

## Gwen Bergner

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West Virginia University  
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### EDUCATION

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Ph.D. Princeton University, 1997  
B.A. Cornell University, 1985

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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West Virginia University, 1996-present  
Associate Professor of English  
Middlebury College, 1995-96  
Visiting Lecturer in American Literature & Civilization

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### Book

*Taboo Subjects: Race, Sex, and Psychoanalysis*. Minneapolis: U Minnesota P, 2005.

#### Articles

- “Danticat’s Vodou Vernacular of Women’s Human Rights.” *American Literary History*, 29.3 (2017). Forthcoming.
- “Zoning in on the American Tropics.” *American Literary History* 27.4 (2015): 831-842.
- “Veiled Motives: Women’s Liberation and the War in Afghanistan.” *Globalizing Afghanistan: Terrorism, War, and the Rhetoric of Nation Building*. Ed. David Jefferess and Zubeda Jalalzai. Durham: Duke UP, 2011. 95-116.
- “Black Children, White Preference: *Brown v. Board*, the Doll Tests, and the Politics of Self-Esteem.” *American Quarterly* 61.2 (2009): 299-332
- “Politics and Pathologies: On the Subject of Race in Psychoanalysis.” *Frantz Fanon: Critical Perspectives*. Ed. Anthony Alessandrini. New York: Routledge, 1999. 219-34.
- “Myths of Masculinity: The Oedipus Complex and Frederick Douglass’s 1845 *Narrative*.” *Discourse*, 19.1-2 (1996): 53-71. Rpt. in *The Psychoanalysis of Race*. Ed. Christopher Lane. New York: Columbia UP, 1998. 241-60.
- “Uncanny Women and Anxious Masters: Reading *Coppelia* Against Freud,” with Nicole Plett. *Moving Words: Re-writing Dance*. Ed. Gay Morris. New York: Routledge, 1996. 159-179.
- “Who is That Masked Woman? or, the Role of Gender in Fanon’s *Black Skin, White Masks*.” *PMLA* 110.1 (1995): 75-88.
- “Feminism and Cultural Studies,” with Erin Mackie. *Critical Matrix: The Princeton Journal of Women, Gender, & Culture* 7.2 (1993): 3-7.

## Reviews

Review. Susan Gubar. *Racechanges: White Skin, Black Face in American Culture*. *Modern Fiction Studies*. 44.4, 1999: 1073-75.

## Current Research

Co-editor. Special Topic of *American Literature* on “The Plantation, the Post-Plantation, and the Afterlives of Slavery.”

Essay for special issue of *American Literature* on Zombies, the US Occupation of Haiti (1915-1934), Zora Neale Hurston, and Modernism.

Essay on rape in the zombie apocalypse.

## SELECT PAPERS PRESENTED

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- “Unequal Access to Global Service Learning Courses.” American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Antonio, TX (April 2017).
- “Edwidge Danticat’s Vodou Vernacular of Women’s Human Rights.” Caribbean Studies Association, Port-Au-Prince, Haiti (June 2016).
- “Transformations: How Plantation Slavery’s (Non)Human Vitalizes the Biopolitics of Bare Life.” Organizer, Moderator, and Respondent. Modern Language Association, Austin, TX (January 2016).
- “Fetishizing the Primitive: William Seabrook in Haiti and Paris.” Organization of American Historians, St. Louis, MO (April 2015).
- “Neo-Colonial Capitalism and Cocktails: Zombies Come to America.” American Studies Association, Los Angeles (November 2014).
- “Modernism, Marines, and *The Magic Island*: Literary Culture and the US Occupation of Haiti.” American Studies Association, San Juan, PR (November 2012).
- “Black Psychoanalysis in the 1950s.” Co-organizer, moderator, and respondent. American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD (October 2011).
- “The Temporality of Crisis: Haitian Immigration, Incarceration, Repatriation.” American Studies Association, San Antonio, TX (November 2010).
- “Vodou Politics: Haitian-American Transnational Relations.” American Studies Association, Washington, DC (November 2009).
- “Transnational Twins: Vodou Politics and Danticat’s *Breath, Eyes, Memory*. Conference on Language and Literature since 1900. University of Louisville (February 2008).
- “Papa’s Baby, An American Maybe: Kinship, Citizenship, and Uncle Sam.” Cultural Studies Association, Boston, MA (May 2004).
- “Patriotic Paternalism and the War in Afghanistan: Media (Un)Coverage of Afghan Women Before and After 9/11.” Popular Culture/American Culture Association, San Antonio, TX (April 2004).
- “Taboo Subjects: The Mulatto and the Miscegenation Taboo in Larsen’s *Quicksand*.” Modern Language Association, San Diego, CA (December 2003).
- “Constructing Public Policy on Race: The Uses of Social Psychology.” American Studies Association, Detroit, MI (October 2000).

- “*Brown*, the Doll Studies, and Discourses of Racial Self-Esteem: A case of Race, Psychology, and the Law.” Multiethnic Literatures of the U.S., Tulane University (March 2000).
- “U.S. Public Policy and the Social Psychology of Race.” Cultural History After Foucault, University of Aberdeen, Scotland (June 1998).
- “Trauma, Truth Serum, and the Talking Cure: Black Male Subjectivity in the Margins of Hollywood.” Film and Literature Conference, Florida State University (January 1998).
- “Fanonian Diaspora.” Respondent. Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL (December 1997).
- “History, Trauma, and the Political Body.” Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL (December 1995).
- “A Question of Power: Sexual Economies of Colonialism and the Oedipus Complex.” Postcolonialism and Psychoanalysis, George Washington University (October 1995).
- “Reflections on Race and Psychoanalysis: Dramas of Identity.” Multiethnic Literatures of the U.S., UC Berkeley (April 1993).
- “Rites of Mourning, Writing History, and Righting the Past: Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.” Twentieth Century Literature Conference, University of Louisville (February 1992).
- “Legitimacy and the Politics of Literary Tradition and Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” American Ethnic Women Writers Conference, Salisbury State University (May 1991). (Awarded Best Paper by a Graduate Student.)

#### **INVITED LECTURE**

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- “One and One Is Three: Edwidge Danticat’s Vodou Transnationalism,” Program in Women’s and Gender Studies, University of Texas, Austin, TX (October 2012).

#### **GRANTS and AWARDS**

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- Philip Bordinat Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement, WVU Department of English (2010).
- English Graduate Organization Teaching Award, WVU Department of English (2010).
- Riggle Fellowship in the Humanities, WVU (2001).
- Riggle Fellowship in the Humanities, WVU (1999).
- Eberly College of Arts & Sciences Research and Graduate Studies Grant (1997).

#### **TEACHING**

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##### **Areas**

- African American Literature, Postcolonial/Transnational Literature and Theory, Women’s Literature and Gender Studies, Caribbean Studies

**Courses**

Undergraduate

Women Writers: Power/Memory  
 Women's Literature: Bad Girls  
 American Women Writers  
 Postcolonial Literature  
 African American Literature  
 Race in U.S. Film  
 Multiethnic American Literature  
 Introduction to American Studies  
 Short Story and Novel  
 American Literature II  
 Contemporary Fiction  
 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature  
 Modern Literature  
 Commonwealth Literature  
 Foundations in Literary Study  
 Capstone: Senior Thesis  
 Minds, Selves, Characters: Zombies

Graduate

African American Novel: 1915-Present  
 Race in US Film  
 Transnational Theory  
 Memory & Power: Postcolonial Lit.  
 Making Race, Nation Building  
 African American Novel  
 Race and Psychoanalysis  
 Theories of Nationalism  
 Producing Racial Identities  
 Toni Morrison  
 Ideology and Theories of the Subject  
 Memory, Trauma, and Narrative (IS)  
 Zora Neale Hurston  
 American Dreams  
 Postcolonial Theory (IS)  
 Trauma Theory (IS)  
 20<sup>th</sup> C. US Women's Literature (IS)  
 Postcolonial Literature: South Asia

**Study Abroad and Service Learning**

Global Service Learning: Community Development in Petersfield, Jamaica.  
 International Studies 493D (2012)  
 English 499A (2014)  
 Global Service Learning in Rural Trinidad—English 499B (2016)

**Advising**

Undergraduate Major Advisor, Department of English (2000-2011).

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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Member, Wise Susman-Prize Committee, American Studies Association (2010-2012)  
 Ethnic Studies Representative, Delegate Assembly, Modern Language Association  
 (2008-2011)  
 Consultant and lead writer, *West Virginia Higher Education Master Plan 2007-2012*. West  
 Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (2007)  
 Participant, Dartmouth Institute in American Studies, Dartmouth College (2003)  
 Coordinator, WVU Summer Seminar in Literary and Cultural Theory: History and  
 Memory: Recollecting the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. West Virginia University  
 (2002)  
 Co-editor, *Critical Matrix: The Princeton Journal of Women, Gender, and Culture*.  
 Princeton University (1991-1993)  
 Manuscript Reviewer: Fordham University Press, University of Illinois Press, SUNY  
 Press, Baylor University Press, PMLA, *American Literary History*, MELUS,  
*African American Review*, Oxford University Press, University of Florida Press

**SERVICE—West Virginia University**

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**Panels, Talks, and Workshops**

- Speaker, “More Than Zombies: The Origins of Vodou in Haiti.” Multicultural Program Brown Bag Lunch Lecture and Discussion Series (December 2015).
- Speaker, “Edwidge Danticat’s *Farming of Bones*.” Engl. 225—Non-Western World Lit. (December 2015).
- Presenter, Multicultural Program Brown Bag Lunch Film and Discussion Series. *Poto-Mitan: Haitian Women—Pillars of the Global Economy* (2011 and 2012).
- Co-Presenter, “Old Maids and Bad Girls: Chick Lit. and Romance,” Women’s Studies Lecture Series (2010).
- Organizer and moderator, “Aftershock: Knowing Haiti Now” (2010).
- Co-Organizer, “Public Forum on Katrina” (2005).
- Workshop Leader, “Social Change and Diversity,” WVU Parkersburg (2002).
- Speaker, “New Directions in African American Literature,” Potomac State College (2002).
- Lead Organizer, “9/11 and After: A Public Forum on the Attacks” (2001).
- Speaker, “U.S. Media Coverage of Women in Afghanistan Before and After September 11,” FEM Forum on Women in Afghanistan (2001).
- Speaker, “Nguyen v. Immigration and Naturalization Service: Intersections of Sex, Gender, and Nationality,” Status of Women’s Rights in the World Today, Women’s Law Caucus and the International Law Society, WVU Law School (2001).
- Workshop Leader, “Representation and Diversity in the Curriculum,” WVU Parkersburg (2001).
- Speaker, “Gender and the Politics of Slave Narratives,” WVU Parkersburg (2000).

**Administrative—University and Eberly College of Arts and Sciences**

- ECAS Promotion and Tenure Committee (2016-2017)
- Senate Rights and Responsibilities (2013-2014)
- Senate Research Committee (2016-2017, 2010-2011)
- Faculty Senate Committee on Committees, Chair (2008-2009)
- Committee to Review Curriculum Committees’ Procedures (2007-2009)
- Environmental Sustainability Committee (2007-2008)
- Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee, Chair (2006-07), Chair-Elect (2005-06)
- Faculty Senate Executive Committee (2006-07)
- Faculty Senate (2000-10, 2012-2015, 2015-2017)
- Search Committee, Director of Center for Black Culture (2006)
- Undergraduate Academic Subcommittee, WVU’s 2010 Strategic Plan (2005)
- Committee to Revise General Education Curriculum (2002-03)
- Women’s Studies Faculty Search Committee (2000-01)
- Student Instruction Committee (2000-01)
- Women’s Studies Curriculum Committee (1999-2000)
- Women’s Studies Stitzel Endowment Award Committee (2008-2009, 2009-2010)
- Women’s Studies Faculty Associate (ongoing)
- Africana Studies Program Committee (2008-2010)

**Administrative—Department of English**

Proseminar Committee—Chair (2015-2017)  
Graduate Program Committee—Member (2004-06, 2015-ongoing)  
United Way Campaign—Department Coordinator (2014, 2015)  
Facilitation Partner—Strategic Plan Implementation (Spring 2014)  
Development Committee (2008-09, 2010-11, 2012-13)  
Liaison—President’s Office of Social Justice (2009-2010)  
Strategic Planning Committee (2008-09)  
Promotion and Tenure Committee (Chair, 2004-05), (Member, 1998-99)  
Strategic Planning Initiative Team (2005-06)  
Faculty Sponsor, Sigma Tau Delta—English Honor Society (2005-07)  
Representative, Minority Doctoral Candidate Colloquium (2006)  
PhD Qualifying Exam Committee (Chair, 2012-13, Member, 2004-05, 1997-98)  
Search Committees: Early Modern (1997-98), Modern American (1998-99), Eberly Chair (2002-03), Nineteenth-Century American (2003-04), Eberly Chair (2004-05), English Education and Adolescent Literature (2006-07), World Literature (2007-08), Latino/a Literature (2009-10), Modern American Poetry (2012-13).  
Ph.D. Admissions Committee (2009-10, 2013-14, 2014-15)  
M.A. Admissions Committee (1999-2003)  
Graduate Faculty Council (2001-03)

**SERVICE--Community**

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Hazelton Prison Women’s Book Club (2015-ongoing)  
Course Leader, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, “William Seabrook’s *The Magic Island: Modernism, Marines, and Magical Thinking*,” Morgantown, WV (October 2012)  
Co-editor, *Sak Pase*, Hospital Albert Schweitzer (Haiti) Alumni Association Newsletter (2002-2010)  
Executive Committee, Hospital Albert Schweitzer (Haiti) Alumni Association (2002-2010)  
Steering Committee, Community Coalition for Social Justice (2000-2003)  
Speaker, “Gender and Slave Narratives,” Morgantown Public Library, WV (2001)