER Plan), Friday, August 18, 2017, Honors College International Center Multipurpose Room.

Faculty co-leader, Study Abroad in Trinidad and Tobago, May 15-25, 2017.

Reading of original creative material, and introduction of Nia (Purpose) Principle. WKU Kwanzaa Celebration, December 1, 2016, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Valentine's Day Poetry Reading with Tom Hunley and others at Little Fox Bakery in Bowling Green, KY, February 14, 2019.

SOKY Book Fest, April 20-21, 2018, Knically Conference Center, Bowling Green, KY, 42101. I developed and presented a poetry workshop on Resistance and Recovery in the Poetry of June Jordan (4/20/18), and participated in a poetry reading with fellow authors on 4/21/18. <https://sokybookfest.org/info/schedules/>

17th Annual Community Kwanzaa Celebration, December 28, 2017, State St. Baptist Church, Bowling Green, KY, 42101. I presented on the Principle of Nia, and read from my recent poetry chapbook, *Fragile*.

A Night of Poetry. Reading with Trish L. Jagers, Downtown Library, October 25, 2017, Bowling Green, KY.

Reading from *Black Notes* (2013), on Fountain Square in downtown Bowling Green, Kentucky, for International Women's Day, March 8, 2017.
<https://www.wku.edu/events/index.php?eventid=54734&view=event>