

Laura A. White

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EMPLOYMENT:

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

2020-present Professor, Department of English
Graduate Faculty; Women's and Gender Studies Faculty;
Africana Studies Faculty

2016-2020 Associate Professor, Department of English
Graduate Faculty; Women's and Gender Studies Faculty;
Africana Studies Faculty

2010-2016 Assistant Professor, Department of English
Graduate Faculty; Women's and Gender Studies Faculty
Africana Studies Faculty

EDUCATION:

2005-2009 Ph.D. in English, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY

1997-1999 M.A. in English, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

1991-1995 B.A. in English, University of Scranton, Scranton, PA
Minors in History, Women's Studies

Dissertation: "Fictions of Progress: The Eco-politics of Temporal Constructions in Colonial and Postcolonial Novels."

PUBLICATIONS:

Monograph:

Ecospectrality: Haunting and Environmental Justice in Contemporary Anglophone Novels.
Bloomsbury Academic, May 2020.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

"Affects of Disaster: Briohny Doyle's Reframing of Climate Narrative in *The Island will Sink.*"
Studies in the Novel, forthcoming, Fall 2026.

"*Making Kin? Creation and Monstrosity in Mohale Mashigo's 'Little Vultures.'*" *English Studies in Africa*, vol. 68, no. 2, 2025.

- "Unsettling the Arts of Extinction." *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature*, vol. 54, no. 2, 2023, pp. 53-79.
- "Recomposing the Slut: Feminist Taxidermic Practice in Charlotte Wood's *The Natural Way of Things*." *Configurations*, vol. 27, no. 2, 2019, pp. 139-161.
- "Haunted Histories, Animate Futures: Recovering Noongar Knowledge through Kim Scott's *That Deadman Dance*." *Commonwealth Essays and Studies*, vol. 41, no. 1, 2018, pp.63-74.
- "Spatial Anxieties: Tourists, Settlers and Tasmania's Affective Economies of Belonging in *A Terrible Beauty, Death of a River Guide, and Gould's Book of Fish*." *Richard Flanagan: New Critical Essays*, edited by Robert Dixon, U of Sydney Press, 2018.
- "Images Matter: Richard Flanagan, Richard Wastell and Materializations of Tasmania." *Visualizing Australia*, edited by Kylie Crane and Renate Brosch, Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, 2014, pp. 119-34.
- "Beyond the Eco-flaneur's Footsteps: Perambulatory Narration in Zakes Mda's *Ways of Dying*." *Ecoambiguity, Community and Development: Toward a Politicized Ecocriticism*. edited by Vidya Sarveswaran, Scott Slovic and Swarnalatha Rangarajan, Lexington Books/ Rowman and Littlefield, 2014, pp. 99-112.
- "Novel Vision: Seeing the Sunderbans through Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*." *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, vol. 20, no. 3, 2013, pp. 513-31.
- "Re-imagining the Human: Ecofeminism, Affect, and Postcolonial Narration." *International Perspectives in Feminist Ecocriticism*, edited by Simon Estok, Greta Gaard and Serpil Oppermann, Routledge, 2013, pp. 137-47.
- "Submerging the Imperial Eye: Affective Narration as Environmentalist Intervention in Richard Flanagan's *Death of a River Guide*." *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, vol. 47, June 2012, pp. 265-79.
- "Building on Gendered Ground: Space and National Identity in Brenda Walker's *Wing of Night*." *Journal of Australian Writers and Writing*, May 2010, pp. 4-13.
- "Renegotiating the Land Covenant in Marlene van Niekerk's *Triomf*." *Scrutiny 2*, vol. 12, no. 2, 2007, pp. 84-95.

Manuscript in Development:

Literary Animals in the Affective Economies of Extinction.

This project operates at the intersections of postcolonial ecocriticism, animal studies, and affect studies to address the question: what do affects do in stories about extinction? Rather than focusing on specific environmentalist affects such as love or hope, this project centers around how literary representations circulate feeling as well as how texts can arrest the movement of affects and suspend the lives of animals, contributing to consoling fictions of enduring presence that distort the temporal dynamics of extinction.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

"Re-Thinking Environmental (In)Action: Soil Communities in Charlotte Wood's *Stone Yard Devotional*," ASLE-UKI Conference, Galway, Ireland, August 2025.

"Feminist Composting and the Re-storying of Fertility in Charlotte Wood's *Stone Yard Devotional*," Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference, College Park, MD, July 2025.

"De-extinction, Gender and Inheritance in Mohale Mashigo's 'Little Vultures,'" African Literature Association Annual Conference, Louisville, KY, May 2024.

"Making Kin? De-extinction, Motherhood, and Monstrosity," International Conference of Three Societies of Literature and Science, Birmingham, UK, April 2024.

"Mothering the Future: Black Feminist Legacies of Survival," American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, March 2023.

"Expanding Narratives of Extinction: Genocide and Generations," African Literature Association Annual Conference, Online, May 2021.

"Waiting for the End: Arrested Affect in Narratives of Extinction," American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, Online, April 2021.

"Aligning Rhetoric and Practice: Global Learning for All," with Ann McCullough, AAC&U Global Citizenship for Campus, Community and Careers Conference, San Antonio, TX. October 2019.

"Literary Animals and the Affective Economies of Extinction," Affective Ecocriticism Workshop, Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Biennial Conference, Davis, CA. June 2019.

"From the Ice Age to the Anthropocene: Human Responses to Global Change," Featured Panel for MTSU Undergraduate Social Science Symposium, Murfreesboro, TN. February 2019.

"Taxidermic Temporalities and Artificial Animals in Henrietta Rose-Innes's *Green Lion*," African Literature Association Conference, Washington, D.C. May 2018.

"A Den of Wild Beasts:" Discourse and Deviance in Charlotte Wood's *The Natural Way of Things*," Modern Language Association Conference, New York, NY. January 2018.

"Re-composing the Taxidermic Nation: Charlotte Wood's *The Natural Way of Things*," Society for Literature, Science and the Arts Conference, Tempe, AZ. November 2017.

"Against Silence: Contextualizing Women's Captivity in Charlotte Wood's *The Natural Way of Things*," British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference, Savannah, GA. February 2017.

"Mapping Modes of Inhabitation in Henrietta Rose-Innes' *Rock Alphabet*," Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference, Detroit, MI. June 2016.

"Positioning Maps: Environmental Justice and the Cartographic Imagination." African Literature Association Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA. April 2016.

"Mapping Modes of Inhabitation in Henrietta Rose-Innes' *Rock Alphabet*." British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA. February 2016.

"Spectral Toxicity in Michelle Cliff's *No Telephone to Heaven*," ASLE Sponsored Panel at the Northeast MLA. Toronto, Canada. May 2015.

"Ghostly Mother/ Land in Michelle Cliff's *No Telephone to Heaven*," British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA. February 2015.

"Guided by Ghosts: Haunting as Environmentalist Epistemology," American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference. New York University, New York, NY. March 2014.

"Haunted by Matter: Kim Scott's *That Deadman Dance*," Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference. Lawrence, KS. May 2013.

"Urban Hauntings: On Ghosts and Garbage in Chris Abani's *GraceLand*," African Literature Association Conference, Charleston, SC. March 2013.

Chair, Masculinity and Liberation in West African Literature. African Literature Association Conference, Charleston, SC. March 2013.

"Beyond Anthropomorphism: Environmental Materialist Narration in Kim Scott's *That Deadman Dance*," British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference, Savannah, GA. February 2013.

"Reframing Tasmania: Richard Flanagan, Richard Wastell and the Environmental Impact of Affective Vision," Visualizing Australia Conference, Stuttgart, Germany. September 2012.

"Disciplinary Dark Matter," with Dr. Amy Kaufman. BABEL Conference, Boston, MA. September 2012.

"Walking in the South African City: Postcolonial Ecoflaneurs and Zakes Mda's *Ways of Dying*," British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA. February 2012.

"Postcolonial Eco-flaneurs and Posthuman Subjectivities," South Central MLA Conference. Hot Springs, AK. October 2011.

"Re-Imagining the Human: Ecofeminism, Affect, and Postcolonial Narration," Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference. Bloomington, IN. June 2011.

"Green Affects: Affective Narration as Environmentalist Intervention," American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference. Vancouver, BC. March 2011.

"Submerging the Imperial Eye: Green Narration in Flanagan's *Death of a River Guide*," British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. Savannah, GA. February 2011.

"Parasite Stigma in Chris van Wyk's *Year of the Tapeworm*," International Society for the Study of Narrative Annual Conference. Cleveland, OH. April 2010.

"Slow Alternative: Affective Temporalities and the Critique of Economic Rationalism in Thea Astley's *Drylands*," MLA Conference. Philadelphia, PA. December 2009.

"The City, The Forest, and Evolutionary Time: An Ecocritical Reading of *The Voyage Out*," 19th Annual Virginia Woolf Conference. Fordham University, NY. June 2009.

"Arthur Conan Doyle's Egypt: An Ecocritical Investigation," African Literature Association Annual Conference. University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. April 2009.

"Time and Tide: The Eco-politics of Temporal Constructions in Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*," American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference. Harvard University, Boston, MA. March 2009.

"Critiquing the Cowboy: Multiple Masculinities in Ruth Ozeki's *My Year of Meats*," Rocky Mountain MLA. Reno, NV. October 2008.

"Defending Tradition: The Military Language of Masculinity in *Lucky Jim*," Fordham University Graduate Conference. New York, NY. October 2008.

"Imagining the Postcolonial Garden in Zakes Mda's *Ways of Dying*," The Keyboard in the Garden ASLE Symposium. Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, PA. June 2008.

"Regarding Working Class Masculinity: The Filmic Gaze and Rebellion in Sillitoe's *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*," Northeast MLA. Buffalo, New York. April 2008.

"Ingestion and Ideology in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*," Rocky Mountain MLA. Calgary, AB. October 2007.

"Building on Gendered Ground: Space and National Identity in Brenda Walker's *Wing of Night*," American Association of Australian Literary Studies Annual Convention. Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. March 2007.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

Undergraduate Courses Taught for English Department

ENGL 1010: Expository Writing

ENGL 1020: Research and Argumentative Writing

ENGL 2020: Outlaws in Australian Literature

ENGL 2020: Colonial Adventure Narratives: Mapping Gender, Race and Sexuality

ENGL 2020: Contemporary World Literatures in English (on ground and online versions)

ENGL 2030: The Experience of Literature

ENGL 3000: Introduction to Literary Studies (on ground and online versions)

ENGL 3450: Studies in Narrative: Contemporary African Literature

ENGL 4270: Contemporary British and Commonwealth Literature

ENGL 4425: Backgrounds of Modern Literature

ENGL 4435: Global English Literatures

ENGL 4900: Haunted Landscapes in Contemporary Global Literature

ENGL 4950: Contemporary Literature: Global Garbage, Wasted Worlds

Graduate Course Taught for English Department
ENGL 6/7001: Introduction to Graduate Study: Bibliography and Research
ENGL 6/7320: Postcolonial Literature and Theory
ENGL 6/7401: Studies in Contemporary Literature: Re-Imagining the Human
ENGL 6/7500: Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature and the Environment
ENGL 6/7611: Feminist Theory
ENGL 6/7611: Global Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality
ENGL 6/7881: Seminar in Teaching Literature

Courses Developed and Taught for Women's and Gender Studies Program
WGST 3010: Sexuality Studies
WGST 3030: Topics in Sexuality: Sexualities in Contemporary Global Literature
WGST 4210: Gender and the Environment (revision of Ecofeminism)
WGST 4500: Feminist Theory
WGST 6000: Feminist Theory
WGST 6030: Global Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Modern Language Association, American Comparative Literature Association,
Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Association for the Study of Literature
and Environment UK and Ireland, American Association for Australasian Literary Studies,
African Literature Association