

Madhu Dubey

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1989
M.Phil., English, University of Delhi, 1985
M.A., English, University of Delhi, 1981
B.A., English, University of Delhi, 1979

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Professor, English and African American Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2002-present

Visiting Professor, English, University of Chicago, Fall 2007

Associate Professor, English and Afro-American Studies, Brown University, 1999-2002

Assistant Professor, English and African American Studies, Northwestern University, 1992-1999

Lecturer in English, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, 1981-85; 1989-1991

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Signs and Cities: Black Literary Postmodernism (University of Chicago Press, 2003).

Reprints:

Chapter 1, "The Postmodern Moment in Black Literary and Cultural Studies," in *Renewing Black Intellectual History*, ed. Adolph Reed, Jr. and Kenneth Warren (Paradigm Publishers, 2010), p.217-251.

Excerpt from Chapter 1, in *Feminist Literary Theory: A Reader*, ed. Mary Eagleton (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011), p.241-244.

Black Women Novelists and the Nationalist Aesthetic (Indiana University Press, 1994).

Reprints:

"Introduction: Black Feminist Criticism" in *African-American Literary Criticism, 1773 to 2000*, ed. Hazel Arnett Ervin (Macmillan, 1999), p.412-22.

Chapter 3, "'No Bottom and No Top': Oppositions in *Sula*," in *Toni Morrison: Contemporary Critical Essays*, ed. Linden Peach (Macmillan, 1998), p.70-88.

Chapter 5, “‘Don’t You Explain Me’: The Unreadability of *Eva’s Man*,” in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, Vol. 131, ed. Jeffrey W. Hunter (Gale Group, 2000), p.286-96.

Articles and Chapters:

“Afrofuturism and the Speculative Turn,” *Cambridge Companion to Contemporary African American Literature* (forthcoming)

“Race by Analogy? Omar El Akkad’s *American Wars*,” *Contemporary Literature* 23.2 (2022), forthcoming.

“Museumizing Slavery: Living History in Colson Whitehead’s *Underground Railroad*,” *American Literary History* 32.1 (2020): 1-29.

“Freedom Now: Black Power and the Literature of Slavery,” in *Black Cultural Production After Civil Rights*, ed. Robert Patterson (University of Illinois Press, 2019), p.29-50.

“Counterfactual Narratives of Civil War and Slavery,” *Journal of American Studies* 53.3 (2019): 589-612.

“Racecraft in American Fiction,” *NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction* 50.3 (2017): 365-374.

“The Biopolitics of Race in Futureland,” *Social Text* 123 (2015): 29-55.

“Race and the Crisis of the Postmodern Social Novel,” *Postmodern Literature and Race*, ed. Sara Upstone and Len Platt (Cambridge University Press, 2015), p.31-46.

“Octavia Butler’s Novels of Enslavement,” *NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction* 46.3 (2013): 345-363.

“Fictions of Future Urbanity,” *CriticalProductive: A Journal of Architecture, Urbanism and Cultural Theory* 2.1 (Winter 2013): 20-35.

“Post-Postmodern Realism?” *Twentieth-Century Literature* 57.3-4 (Fall/Winter 2011): 364-371.

“The Future of Race in Afro-Futurist Fiction,” in *The Black Imagination: Science Fiction, Futurism and the Speculative*, ed. Sandra Jackson and Julie Moody Freeman (New York: Peter Lang, 2011), 15-31.

“New Frontiers, Cross-Currents and Convergences: Emerging Cultural Paradigms,” co-authored with Elizabeth Goldberg, *The Cambridge History of African American Literature*, ed. Maryemma Graham and Jerry W. Ward, Jr. (Cambridge University Press, 2011), p.566-617.

“Speculative Fictions of Slavery,” *American Literature* 82.4 (December 2010): 779-805.

“Neo-Slave Narratives,” *A Companion to African American Literature*, ed. Gene Andrew Jarrett (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), p.332-346.

“‘Even Some Fiction Might Be Useful’: African American Women Novelists,” *The Cambridge Companion to African-American Women’s Literature*, ed. Angelyn Mitchell and Danille K. Taylor (Cambridge University Press, 2009), p.150-168.

“Becoming Animal in Black Women’s Science Fiction,” in *Afro-Future Females*, ed. Marleen Barr (Ohio State University Press, 2008), p.31-51.

"'South to a Very Old Place': Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*," in *Essays on Literature and Society*, ed. Sambudha Sen (New Delhi: Permanent Black, 2003), p.71-90.

"Contemporary African American Fiction and the Politics of Postmodernism," introduction to special issue of *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* that I edited, Vol. 35.2&3 (Spring/Summer 2002): 151-69.

“Postmodernism as Postnationalism? Racial Representation in U.S. Black Cultural Studies,” *New Formations* 45 (Winter 2001-2002): 150-68.
Reprinted in *The Black Scholar* 33.1 (Spring 2003): 2-18.

“Postmodern Geographies of the U.S. South,” *Nepantla: Views from South* 3.2 (2002): 351-71.

Translated into Spanish as “Geografías posmodernas” and reprinted in *Modernidades Coloniales: Otros Pasados, Historias Presentas*, ed. Saurabh Dube, Ishita Banerjee Dube y Walter Mignolo (Mexico: El Colegio de Mexico, Centro de Estudios de Asia y Africa, 2004), p.119-42.

Reprinted in *Unbecoming Modern: Colonialism, Modernity, Colonial Modernities*, ed. Saurabh Dube and Ishita Banerjee-Dube (Berghahn Books, 2006).

“Toni Cade Bambara,” in *African American Writers* (Revised Edition), ed. Valerie Smith (Scribner’s, 2001), p.15-31.

“The Politics of Genre in *Beloved*,” *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 32.2 (Spring 1999): 187-206.

“Folk and Urban Communities in African-American Women’s Fiction: Octavia Butler’s *Parable of the Sower*,” *Studies in American Fiction* 27.1(Spring 1999): 103-28.

“The ‘True Lie’ of the Nation: Fanon and Feminism,” *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* (1998): 1-29.

“Literature and Urban Crisis: John Edgar Wideman’s *Philadelphia Fire*,” *African American Review* 32.4 (1998): 579-95.

“Migration and Narration: *Jazz and Vernacular Theories of Black Women’s Fiction*,” *American Literary History* 10.2 (1998): 291-316.

“Gayl Jones and the Matrilineal Metaphor of Tradition,” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 20.2 (1995): 245-67.

Interviews, Notes, and Reviews:

“Not Quite Freedom: Leveraging Agency in Slave Women’s Narratives,” Review of Jenny Sharpe, *Ghosts of Slavery*, in *NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction* 38.1 (Fall 2004): 106-110.

“The Mythos of Gumbo: Leon Forrest Talks About *Divine Days*,” *Callaloo* 19.3 (1996): 588-602.

Reprinted in *Conversations with Leon Forrest*, ed. Dana Williams (University Press of Mississippi, 2007), p.63-79.

Critical notes on black nationalism, black aesthetic, Black Arts Movement, double consciousness, signifying, and womanism, in Michael Payne, ed., *A Dictionary of Cultural and Critical Theory* (Blackwell, 1996), p.65-66, 68-69, 149, 500-01, 568.

“Carlene Polite,” biographical and critical entry, in Darlene Clark Hine, ed., *Black Women in America: A Historical Encyclopedia* (Carlson Publishing, 1993), p.934-36.

Book review of Deborah McDowell, “*The Changing Same*”: *Black Women’s Literature, Criticism, and Theory*, in *Modern Fiction Studies* 42.4 (1996): 833-36.

Book review of Joyce Ann Joyce, *Warriors, Conjurers, and Priests*, in *African American Review* 30.3 (1996): 161-65.

Book review of Abena Busia and Stanlie James, eds., *Theorizing Black Feminisms*, in *College Literature* 22.2 (1995): 161-65.

Book review of Gayl Jones, *Liberating Voices: Oral Tradition in African American Literature*, in *Studies in American Fiction* (Spring 1993): 120-21.

CONFERENCES AND LECTURES (selected)

“Species Difference as Racial Allegory?” paper presented at ACLA convention (virtual), April 2021

Moderator, “Remembering Toni Morrison,” UIC, February 2020

Panelist, “Being Human in the Micro-economic Mode,” MLA convention, Seattle, January 2020

“Racecraft in Contemporary African American Fiction,” paper presented at African American Literature and Culture Now symposium,” University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, October 2019

Panel Discussion, on documentary “Worlds of Ursula K. LeGuin,” Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago, June 2019

“Global Cities,” invited lecture, NEH Summer Institute, LaGuardia College, CUNY, August 2017

“Post-Postmodern Realism?,” invited lecture, Department of English, St. Francis Xavier University, Canada, March 2012

“Racial Geographies of Cyber-Futurism,” invited paper for “Curating Race/Curating Space” symposium, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, November 2011

“The Science of Race in American Science Fiction,” Symposium on “Reading Race Today,” Brown University, Providence, April 2011

“Alternate Histories of Slavery,” MLA annual convention, January 2010, Los Angeles

“Theorizing the Contemporary,” inaugural convention for ASAP (Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present), October 2009, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

“Speculative Fictions of Urbanity,” keynote lecture, “Cities” conference, Michigan State University, East Lansing, April 2008; Modern Language Association, Chicago, December 2007

“Black to the Past: Speculative Fictions of Slavery,” invited lecture, Department of English, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, March 2008; Department of English, University of Chicago, November 2007

“Fictive Histories of Labor in Colson Whitehead’s Novels,” paper presented at Modern Language Association 2007 convention, Chicago, December 2007

“The Postmodern Slave Narratives of Octavia Butler,” American Cultures Workshop, University of Chicago, November 2007

“African American Literature and the Promise of Modernity,” paper presented at New Directions in Black Modernities, 7th International Conference of the Collegium for African American Research, Fundacion Uned, Madrid, April 2007

“‘Black to the Past’: Speculative Fictions of Slavery,” invited lecture, Department of English, Wayne State University, March 2007

Panelist, "Parables of Race, Genes, and Power: Remembering Octavia Butler," Modern Language Association Convention, Philadelphia, December 2006

"Scenes of Reading in Postmodern African-American Fiction," invited lecture, Department of English, University of Pennsylvania, April 2006

"Race Critique in an Age of Simulation," Keynote Lecture, Symposium on "Imagining Bodies: Visions of the Nation through Race, Gender, and Space," Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 2006

Chair and respondent, panel on "Strategies for Entering and Leaving Postmodernity," American Studies Association, Washington D.C., November 2005

"The (Black) Body of Postmodern Theory," invited lecture, Macalester College, St. Paul, April 2005

"Postmodern Racial Uplift," Towns and Gowns: Thinking Communities in African American Studies, University of Maryland, November 2003

"Periodizing Black Postmodernism?" invited lecture, Northeastern University, Boston, October 2003

"Fanon and Feminism: Problems and Possibilities," Carolina Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures, University of North Carolina, March 2003

"Black Science Fiction?" Race and Ethnicity Study Group, Chicago, March 2003

"Racial Differences in Postmodern Theory," invited lecture, Transnational and Transcolonial Studies Research Group, UCLA, November 2003

"Racial Difference in Postmodern Theory," invited lecture, Department of English, University of Illinois at Chicago, March 2002

"Periodizing Black Postmodernism: A Tale of Books and Cities," invited lecture, American Studies and English, New York University, December 2001

"Postmodernism and Racial Difference," Annual Gender Studies Lecture, Brown University, November 2001

"Recasting Print Literacy: Black Literary Postmodernism," invited lecture, Department of English, Princeton University, March 2001

"Racial Representation in Postmodern African-American Literature," invited lecture, Department of English, University of Pittsburgh, February 2001

“Race and Region: Postmodern Geographies of the U.S. South,” invited lecture, Department of English, Syracuse University, November 2000

“Southern Regionalism as an Alternative Modernity,” Workshop on “Intersecting Histories, Other Modernities, and the Alterity of Knowledge,” El Colegio de Mexico, Mexico City, June 2000

“Legal and Fictional Representation in John Edgar Wideman’s *Reuben*,” Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States annual convention, New Orleans, March 2000

“Postmodern Politics of Difference in Toni Cade Bambara’s *The Salt Eaters*,” paper presented at “The Endlessly Beckoning Horizon: African American Literature at the End of the 20th Century,” Center for the Study of Black Literature and Culture, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, October 1999

“‘South to a Very Old Place’: Folk Aesthetics in Postmodern African-American Fiction,” paper presented at the Pembroke Center Roundtable, Brown University, March 1999

Participant, roundtable discussion on “Speculative Identities: The Past and Future of Difference in Speculative Fiction,” Center for the Study of Race, University of Chicago, February 1999

Respondent, panel on “The Life and Work of Leon Forrest,” Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, St. Louis, Missouri, November 1998

“*Beloved* and the Problem of the Real,” lecture presented at the Midwest Faculty Seminar, University of Chicago, October 1998

“Toni Morrison’s Southern Folk Aesthetic,” paper presented at Toni Morrison and the American South, First Biennial Conference of the Toni Morrison Society, Atlanta, September 1998

“Feminist, Marxist, and Postmodern Geographies,” paper presented at the Marxist Literary Group Summer Institute on Culture and Society, University of Illinois at Chicago, June 1998

“Women and Migration: Imagining Folk and Urban Communities,” Graduate/Faculty Colloquium, Women’s Studies Department, Northwestern University, December 1997

Chair, panel on “Reading and Writing the City,” Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, Illinois, November 1997

“Place, Community, and Authorship in Octavia Butler’s *Parable of the Sower*,” Northwestern University Center for the Humanities, April 1997

Panelist, “The Literary Contribution of Leon Forrest,” Du Sable Museum of African-American History, August 31, 1996

“Reginald McKnight’s *I Get on the Bus* as Postmodern Travel Narrative,” Symposium on Contemporary Literatures of the African Diaspora, University of Salamanca, Spain, March 1996

“Fabricating Africa as Fiction: Reginald McKnight’s *I Get on the Bus*,” African Literature Association Convention, Stonybrook, New York, March 1996

“The ‘True Lie’ of the Nation in Frantz Fanon’s *The Wretched of the Earth* and *A Dying Colonialism*,” lecture presented at the Midwest Faculty Seminar, University of Chicago, January 1996

“Migration and Narration: A Reading of Toni Morrison’s *Jazz*,” Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, St. Louis, Missouri, November 1995

“Modernist Rhetorics of Primitivism: A Reading of the Jazz Age,” Conference on Psychoanalysis and Postcolonialism, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., October 1995

“Migration and Narration in Toni Morrison’s *Jazz*,” paper presented at the University of Chicago Workshop on Race and the Reproduction of Racial Ideologies, May 1995

“Defining the Blues Novel,” Delta Symposium on the Blues, Jonesboro, Arkansas, April 1995

“Desacralizing the Text of Blackness: Notes on the New Black Aesthetic,” Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, November 1994

“‘Not a Story to Pass On’: The Mother’s Text in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*,” First Annual Central Modern Language Association Conference, Cortland, New York, October 1991

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE (Selected)

Director of Graduate Studies, African American Studies Department, Fall 2019-present

Search committee, Art History, Bridge to Faculty Search in African diaspora art, 2020-2021

Diversity Council, LAS, 2020-2021

Search committee, AAST, UIC, 2019-2020

Evaluation committee, OVCR Creative Activity grant applications, UIC, December 2019

Member, Editorial Board, University of Illinois Press, 2013-2021

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of English, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2012-2014

Member, Interdisciplinary Diaspora Cluster faculty committee, LAS, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2014-present

Member, Faculty Advisory Committee on Admissions, LAS, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2012

Search Committee for Humanities Institute Director, University of Illinois at Chicago, Fall 2010

Executive Committee, Institute for the Humanities, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2009-2012

Member, Task Force on Academic Priorities, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2009-2010

Chair, Search Committee for senior social scientist position, African American Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2009-2010

Chair, Search Committee for assistant professor in English and African-American Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2006-2007

Chair, Search Committee for Head of African-American Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2005-2006

Associate Dean, Interdisciplinary Division, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2005-2006

Postdoctoral Fellowship Award Committee, African-American Studies Department, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2003-2005

Undergraduate Committee, African-American Studies Department, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2003-2004

Associate Head, African-American Studies Department, University of Illinois at Chicago, Fall 2003

Graduate Committee, Department of English, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2002-2003, 2007-2008, 2009-2010, 2011-2012

Tenure and promotion committees for African-American Studies, English, Latin American and Latino/a Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2002-present

Search committee for assistant professor position in postcolonial literature, Department of English, Brown University, 2000-2001

Search committee for director of Ethnic Studies program, Brown University, 2000-2001

College Curricular Council subcommittee on diversity, Brown University, 2000-2001

Graduate admissions and policy committee, Department of English, Brown University, 1999-2000

Faculty Advisory Committee, Women's Studies Program, Brown University, 1999-2000

Faculty Advisory Board, *Brown Academic Review*, 1999-2000

Faculty Advisory Board, Pembroke Center for Research, Brown University, 1999-2000

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (Selected)

Reviewer, American Academy in Berlin, fellowship applications, February 2021

Mentor and Reviewer, Second Book Institute for minority faculty, Georgetown University (virtual), June 2020

Reviewer, National Humanities Council fellowship applications, 2017-present

Member, Editorial Board, *Contemporary Women's Literature*, *NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction*, *Obsidian*, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*

Member, Chicago Literary Hall of Fame selection committee, 2015

Mentor, Career Enhancement Retreat, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 2013

Member, Editorial Advisory Board, Wiley-Blackwell Press, 2012-2013

Member, Scarborough Prize committee for best book in African American Literature and Culture, MLA, 2012

Reviewer, ACLS Dissertation Fellowships, 2011

Mentor, Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2010-2011

Member, Executive Committee, Society for Novel Studies

Member, Committee on Honors and Awards, Modern Language Association, 2009-2011

Member, Darwin Turner Award Committee for best essay published in *African American Review*, 2009

Member, Review panel, Black Metropolis Research Consortium fellowship program, 2009

Taught seminars on teaching Toni Morrison, National Teachers' Consortium, Newberry Library, Chicago, December 2005 and February 2006

Mentor, Career Enhancement Retreat, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, Princeton, October 2005

Chair, Organizing Committee for Annual Convention of MELUS (Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States) on "Urban Ethnicities," University of Illinois at Chicago, 2004-2005

Member, Delegate Assembly, Modern Language Association, 2005-2007

Member, *PMLA* Advisory Committee, July 2000-June 2003

Chair, Selection Committee, William Sanders Scarborough Prize for best scholarly work in African-American literature or culture, Modern Language Association, 2002-2004

Peer reviewer for *African American Review*, *American Literary History*, *Ariel*, *College Literature*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Contours, differences*, *Feminist Studies*, *English Literary History*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Journal X*, *LIT*, *Mediations*, *MELUS*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Museum of Science Fiction Journal*, *Novel*, *Obsidian II*, *PMLA*, *Revista de Estudios Norteamericanos*, *Signs*, *Studies in American Fiction*, *Studies in the Novel*, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, *Twentieth-Century Literature*

Reader, manuscripts on black cultural studies, postcolonial literature, African-American literature, African diaspora literature, postmodernism, speculative and science fiction, and U.S. ethnic literatures for Bloomsbury Publishing, Cambridge University Press, Columbia University Press, Duke University Press, Fordham University Press, Heinemann, Minnesota University Press, Northwestern University Press, Ohio State University Press, Palgrave-Macmillan, Routledge, SUNY Press, University of Iowa Press, University of North Carolina Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, University of Virginia Press, University of Washington Press

Secretary, Section on American Literature After 1870, Midwest Modern Language Association, 1996

Chair, Section on American Literature After 1870, Midwest Modern Language Association, 1997