

## Gwen Bergner

Department of English  
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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  
Interim Associate Chair, Department of English, 2017-2018  
Associate Professor of English, 2003-present  
Assistant Professor of English, 1996-2003  
Middlebury College  
Visiting Lecturer in American Literature & Civilization, 1995-1996

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### Book

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

#### Edited Journal—Special Topic

“The Plantation, the Post-Plantation, and the Afterlives of Slavery,” with Zita Nunes. *American Literature* (forthcoming Fall 2019).

#### Articles and Chapters

- “*Lòt bò dlo* and the Spatial Relations of *Diaspora*.” *Narrating History, Home, and Nation: Critical Essays on Edwidge Danticat*. Ed. Maia Butler, Megan Feifer, and Joanna Davis-McElligatt (UP of Mississippi, under contract).
- “Danticat’s Vodou Vernacular of Women’s Human Rights.” *American Literary History*, 29.3 (2017): 521-545.
- “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.

## SELECT PAPERS PRESENTED

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“*Lòt bò dlo* and the Spatial Relations of *Diaspora*.” Caribbean Studies Association, Havana, Cuba (2018).

“Unequal Access to Global Service Learning Courses.” American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Antonio, TX (2017).

“Edwidge Danticat’s Vodou Vernacular of Women’s Human Rights.” Caribbean Studies Association, Port-Au-Prince, Haiti (2016).

“Transformations: How Plantation Slavery’s (Non)Human Vitalizes the Biopolitics of Bare Life.” Organizer, Moderator, and Respondent. Modern Language Association, Austin, TX (2016).

“Fetishizing the Primitive: William Seabrook in Haiti and Paris.” Organization of American Historians, St. Louis, MO (2015).

“Neo-Colonial Capitalism and Cocktails: Zombies Come to America.” American Studies Association, Los Angeles (2014).

“Modernism, Marines, and *The Magic Island*: Literary Culture and the US Occupation of Haiti.” American Studies Association, San Juan, PR (2012).

“Black Psychoanalysis in the 1950s.” Co-organizer, moderator, and respondent. American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD (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 (2009).

“Transnational Twins: Vodou Politics and Danticat’s *Breath, Eyes, Memory*. Conference on Language and Literature since 1900. University of Louisville (2008).

“Papa’s Baby, An American Maybe: Kinship, Citizenship, and Uncle Sam.” Cultural Studies Association, Boston, MA (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 (2004).

“Taboo Subjects: The Mulatto and the Miscegenation Taboo in Larsen’s *Quicksand*.” Modern Language Association, San Diego, CA (2003).

“Constructing Public Policy on Race: The Uses of Social Psychology.” American Studies Association, Detroit, MI (2000).

“*Brown*, the Doll Studies, and Discourses of Racial Self-Esteem.” Multiethnic Literatures of the U.S., Tulane University (2000).

“U.S. Public Policy and the Social Psychology of Race.” Cultural History After Foucault, University of Aberdeen, Scotland (1998).

- “Trauma, Truth Serum, and the Talking Cure: Black Male Subjectivity in the Margins of Hollywood.” Film and Literature Conference, Florida State University (1998).
- “Fanonian Diaspora.” Respondent. Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL (1997).
- “History, Trauma, and the Political Body.” Modern Language Association, Chicago (1995).
- “A Question of Power: Sexual Economies of Colonialism and the Oedipus Complex.” Postcolonialism and Psychoanalysis, George Washington University (1995).
- “Reflections on Race and Psychoanalysis: Dramas of Identity.” Multiethnic Literatures of the U.S., UC Berkeley (1993).
- “Rites of Mourning, Writing History, and Righting the Past: Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.” Twentieth Century Literature Conference, University of Louisville (1992).
- “Legitimacy and the Politics of Literary Tradition and Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” American Ethnic Women Writers Conference, Salisbury State University (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—West Virginia University**

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|-----------|---|
| 2017-2018 | Outstanding Teacher, Eberly College of Arts & Sciences                |
| 2018      | Philip Bordinat Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement, English  |
| 2010      | Philip Bordinat Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement, English  |
| 2010      | English Graduate Organization Teaching Award, Department of English   |
| 2001      | Riggle Fellowship in the Humanities                                   |
| 1999      | Riggle Fellowship in the Humanities                                   |
| 1997      | Eberly College of Arts & Sciences Research and Graduate Studies Grant |

### **TEACHING**

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#### **Areas**

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

#### **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 (independent study)  
Zora Neale Hurston  
American Dreams  
Postcolonial Theory (independent study)  
Trauma Theory (independent study)  
20<sup>th</sup> C. US Women's Literature (independent study)  
Postcolonial Literature: South Asia

**Global Service Learning—Study Abroad**

2012, 2014     Community Development in Petersfield, Jamaica  
2016            Community Development in Matelot, Trinidad  
2018            Community Development in San Juan, Puerto Rico (cancelled)

**PhD Dissertations (completed)**

Andrea Bebell (Chair)  
Aparajita De (Chair)  
Ginger Broadus  
Sreya Chatterjee  
Luminita Dragulescu  
Matthew Ferrence  
Jeanne Hamming  
Jon Harvey  
Georgia Kreiger  
Kelli Maloy  
Courtney Novosat  
Aaron Percich

Jane Rago  
 Irina Rodimtseva  
 Sohinee Roy  
 Erin Johns Speese  
 Carl Silvio  
 Jason Stupp  
 Valerie Surret

### PhD Qualifying Exam Committee

2016-2017 Chair  
 2012-2013, 2004-2005, 1997-1998 Member

### Advising

2016-2018 WVU Performance Poetry Club  
 2000-2011 Undergraduate Major Advisor, Department of English  
 2005-2007 Sigma Tau Delta—National English Honors Society (2000-2001)

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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2010-2012 Member—Wise Susman-Prize Committee, American Studies Association  
 2008-2011 Representative—Ethnic Studies Delegate Assembly, Modern Language Association  
 2007 Consultant and lead writer—*West Virginia Higher Education Master Plan 2007-2012*. West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission  
 2002 Coordinator—WVU Summer Seminar in Literary and Cultural Theory: History and Memory: Recollecting the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. West Virginia University  
 1991-1993 Co-editor—*Critical Matrix: The Princeton Journal of Women, Gender, and Culture*. Princeton University  
 Ongoing 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

2018 Presenter—“Teaching Tips from Award Winning Teachers.” Celebrate Event, Teaching & Learning Commons  
 2018 Presenter—“Year of the Girl.” Peace Corps and Program in Women’s and Gender Studies.  
 2018 “What Went Wrong.” Teaching Conversations. Department of English.  
 2015 Speaker—“More Than Zombies: The Origins of Vodou in Haiti.” Multicultural Program  
 2015 Speaker—“Edwidge Danticat’s *Farming of Bones*.” Engl. 225—Non-Western World Lit.  
 2012 Presenter—*Poto-Mitan: Haitian Women—Pillars of the Global Economy*. Multicultural Program  
 2011 Presenter—“Women in Haiti.” Multicultural Program Film and Discussion Series.  
 2010 Speaker—“Old Maids & Bad Girls: Chick Lit. & Romance.” Women’s Studies Lecture Series  
 2010 Organizer and moderator—“Aftershock: Knowing Haiti Now”  
 2005 Co-Organizer—“Public Forum on Katrina”  
 2002 Workshop Leader—“Social Change and Diversity.” WVU Parkersburg  
 2002 Speaker—“New Directions in African American Literature.” Potomac State College  
 2001 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." WVU Law School
- 2001 Workshop Leader—"Representation and Diversity in the Curriculum." WVU Parkersburg
- 2000 Speaker—"Gender and the Politics of Slave Narratives." WVU Parkersburg

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

- 2016-2018 ECAS Promotion and Tenure Committee
- 2016-2018 WGST Advisory Committee
- 2016-2017 Senate Research Committee
- 2013-2014 Senate Rights and Responsibilities Committee
- 2012-2018 Faculty Senate—Senator (2000-2010)
- 2010-2011 Senate Research Committee
- 2008-2010 Women's Studies Stitzel Endowment Award Committee
- 2008-2010 Africana Studies Program Committee
- 2008-2009 Faculty Senate Committee on Committees, Chair
- 2007-2009 Committee to Review Curriculum Committees' Procedures
- 2007-2008 Environmental Sustainability Committee
- 2006-2007 Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee, Chair
- 2006-2007 Faculty Senate Executive Committee
- 2006 Search Committee, Director of Center for Black Culture
- 2005-2006 Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Chair-Elect
- 2005 Undergraduate Academic Subcommittee, WVU's 2010 Strategic Plan
- 2002-2003 Committee to Revise General Education Curriculum
- 2000-2001 Women's Studies Faculty Search Committee
- 2000-2001 Student Instruction Committee
- 1999-2000 Women's Studies Curriculum Committee
- 1997-Present Women's Studies Faculty Associate

**Administrative—Department of English**

- 2017-2018 Undergraduate Program Committee—Chair
- 2017-2018 Chair's Advisory Committee
- 2017-2018 Search Committee: Chair of English
- 2015-2016 Graduate Program Committee (2004-2006)
- 2014-2015 Ph.D. Admissions Committee (2013-2014, 2009-2010)
- 2015, 2014 United Way Campaign Coordinator
- 2014 Strategic Plan Implementation—Facilitation Partner
- 2012-2013 Development Committee (2008-2011)
- 2009-2010 President's Office of Social Justice—Liaison
- 2008-2009 Strategic Planning Committee
- 2005-2006 Strategic Planning Initiative Team
- 2006 Minority Doctoral Candidate Colloquium—Representative
- 2004-2005 Promotion and Tenure Committee—Chair (Member, 1998-99)
- 2001-2003 Graduate Faculty Council

1999-2003 M.A. Admissions Committee

Search Committees: Early Modern (1998), Modern American (1999), Eberly Chair (2003, 2005), 19<sup>th</sup> Century American (2004), English Education and Adolescent Literature (2007), World Literature (2008), Latino/a Literature (2010), Modern American Poetry (2013)

**SERVICE—Community**

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2015-2018 Hazelton Prison Women's Book Club  
 2012 Course Leader, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, "William Seabrook's *The Magic Island*: Modernism, Marines, and Magical Thinking," Morgantown, WV  
 2002-2010 Co-editor, *Sak Pase*, Hospital Albert Schweitzer (Haiti) Alumni Association Newsletter  
 2002-2010 Executive Committee, Hospital Albert Schweitzer (Haiti) Alumni Association  
 2000-2003 Steering Committee, Community Coalition for Social Justice  
 2001 Speaker, "Gender and Slave Narratives," Morgantown Public Library