

SELAMAWIT D. TERREFE

Assistant Professor of English, Tulane University
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

- 2018-present Assistant Professor, English
- 2016 - 2018 Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin, Department of English-Speaking Cultures
University of Bremen, Germany

EDUCATION:

- June 2017 PhD., English, University of California, Irvine
Fields of Study: African American, African, and African Diasporic Literature and Visual Culture; Critical Theory; Black Feminism; Psychoanalysis; Theories of violence; Political Theory; Radical and Revolutionary Politics; Continental philosophy
- 2010 M.A., English, University of California, Irvine
Thesis: *Black Women and the Liminal: Metaphor, Quasi Property, and the Corpse in Native Son*
- 2006 M.A., Humanities and Social Thought, New York University
Fields of Study: Literary Cultures, Gender Politics, Critical Theory, Global Histories
Thesis: *Texting the Body: Race, Gender, and the Ethics of Transgression; The Women of Escravos vs. ChevronTexaco, Nigeria - U.S.A.*
- 2001 B.A., English Literature, University of California, Berkeley

DISSERTATION:

“Dissociative States: The Metaphysics of Blackness and the Psychic Afterlife of Slavery”
Committee: Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o (chair), Arlene Keizer, Gabriele Schwab, Jared Sexton, Frank Wilderson, III

WORKS IN PROGRESS:

Impossible Blackness: Violence and the Psychic Life of Slavery (under consideration by Duke UP)

“The Position of the ‘Unthot’: From Ratchet to Revolution”

PUBLICATIONS:

- “Death Rattle Not Dashikis: Nikki Giovanni’s Black Judgement and the Work of Hannah Arendt” (under consideration).
- 2019 “Violence by Any Other Name: The Impasse of Black Female Sexuality.” *Esoteric Lacan: Occult Drives of Capitalist Divinities in Postcolonial Times*, edited by Valentini, Philipp and Mahdi Tourage, Rowman and Littlefield International Limited.

- 2019 “Technology and the Antiblackness of Pleasure.” *Black Futures*, edited by Wortham, Jenna and Kimberly Drew, Random House OneWorld Imprint
- 2018 “Afro-pessimism” (with Frank B, Wilderson, III and Patrice Douglass), *Oxford Bibliographies in African American Studies*, Ed. Gene Jarrett, Oxford University Press.
- 2018 “Speaking the Hieroglyph: Black Women and Mimetic Thaumaturgy.” *Theory and Event*, special issue “Afropessimism and Black Feminism,” Ed. Tiffany Willoughby-Herard, *Theory & Event*, V. 21, N. 1 (Jan 2018).
- 2016 “Black Women Writers in the United States.” *Oxford Bibliographies in African American Studies*, Ed. Gene Jarrett, Oxford University Press (Spring 2016).
- 2016 “What Exceeds the Hold?: An Interview with Christina Sharpe.” *Rhizomes 29*, special issue “Black Holes: Afro-Pessimism, Blackness and the Discourses of Modernity,” Ed. Dalton Anthony Jones, Spring 2016.
- 2012 “Phantasmagoria: or, The World is a Haunted Plantation.” *The Feminist Wire* (2012): n. pag. Web. 10 October, 2012.
- 2004 “It Relief.” *Strange Tales of an Unreal West*. San Francisco: Strangewest Productions, 2004.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS:

- 2017 Impulse Grant, University of Bremen
- 2017 DAAD, German Academic Exchange Service, Conference Travel Grant
- 2016-20 University of Bremen, Germany, Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin, Department of English-Speaking Cultures in the field of American/Black Atlantic Studies
- 2016 UC/ New Center for Psychoanalysis Interdisciplinary Psychoanalytic Consortium, Lake Arrowhead, California, “Psychoanalysis, Economy, and Desire”
- 2015 UC Irvine School of Humanities Graduate Division Graduate Student Research and Travel Award
- 2015 UC Interdisciplinary Psychoanalytic Consortium, Lake Arrowhead, California, “Ecologies of Fear”
- 2014 UC Interdisciplinary Psychoanalytic Consortium, Lake Arrowhead, California, “Love and Psychoanalysis”
- 2013 UC Chancellor’s Fellowship in English
- 2013 UC Irvine School of Humanities Graduate Division Graduate Student Research and Travel Award
- 2013 Hayman Dissertation Fellowship
- 2008-09 UC Irvine Graduate Opportunity Fellowship

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA:

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

- 2015 “Black Revolution, Black Revenants: Shaking Oneself to Dream”: Inspiring and Ensuring Individual Student Excellence (iRISE) annual program, University of California, Irvine

INVITED TALKS

- 2018 “The Fantasy of ‘After’ and the Desire for Difference :*Fantasy, Anxiety, Difference—the Figure of the Other in*

the Aftermaths of a Violent Political Transformation, Max Plank Institute, Göttingen, Germany

- 2017 “Gender, Blackness, and Captivity”: *Blackness and Captivity* workshop organized by Thick/er Black Lines Collective during “We Apologise for the Delay To Your Journey” residency, Tate Exchange, Tate Modern, London, England
- 2017 “Temporal Aphasia and Talking Flesh: Gender and the Practice of Antiracism”: *Black Feminist Futures: Re-envisioning Gender and Sexuality in Global Black Communities*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC.
- 2016 *A Cool Dip in the Exponential Implications of Water*: Mini-symposium on “A Cool Dip in the Barren Saharan Crick,” California State University, Long Beach, Long Beach, CA
- 2016 “Revolutionary Praxis and the Semi(on)tics of Blackness”: *Afropessimism as Critical Praxis*, Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African American Studies annual New Directions Symposium, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
- 2015 “Black Social Movements and State Violence”: #BAM 2015—Building a Movement: Against Police Brutality, The New School, New York, NY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2017 “Fade to Black,” Audio Documentary and Discussion Guest for Vitamindecolonial:
https://www.mixcloud.com/Vitamin_D/fade-to-black-final-vitamin-d-episode/

PANELS CHAIRED

- 2015 “Negotiating Flesh as a Site of Memory: Reconsidering the Semantic Field of Hortense Spillers”: Modern Language Association (MLA) 130th Annual Convention, Vancouver, Canada

PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2017 “Afro-pessimism and Praxis: a Roundtable on Revolution”: *Pedagogies of Dissent*, American Studies Association (ASA) annual meeting, Chicago, IL, upcoming November, 2017
- 2017 “‘Stepping Over the Dead’: Towards a Global Analytic of the ‘Afterlife of Slavery’”: The African Literature Association (ALA) annual conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2016 “Black Matter: The Times and Spaces of Black Movement, Black Thought, and Black Creation” (co-organizer): The American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) annual meeting, Cambridge, MA
- 2013 “Blackness and the Ethics of Perception: Black Women, Black Bodies, Black Text”: The Collegium for African American Research (CAAR) 10th International Conference, Decatur/Atlanta, GA

PAPERS PRESENTED:

- 2018 “A Living Death: Violence and the Black Psyche,” American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA (upcoming)

- 2018 "A Meditation on Time, Transness, and Blackness: On C. Riley Snorton's *Black on Both Sides*." *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)*, Penn State, PA (upcoming)
- 2018 "Abject Testimony: Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and the Criminalization of Black Dissent," *African Feminisms (AFEMS) Conference*, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa (upcoming)
- 2018 "The Pornotrope of Decolonial Feminism": Toward Decolonial Feminisms: A Conference Inspired by the Work of María Lugones, Penn State University, PA
- 2017 "Of Water and Weather: A Morbid Calculus": The African Literature Association (ALA) annual conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2016 "The Quest for Freedom is Death': State Violence and Black Bodies, Exploding the Transcendence/Immanence Divide": The American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) annual meeting, Cambridge, MA
- 2015 "Ratchet as Revolution? Black Female Flesh and Political Violence in/as the Popular": The American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) annual meeting, Seattle, WA
- 2014 "Black Fungibility and Resistance: The Slave Performs Gender in Naomi Wallace's *The Liquid Plain*": University of California, Irvine Symposium on *The Liquid Plain*
- 2014 "Phantasmagoria: or, The World is a Haunted Plantation," African American Expression in Print and Digital Culture, Madison, WI.
- 2014 "Africans Waiting to Die: State of Breach, Foreclosure, and the Promise of Return in the work of Hortense Spillers and David Marriott": Roundtable with Hortense Spillers, UC Irvine Annual Undergraduate Critical Theory Conference, Irvine, CA
- 2014 "Affective Binds: Intramural Violence and the Disarticulation of Racial Slavery in Nuruddin Farah's *Crossbones*": The American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) annual meeting, *Capitals*, NY, NY
- 2014 "Technological Haunting: Blackness as Political Thaumaturgy": The Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) annual conference, Seattle, WA
- 2012 "Poetics of Relational Incapacity: Turning Mind in the Direction of Black Thought": University of California, Irvine conference, *Thinking Afro-Pessimism*
- 2011 "Ethnic Studies, Violence, and Power: Critical Apparatuses for the Discursive Black Subject": University of California, Riverside, inaugural Critical Ethnic Studies conference

CAMPUS TALKS:

- 2014 "Violence and Consent: Psycho-politics, Gender and Resistance in Titsi Dangarembga's *Nervous Conditions*," Comp Lit 102/Eng. 105, University of California, Irvine
- 2014 "Blackness is Not All That Makes a Man": Race, Rebellion and Land Dispossession in Ngũgĩ's *Weep Not, Child*," Comp Lit 102/Eng. 105, University of California, Irvine

- 2014 “Coming to Terms with Violence: The Language Debate in the Context of Colonialism and Neoimperialism,” Comp Lit 102/Eng. 105, University of California, Irvine
- 2012 “Militarization and Memory in Ngũgĩ’s *Dreams in a Time of War*,” English 105, University of California, Irvine
- 2011 “Language, Culture and the Masses: The “True Makers of History” in Ngũgĩ’s *Decolonizing the Mind*,” English 105, University of California, Irvine
- 2011 “Terror as the Norm: The Paradigmatic Condition of Black Suffering in Lance Hill’s *Deacons for Defense*,” The Black Protest Tradition (Af Am 162W), University of California, Irvine
- 2011 “Time as Soliloquy: Civil War and the Psychic Violence of History in Helon Habila’s *Measuring Time*,” English 105, University of California, Irvine
- 2011 “Cold Crime and Antiblackness in Mukoma wa Ngũgĩ’s *Nairobi Heat*: Geopolitics and African Crime Fiction,” English 105, University of California, Irvine
- 2011 “Racial Antagonism and the Limits of Resistance in Ellison’s *Invisible Man*,” English 102D, University of California, Irvine
- 2010 “The Politics of Alienation in *Decolonizing the Mind*,” Comp Lit 100A/ Eng 105, University of California, Irvine
- 2010 “Kinship and Revolution in Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o’s *Weep Not, Child*,” Comp Lit 100A/ Eng 105, University of California, Irvine

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2017 University of Bremen, Germany

INSTRUCTOR

Contemporary African American Literature

Black Women Writers in the US

From Black Power to #BlackLivesMatter: Black Political and Protest Literature in the US

2009-2016 University of California, Irvine:

INSTRUCTOR

Critical Reading and Rhetoric 39C: Argument and Research, Summer 2012, Spring and Summer 2014, Winter and Spring 2015, Spring and Summer 2016

Instructor, Writing and Composition 39B: Critical Reading and Rhetoric, Sept. 2009- to June 2010, Winter 2011

TEACHING ASSISTANT

African American Studies 40B: Racial Theories in Context, Winter 2012 and 2016

African American Studies 40A: African American Studies I, Fall 2015

English 105/ Comp Lit 107: Colonialism and the Rise of Modern African Literature, Fall 2014

Comparative Literature 102/ English 105: Colonialism and the Rise of Modern African Literature Fall 2012

African American Studies 40C, Theories of Blackness: On Life and Death, Spring 2012

English 105: Contemporary African Literature, Fall 2011

English 102D: African American Literature and Film, Spring 2011

Comparative Literature 100A/ English 105: Colonialism and the Rise of Modern African Literature, Fall 2011

ACADEMIC SERVICE:

- 2017- Advisor to the Black Student Union, University of Bremen
- 2015-16 Graduate Student Advisor to the Black Student Union, UC Irvine
- 2014-16 Member of UC Irvine African American Student Experience Working Group
- 2014-16 Political Action Advisor to the Black Student Union Demands Team
- 2015 Speaker, Graduate Student Panel on Research and Mentorship, UC Irvine Black Women's Appreciation Week
- 2015 Mentor, University of California, Irvine Undergraduate Conference in Critical Theory
- 2014 Speaker, Graduate Student Panel on Research and Mentorship, UC Irvine Black Women's Appreciation Week
- 2014 External Reviewer, *National Political Science Review*
- 2011 Panel Moderator, University of California, Irvine Undergraduate Conference in Critical Theory
- 2009-10 UC Irvine English Graduate Colloquium Committee

LANGUAGES:

Amharic
 German (Reading)
 Spanish

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

African Literature Association (ALA)
 American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)
 American Studies Association (ASA)
 Modern Language Association (MLA)