

# KENDRA YVETTE HAMILTON

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## EDUCATION

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University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia: Ph.D., English, August 2010.  
Dissertation Title: A Geography of Deception: The Human Tides of the Gullah/Geechee Coast  
Dissertation Committee: Eric Lott (chair, English), Anna Brickhouse and Jennifer Greeson (English), Manuel Lerdau (Environmental Sciences/Ecology)  
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana: M.F.A., Poetry, May 1995.  
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina: A.B., English, May 1980.

## ACADEMIC TEACHING POSITIONS

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September 2014 – Present: Assistant Professor of English and Director of Southern Studies, Presbyterian College. Responsible for the Intro to Southern Studies as well as the Intro to the South course, part of the college's Southern Immersion Program for international students. Also teaching courses in African American and Southern literature and modern and contemporary poetry.

August 2011 – May 2014: Lecturer in Women, Gender, and Sexuality, University of Virginia. Developed courses on feminist geographies of everyday life; the intersections of food, feminism, and sustainability; and ethnographic research methods.

January – May 2011: Lecturer in American Studies, English, and Woman, Gender, and Sexuality, University of Virginia. Developing and teaching courses on the myth of the plantation, 20<sup>th</sup> Century trans-Atlantic fiction, and feminist geographies.

During graduate studies, also taught freshman composition and served as a graduate teaching assistant in the Beowulf to Paradise Lost and Shakespeare sequences. Developed and taught my own seminars as well on topics in African American literature, including 20<sup>th</sup> century poetry, the “black pastoral,” and the “Big House.”

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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African American studies, in U.S. and global South contexts  
American pastoral  
Digital humanities  
Food and sustainability  
Gender, race, and representations of place

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 GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS
 

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“The Textile Mill Memory Project,” principal investigator on a three-year project funded by a \$100,00 grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation. TMMP will visualize 100 years of the history of Clinton, SC, as a prototypical mill town. The project involves digitization of archival collections, photo-documentation and “story-mapping,” oral history collection, and public exhibition of materials from the Clinton, Joanna, and Lydia cotton mills.

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 BOOK PUBLICATIONS
 

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The Goddess of Gumbo: Poems. Cincinnati: Word Press, 2006.

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 WORKS IN MANUSCRIPT
 

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Romancing the Gullah: The Rage for Racial Authenticity in the Age of *Porgy and Bess*, under contract with University of Georgia Press. Romancing the Gullah reconsiders and recontextualizes the literary, visual, and musical cultures associated with a broad regional formation of the southeastern United States that includes Florida and the Anglophone Caribbean. Gullah/Geechee culture, although the product of a vast Atlantic World encounter that created a common culture of the languages, ethnicities, and lifeways of three continents, does not figure in literary narratives as what James Clifford described as “traveling culture.” I argue, indeed, that it has suffered under a “captive identity,” which constrains those who claim it from full participation in modernity. My project offers a recuperative remapping of the region's cultural geography in terms of a “triangular topos” embracing language, landscape, and creolization. Deploying postcolonial and ecofeminist critical discourses, I argue that these overlapping and intersecting fields allow us to imagine, in Homi Bhaba's phrase, “third spaces” that relocate Gullah/Geechee culture in suppressed Atlantic World environmental histories marked by trauma and violence.

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 SELECTED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS
 

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- “Mother Tongues and Captive Identities: Celebrating and Disappearing the Gullah/Geechee Coast,” forthcoming Fall 2012 in a “Southern Roots and Routes” special section, Mississippi Quarterly 65:1, 49-66.
- “The Search for the Perfect Sidecar,” in Texas Writers: A Special Issue, Callaloo: 32:1 (Spring 2009), 102-109.
- “On the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Callaloo,” Callaloo, 30:3 (Summer 2007), 681-683
- “The Taste of the Sun: Okra Soup in the Geechee Tradition,” in Reading Callaloo/Eating Callaloo: A Special Issue, Callaloo 30:1 (Winter 2007), 74-86.
- “The Strange Career of Uncle Tom,” Black Issues in Higher Education 19:8, 6 June 2002, 22-26.
- “Flags in the Dust,” The Confederate Flag: A Special Issue, Callaloo 24:1 (Winter 2001), 81-84.
- “Heritage or Hate,” Brightleaf: New Writing of the South 2:4 (Winter 2000).
- “Goat Cart Sam, a.k.a. Porgy: An Icon of a Sanitized South,” Southern Cultures, Fall 1999, 31-53.

Book Review: Freedom's Child: The Life of a Confederate General's Black Daughter,  
The Avery Review, Spring 1999.

Co-editor, "Sterling A. Brown: A Special Issue," Callaloo 21.4 (Fall 1998).

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANTHOLOGIES & READERS

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"Belle's Promenade: Nassau Street, Princeton," "The Science of Wearing a Dress," in Charles Rowell, ed., Angles of Ascent: A Norton Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry (forthcoming from W.W. Norton & Co., fall 2011).

"Southern Living" in Camille Dungy, ed., Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2009), 344.

"Parting the Blue Miasma," in Joanne Gabbin, ed., Shaping Memories: Reflections of 25 African American Women Writers (Oxford, MS: University of Mississippi Press, 2009), 44-50.

"The Restless Dead," in Moira Richards, Rosemary Starace, and Leslie Wheeler, eds., Letters to the World: Poems from the Wom-Po Listserv Community (Granada Hills, CA: Red Hen Press, 2008).

"Porch Monkey," "The Good Funeral," in Nikky Finney, ed., The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2007), 146, 210.

"Finding a Name That Fits," reprinted in Keith Walters and Michal Brody, eds., What's Language Got to Do With It? (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2004), 285.

"Notes on a Return to My Native Land," in Reflections on Evoking History: Listening Across Cultures and Communities (Spoleto Festival U.S.A., 2001), 12-15.

"At the Frenchman's," in Anthony Medina and Louis Reyes Rivera, eds., Bum Rush the Page: A Def Poetry Jam (New York: Crown Books, 2001), 121-122.

#### SELECTED POETRY PUBLICATIONS

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"Outside Natchez," Pembroke Magazine No. 39 (2007), 116-117.

"The Jade Market at Kowloon," The Southern Review (Winter 2004), 26.

"New Orleans Woman," "Leaving Sedona," The Route 66 Special Issue, River Styx 66 (Summer 2004), 35-40.

"Why I Love Gardenias," Obsidian III 5:1 (Spring/Summer 2004) 45-56.

"Liza, Dawn to Dusk," Obsidian III 4:2 (Fall/Winter 2002-03), 115-119.

"The Great Depression," The Best of Callaloo: A Special 25th Anniversary Issue, Callaloo 24:3 (Summer 2001), 753-754.

"The Sight," Cave Canem Special Section, Callaloo 22:4 (Fall 1999), 994-995.

"Where to Find Them," Shenandoah 51:1, Spring 2001, 74-76.

"The Great Depression," "The Science of Wearing a Dress," "The Refrigerator," Callaloo 19.1 (Winter 1996), 148-152.

#### SELECTED LECTURES, PANELS, AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

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Panelist, "Green Is the New Black," 3<sup>rd</sup> decennial Furious Flower Poetry Conference, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, September 2014

- Invited Speaker, "A Geography of Addiction: Jefferson, The 'Founding Farmers,' and Tobacco's Bitter Fruit," Series on Law and the Humanities, Elon College, Elon, North Carolina, April 2012
- Panelist, "Unifying Our Visions," Intersections of Race, Class, Gender, and Other Social Locations, 2012 Ella Baker Day Symposium, University of Virginia Women's Center, Charlottesville, VA, April 2012
- Panelist, "Captive Identities: Migration and 'Incarceration' in the Global South," Society for the Study of Southern Literature, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, April 2008.
- Speaker, "Writing and Publishing Poetry in the United States:" Callaloo 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, Baltimore, Md., October 2007
- Panelist, "Callaloo and the Global South," Callaloo 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 2007.
- Moderator, "Tongues (Un)Tied: Workshop Culture and the Development of the African American Voice," Associated Writing Programs annual conference, Atlanta, GA, March 2007
- Panelist, "Graduation by Degree," Education Writers Association/Poynter Institute, St. Petersburg, FL, January 2004.
- Panelist, "The Charleston Renaissance—A Renaissance for Whom?" Othering the South, American Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 2001.
- Panelist, "Beyond the (Confederate) Flag: Southern Writers Speak," Spoleto Festival USA, Charleston, SC, June 2000.

#### SELECTED TECHNOLOGY TRAINING/CONFERENCES

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- Consortium on Digital Resources for Teaching and Research in the Digital Humanities, sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges and ArtStor, Washington, D.C., September 2015
- Giving Voice: Interpreting and Preserving Oral Histories, sponsored by Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts and the Oral History Association, Atlanta, Ga., June 2015.

#### OTHER DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECTS

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- "Getting Word: The African American Oral History Project at Monticello," developed for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation.
- "Goat Cart Sam a.k.a. Porgy," a site sifting folklore from "fakelore" in DuBose Heyward's novel Porgy and George Gershwin's opera Porgy and Bess. Created as part of the American Studies @ UVA "Xroads" project, under the direction of Dr. Alan Howard.
- "Pocahontas: An Icon at the Crossroads of Race and Gender," a site using the historical figure as a springboard for discussing Indian education at Hampton Institute and Virginia's racial integrity laws. Created as part of the American Studies @ UVA "Xroads" project, under the direction of Dr. Alan Howard.
- "John C. Calhoun: The 'Cast-Iron Man' in the U.S. Capitol," a site examining the man vis-a-vis the myth that emerged from '20s memorialization efforts. Created as part of

the American Studies @ UVA “Xroads” project, under the direction of Dr. Alan Howard.

#### SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

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- Virginia Foundation for the Humanities Residential Fellowship, Charlottesville, VA, 2012-2013 Academic Year
- Buckner Clay Endowment Research Fellowship for Emerging Issues in the Humanities, Institute for the Humanities and Global Cultures, University of Virginia, Spring 2013.
- Office of the Provost Academic Community Engagement Faculty Fellowship and New Course Grant, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, Spring and Fall 2012 and Spring 2013.
- Summer Research Fellowship, Robert Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies, Charlottesville, VA, 2011
- Skinner Fellowship, St. Paul’s Memorial Church, Charlottesville, VA, 2007-08 (\$18,000 dissertation support fellowship)
- Residency, Rockefeller Foundation Study and Conference Center, Bellagio, Italy, Summer 2006
- Nonfiction Jury, Edna St. Vincent Millay Colony, Austerlitz, NY, 2005
- Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Practicum Grant, at the Spoleto Festival USA, Summer 2004
- Virginia Foundation for the Humanities Planning Grant, Black Southern Poetry Anthology (published 2007 as The Ringing Ear, ed. Nikky Finney), 2002
- Fellow, Mellon Interpretive Seminar in the Humanities at the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, 2001

#### CREATIVE AND COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

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- "Mapping the Dark," collaborative theatrical work based on the art of Rosamund Casey, Live Arts, Charlottesville, VA, April 2011
- Workshop leader and featured poet (with Louisiana Poet Laureate Darrell Bourque), Festival of Words, Grand Coteau, LA, November 2010.
- “Alicia’s Garden”: Project historian for the Evoking History Artist’s Collaborative, curated by Mary Jane Jacob of the Art Institute of Chicago, responsible for collaborative design of the Alicia Spaulding-Paolozzi Memorial Garden at Memminger Auditorium, a restored 1930s WPA opera house in Charleston, S.C., which opened May 2008.
- Reading: Poetry Society of South Carolina, Charleston, SC, October 2007
- “Woman, Writer, Witness”: Panel discussion and reading, University of Virginia Women’s Center, Charlottesville, VA, October 2007
- “Words and Voices”: Literary series curator at the Zora! Festival. Featured artists including Edwidge Danticat, winner of the American Book Award, Lyrae Van Clief-Stefanon, winner of the Cave Canem Prize, *et al.*, at Zora Neale Hurston National Museum, Eatonville, FL, January 2007
- “Writers Remembering”: Keynote speaker and workshop leader, women’s writing retreat, October 2006, SevenOaks Pathways Center, Madison, VA

Reading: Gwendolyn Brooks Writers Conference, Chicago State University, Chicago, IL, October 2006

“The Big Root”: Co-curator of series of events—a bus tour for scholars, artists, and community organizers down the Gullah-Geechee Coast, titled “The All-Star Gullah-Geechee Reunion Tour”; a woman’s workshop, “Remembering the Roots that Birthed Us”; and a panel discussion, “The Big Root”—exploring the history and culture of the Gullah/Geechee Coast as part of Mary Jane Jacob’s “Evoking History” series at the Spoleto Festival USA, May-June 2006.

“Water Table”: Project historian/poet for interdisciplinary site team conceptualizing, designing, and building site specific installation curated by Mary Jane Jacob. Collaborators included landscape designer Walter Hood, conceptual artist/photographer Ernesto Pujol, and visual artist Frances Whitehead, at the Spoleto Festival U.S.A., May - June 2004. Co-curated public programming including “Opening Ceremonies,” “Tending the Rice,” “Table Talk,” “Reflecting on Mapping,” and “PublicProjections.”

“Poetry as Spiritual Practice”: A healing service with poetry and music, Sojourners United Church of Christ, Charlottesville, VA, March 2003

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

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Advisory Committee, Virginia Food Heritage Project, 2011-2014

Co-Founder and Team Leader, Bread & Roses Kitchen Garden Ministry, Trinity Episcopal Church, 2011-2014

Managing Partner, Jefferson School Community Partnership, responsible for redevelopment of historic African American school, 2007-2011

Vice Mayor, City of Charlottesville, 2005-07

Charlottesville City Council, 2004-07

#### ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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MELUS

Modern Languages Association

#### LANGUAGES

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French and Spanish proficiency

#### REFERENCES

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Eric Lott, Professor of English, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY 10016, 212-817-8320, [elott@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:elott@gc.cuny.edu) (Dissertation Committee Chair)

Justin Brent, Associate Professor of English and Chair, English Department, Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC 29315, 864-833-8989, [jbrent@presby.edu](mailto:jbrent@presby.edu)

Jennifer Greeson, Assistant Professor of English, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22904, 434-243-1585 tel, [jrg6k@virginia.edu](mailto:jrg6k@virginia.edu)

Clare Kinney, Associate Professor of English, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22904, 434-924-6638 tel, [crk4h@virginia.edu](mailto:crk4h@virginia.edu)