

MERRI LISA JOHNSON

Curriculum Vitae

Center for Women's and Gender Studies
USC Upstate / CASB 124
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Spartanburg, SC 29303
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. English, SUNY Binghamton, 2000

M.A. English, Ohio University, 1996
Women's Literature Concentration

B.A. English, B.A. French, State University of West Georgia, 1994 (*cum laude*)
Philosophy Minor

EMPLOYMENT

DIRECTOR, Center for Women's and Gender Studies, 2006-present
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of English and Women's Studies
University of South Carolina Upstate

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of English and Cultural Studies, 2003-2006
Coastal Carolina University

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of Women's Literature, 2002-2003
Lenoir-Rhyne College

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of English, 2000-2002
State University of West Georgia

INSTRUCTOR of English, 1999-2000
State University of West Georgia

COURSES TAUGHT

- ❖ Intro to Women's & Gender Studies
- ❖ Feminist Theory
- ❖ Feminist Media Studies
- ❖ Black Feminist Theory
- ❖ Queer Theory
- ❖ Gender and Autobiography
- ❖ Women Writers
- ❖ American Literature
- ❖ Literary Theory
- ❖ Composition I & II
- ❖ Outreach Practicum
 - Intracultural Peer Leadership
 - Feminist Campus Leadership

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- Bleeding Out: Memoir of a Borderline Personality. Berkeley: Seal Press, forthcoming 2010.
- Third Wave Feminism and Television: Jane Puts It in a Box. London: I.B. Tauris, 2007.
- Flesh for Fantasy: Producing and Consuming Exotic Dance. Co-edited with Katherine Frank and Danielle Egan. New York: Thunder's Mouth, 2006.
- Jane Sexes It Up: True Confessions of Feminist Desire. New York: Four Walls Eight Windows, 2002.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- “Dismembering the Heterosexual Imaginary: A Feminist Cultural Anatomy of the Infidelity Narrative in Nancy Mairs’ Remembering the Bone House.” Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature (Forthcoming Fall 2009)
- “Gangster Feminism: The Feminist Cultural Work of The Sopranos.” Feminist Studies 33.2 (2007): 269-96.
- “From Relationship Autopsy to Romantic Utopia: The Missing Discourse of Egalitarian Marriage on HBO’s Six Feet Under.” Discourse: Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture 26.3 (2004): 300-22.
- “The Politics of Airbrush Design: Romantic Ideology and the Market in Ruby in Paradise.” New Orleans Review 28.2 (2002): 172-82.
- “Daisy Miller: Cowboy Feminist.” Henry James Review 22.1 (2001): 41-58.
- “Theories Shaped Like Girls: Autobiography and Social Criticism.” Inquiry: Critical Thinking Across the Disciplines 18.3 (1999): 39-52.

SELECTED BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Afterword.” Mostly True Stories and Fictions, ed. Daphne Gottlieb. Berkeley: Seal, 2008. 243-50.
- “L’ Is for ‘Long-Term’: Compulsory Monogamy on The L Word.” Reading The L Word. Eds. Kim Akass and Janet McCabe. London: I. B. Tauris, 2006. 115-37.
- “‘She enlarges on the available materials’: Embodied Postmodernism in The Stone Diaries.” Narrative Hunger: Essays on Postmodernism in the Works of Carol Shields. Eds. Dee Goertz and Edward Eden. Toronto: Toronto UP, 2003. 201-29.
- “Ramatoulaye’s Letter: Cross-Cultural Reading Strategies and the Criticism of Mariama Ba’s So Long a Letter.” Postcolonial Perspectives on Women Writers from Africa, the Caribbean, and the U.S. Ed. Martin Japtok. Trenton, NJ: Africa World P, 2003. 229-48.

REVIEWS, TEACHING NOTES, AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

INVITED, 5 ENTRIES. The Women’s Movement Today: An Encyclopedia of Third Wave Feminism. Eds. Leslie Heywood and Jennifer Drake. Greenwood, 2005.

- ❖ Desire
- ❖ Feminist Pornography
- ❖ Pornography, Feminism and
- ❖ Prosex Feminism
- ❖ Sexuality

TEACHING NOTE. "John Waters's Pecker and a Politics of Location." Radical Teacher: A Socialist, Feminist, and Anti-Racist Journal on the Theory and Practice of Teaching 72 (2005): 42-43.

TEACHING NOTE. The Beautiful: Collected Poems, Michelle Tea. Radical Teacher 73 (2005): 42-43.

REVIEW. "The Mundane Behavior of Strip Club Regulars." G-Strings and Sympathy: Strip Club Regulars and Male Desire, Katherine Frank. Journal of Mundane Behavior. 2003.

TEACHING NOTE. Your Life as Story: Discovering the New Autobiography & Writing Memoir as Literature, Tristine Rainer. Radical Teacher 58 (2000): 38.

ROUNDTABLE REVIEW. Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, & the Future, Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, eds. Women Writers. 2000.

<http://www.womenwriters.net/bookreviews/Manifesta.html>

SPECIAL ISSUES OF ONLINE JOURNALS

"Autotheory." Women Writers. June 2003. <http://www.womenwriters.net>

"Feminist Television Studies: The Case of HBO." The Scholar and Feminist Online. Barnard Center for Research on Women. October 2004. <http://www.barnard.edu/sfonline>

REPRINTS

"Jane Hocus, Jane Focus: An Introduction." Reprinted in The Women's Movement Today: An Encyclopedia of Third Wave Feminism. Eds. Leslie Heywood and Jennifer Drake. Greenwood, 2005. 385-88. [from Jane Sexes It Up]

"Ladies Love Your Box: The Rhetoric of Pleasure and Danger in Feminist Television Criticism." Reprinted in Teaching Media Culture: A Critical Media/Cultural Studies Reader. Eds. Douglas Kellner and Rhonda Hammer. Peter Lang, forthcoming 2009. [from Third Wave Feminism and Television]

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Telefornication: Queer Theory and Quality Television. MODERATOR/CO-ORGANIZER. UNC-Asheville Queer Conference, March 2009.

"(S)e(x)pistemology: A Queer Feminist Epistemology of Sexuality." Feminist Epistemologies, Methodologies, Metaphysics, and Science Studies. March 2009. PANEL ORGANIZER. Queer Epistemologies.

"Radical Hope for the Future in South Carolina." National Organization for Women State Conference. October 2008.

"Not Born That Way: On Choosing to Queer Women's Studies." National Women's Studies Association, Cincinnati, June 2008. PANEL ORGANIZER. The Queer Feminist Agenda.

"Bodies of Knowledge: Intersexuality and the Rhetoric of Minority Protest." Southeastern Women's Studies Association, April 2008. PANEL ORGANIZER. The Centrality of Sexuality Studies in the U.S. Southeast.

"The Crippling Effects of Romance: Disability Studies, Critical Heterosexuality, and the Memoirs of Nancy Mairs." 21st Annual Women's Studies Conference, University of South Carolina, February 2008.

The (Missing) Feminist Response to Stephen Shainberg's Secretary (Student Panel). PANEL ORGANIZER. Women's Studies Conference, USC, February 2008.

INVITED. "Confessions of a Bi-Dyke: Bisexual Politics and the Problem of Biphobia." PFLAG

Spartanburg, November 2007.

“Gay? Fine By Me! vs. Coming Out for Christ: The Role of Women’s Studies on National Coming Out Day in the Bible Belt.”

- ❖ SEWSA 2007, Chattanooga
- ❖ GLBTQ-2007, Asheville
- ❖ NWSA 2007, St. Charles, IL

“Cutting Memoirs: Autobiography, Self-Injury, and the Wounded Storyteller’s Search for Justice.” 20th Annual Women’s Studies Conference, USC, March 2007.

“Graves, Pyramids, and Other Narrative Openings: Reconstructing Heterosexuality on HBO’s Six Feet Under.” American Studies Association Conference. Atlanta, November 2004.

INVITED. Roundtable Discussant: Feminists Watch HBO: Representations of Sex, Gender, and Desire. Barnard Center for Research on Women, October 2004.

“Tracee’s Red Dress: Revising the Script of Stigma on HBO’s The Sopranos.” Cultural Studies Association Conference, Boston, May 2004.

KEYNOTE. “‘That feminist stuff gets old quick’: Teaching for Social Change in the Gen Ed Classroom.” Georgia-Carolina Teachers Association / Valdosta Women’s Studies Joint Conference. Valdosta, February 2004.

INVITED. “Third Wave Feminism and the Problem of Romance.” Southern Girls Convention, Warren Wilson College, 2003.

“‘This Life and the Next’: Bible Belt Sexuality in Ruby in Paradise.” Popular Culture Association of the South, Charlotte, NC, 2002. PANEL ORGANIZER. Sex and Southern Girls.

“Nancy Mairs Makes the Bonehouse a Home: Disability, Feminist Standpoint Epistemology, & the Postcolonial Storyteller.” SAMLA, Atlanta, November 2001. PANEL ORGANIZER. Women’s Writing and Disability Studies.

AWARDS

Feminist Mentor of the Year, Joint Award from Upstate Feminists and Pride Upstate, 2007-08

Susan Koppelman Award for Best Multi-Authored Book in Feminist Studies, 2007

Honorable Mention

Female Staff Member of the Year, USC Upstate, 2006-2007

David Bottoms Distinguished Alum Award, State University of West Georgia, 2004

Dissertation Year Fellowship, Binghamton University, 1999-2000

Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Research, Binghamton University, 2000

Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching, Binghamton University 1999

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Women’s Studies Association

Southeastern Women’s Studies Association