

**DAPHNE LAMOTHE, PH.D.**

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**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. English Literature, University of California, Berkeley, December 1997

B.A. English Literature, Yale University, 1990

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

Smith College, Department of Africana Studies, Northampton, MA  
Professor, 2019-present; Associate Professor, 2008-2019; Assistant Professor, 2004-2008; Chair of  
Department of Africana Studies, 2009-2013, 2020-2023; Program in American Studies, 2005-2022;  
Program for the Study of Women and Gender, 2009-present.

Courses include: The Harlem Renaissance; Black Women Writers; Blackness, Being and Becoming  
(capstone); Methods of Inquiry in Africana Studies; Black Music and Literature; Migration Stories:  
African-American Literatures of Migration (first year seminar); African American Literature, 1746-  
1900; African American Literature, 1900-present; Exiles, Transplants and In-Betweeners (capstone);  
Classic Black Texts (capstone); Literatures of the African Diaspora; and Race and Its Intersection  
with Gender, Class and Sexuality.

Rutgers University, Department of English, New Brunswick, NJ  
Assistant Professor, 1997-2004.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**BOOKS**

*Black Time and the Aesthetic Possibility of Objects* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press,  
January 2024).

*Inventing the New Negro: Narrative, Culture, Ethnography* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press,  
2008), Honorable Mention MLA William Sanders Scarborough Prize (2008).

**JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS**

Lamothe, Daphne. "Putting Flesh on a Theory of the Post-Soul." In *Black Art and Aesthetics:  
Relationalities, Interiorities, Reckonings*, edited by Michael Kelly and Monique Roloefs. (London:  
Bloomsbury Press, November 2023).

"*Swing Time: Zadie Smith's Aesthetic of Active Ambivalence*," *Contemporary African American and Black  
British Women Writers: Narrative, Race, Ethics*, Editors, Jean Wyatt and Sheldon George (New York:  
Routledge UP, 2020).

"The Quest of the City-Child: Spatiality and Sociality in Paule Marshall's *The Fisher King*," Black  
Women's Transnationalisms (special issue), Editors, Jennifer Williams and Ifeoma Nwankwo,  
*Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*, 15.2 (2017) 491-506.

"Blackness Written, Erased, Rewritten: James Weldon Johnson, Teju Cole, and the Palimpsest of Modernity," *New Perspectives on James Weldon Johnson's Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*, Editor, Noelle Morrisette, (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2017) 112-127.

"Passing Strange: Embodying and Negotiating Difference in Academia," *Transforming the Academy: Faculty Perspectives on Diversity and Pedagogy*, Editor, Sarah Willie-LeBreton, (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2016) 171-183.

"Carnival in the Creole City: Place, Race and Identity in the Age of Globalization," Life Stories in the Creole City (special issue), Editors, Cynthia Dobbs, Daphne Lamothe & Theresa Tensuan, *Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly* 35.2 (Spring 2012) 360-374.

"Introduction: Between Catastrophe and Carnival: Creolized Identities, City-space, and Life Narratives," Cynthia Dobbs, Daphne Lamothe & Theresa Tensuan, Life Stories in the Creole City (special issue), *Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly* 35.2 (Spring 2012) v-xi.

"Gloria Naylor's *Mama Day*: Bridging Roots and Routes," *African American Review*, 39. 1-2, (2005) 155-169.

*Cane*: Jean Toomer's Gothic Black Modernism," *The Gothic Other: Racial and Social Constructions in the Literary Imagination*, Editors, Ruth Bienstock Anolick and Douglas Howard (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland Press, 2004) 54-71.

"Vodou Imagery, African American Tradition and Cultural Transformation in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*," *Callaloo: A Journal of African and African American Literature*, 22.1 (1999) 157-175; and *Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God: A Casebook*, Editor, Cheryl A. Wall, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000) 165-187 (Reprint); and *Zora Neale Hurston, Haiti, and Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Editor, La Vinia Delois Jennings, (Evanston, Ill: Northwestern UP 2013) 69-94 (Reprint).

#### ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

"Zora Neale Hurston," *Encyclopedia of Twentieth Century Fiction*, Editors, Patrick O' Donnell, David W. Madden, and Justus Nieland (Malden MA, Blackwell Publishing, January 2011).

"Harlem: Entertainment" and "Blacks in Theatre," *The Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance*, Editors, Cary Wintz and Paul Finkelman (New York: Routledge Press, 2004).

#### BOOK REVIEWS

Review of *May We Forever Stand: A History of the Black National Anthem*, Imani Perry (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2018), *African-American Review* 53 (1): 66-68.

Review of *Black and White Women's Travel Narratives: Antebellum Explorations* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2004), *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*, 6. 1 (2005) 216-222.

Review of *Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics* and *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*, bell hooks, (Cambridge: South End Press, 2000) and *Black Feminist Cultural Criticism*, Editor, Jacqueline Bobo (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2001), *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 30. 4 (2005): 2265-2270.

## SELECT SCHOLARLY LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

### INVITED TALKS

Critical Karaoke – A Big Wave in the Room: A Renaissance in 16 Acts, Pop Conference, New York, April 2023.

“Black Time Matters,” University of Massachusetts-Amherst, MA, April 2023.

Making *Zora Neale Hurston – Claiming a Space* (2022): A Panel Discussion on Filmmaking, Biography, and History, February 2023.

“4:45Am: Black Aesthetic Time in the ‘Foreign Country of Silence,’” Dionne Brand’s *A Map to the Door of No Return* at 20: A Gathering, York University, November 2021.

“When Presence is a Present: Relational Possibilities in Aesthetic Encounters,” Respondent, Mary Roskill Graduate Symposium in Art History, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, September 2021.

“The Timelessness of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, or How Hurston Travels,” Hurston on the Horizon: Past, Present, and Future, National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Institute, University of Kansas, July 2021.

“The Aesthetic Life of Blackness: Present and Presence in Toni Morrison’s Novels,” Toni Morrison, Ethics and Social Justice, Robert M. Gay Annual Symposium, Simmons University, January 2021.

“Black Modernist Sound in Bessie Smith’s ‘St. Louis Blues,’” American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

“Blackness Unmoored: Between Social Life and Social Death,” Study of Women and Gender Research Colloquium, Smith College, Northampton, MA October 2018.

Discussant. “Seeing *Black Panther*: Art and Design in a Global Context,” Forum for Scholars and Publics, Duke University, Durham, NC, March 2018.

Moderator and Discussant. “At the Crossroads of Sound and Text: Zora Neale Hurston’s Written and Performed Work,” Berkshire Conference of Women’s History, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, June 1, 2017.

“Post-Soul Aesthetics and the Event of the Self,” Questioning Aesthetics Symposium: Black Aesthetics, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, April 2017.

Co-moderator. “Visibilities and Reflections: Seeing Ourselves in Julie Dash’s *Daughters of the Dust*,” Smith College, Northampton, MA, October 2016.

Moderator. “Baldwin and Music,” James Baldwin Conference, Suffolk University, Boston, MA, March 2009.

“African American Narratives of Childhood: Coming of Age in the Century of the Color Line,” Representations of Childhood in the Literatures and Film of Africa and the African Diaspora Symposium, Smith College, Northampton, MA, October 2007.

“Sites of Culture: Ethnology and the Origins of the Harlem Renaissance,” Liberal Arts Luncheon, Smith College, Northampton, MA, November 2006.

“Leaping From Field to Stage: Translating Culture in Harlem Renaissance Dance and Music,” Five-College Inc. Crossroads in the Study of the Americas, Amherst, MA, September 2006.

"Hurston's Modernist Gaze," Five-College Women's Research Center, South Hadley, MA, March 2006.

"In Honor of Chuck James: The Shifting Meanings of Culture, Travel and the Folk in the Harlem Renaissance," Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA, April 2005.

Discussant. *Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender, and the New Racism* (New York: Routledge, 2004), by Patricia Hill Collins; University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Women's Studies Program, Feminist Foundations Seminar Series, Amherst, MA Spring 2005.

"Dancing the Primitive Body: Representations of Otherness and Community in Harlem Renaissance Women's Art and Literature," Eugene Lang College at New School University, New York, NY, February 2004.

"Staging Afro-Caribbean Contexts: The Dance/Anthropology of Katherine Dunham," SUNY-Albany, Albany, NY, January 2004.

"Staging Afro-Caribbean Contexts: The Dance/Anthropology of Katherine Dunham," University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI, January 2004.

"Performing Blackness: Katherine Dunham on Stage and in Film," Annual Conference of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), New York, NY, July 2003.

Respondent. "Correspondences in Black and White: Sentiment and the Slave Market Revolution," by Phillip Troutman, *New Directions in the Study of the Americas: Slavery, A Continuing Conversation*, Center for Historical Analysis, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, May 2003.

"Revolutionary Ethnography and the New Negro Renaissance," Research Briefing, Department of Women's Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, November 2002.

Guest Lecturer. "On Nella Larsen's *Passing*," Good for the Soul: African American Film and Book Discussion Series, Jackson Public Library, Jackson, NJ, August 2002.

Discussant. "Racial Uplift: Practitioners and Subjects," Hawaii International Conference of Social Sciences, Honolulu, Hawaii, June 2002.

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"The Architecture of Absence and the Presence of Blackness in *To Wander Determined*," American Studies Association, New Orleans, LA, November 2022.

"Black Modernist Sound in Bessie Smith's 'St. Louis Blues,'" American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

"Between Melancholy and Joy: From *Zong!* to *After the Dance*," Caribbean Studies Association, Havana, Cuba, June 2018.

"'A Trick of the Imagination': Fugitive Blackness and Ruptured Time," American Comparative Literature Association, Los Angeles, CA, March 2018.

"Blackness Unmoored: Relational Ethics and Aesthetics in Stroma's *Formidable*," Franklin Humanities Institute, Wednesdays at the Center, Duke University, Durham, NC, February 2018.

"Transforming the Academy: Creative Pedagogies, Collaborative Partnerships, and the Choreopoetics of 'Holding Space,'" National Women's Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, November 2017.

"'No Voyage is Seamless': Locating Humanity and Abjection in Dionne Brand's *thirsty*," Caribbean Studies Association, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, June 2016.

"Soundscape and Landscape: Mapping and Making Creole Identity in Jean "Binta" Breeze's *The Fifth Figure*," International Conference of Caribbean Literature, Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, November 2015.

"*Americanab* and 'Hafiz': Communication, Community and Border Crossing in the Digital Age," American Comparative Literature Association, Seattle, WA, March, 2015.

"(Un)mapping Multicultural London in Zadie Smith's *NW*," American Comparative Literature Association, New York, NY, March 2014.

"Naming Migrant Histories in Danticat's *The Dew Breakers*," International Conference of Caribbean Literature, Panama City, Panama, November 2013.

"Between Two Worlds: Theorizing Migrant Subjectivity in Danticat's *The Dew Breakers*," Haitian Studies Association, CUNY York College, Queens, NY, November 2012.

"Trauma, Silence and the Language of Resistance in Danticat's *Brother, I'm Dying*" American Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 2012.

"Inhabiting Borderlands, Imagining Nations: Carnival as Symbol of Nationhood, Migration and Cultural Pluralism," 31st Annual West Indian Literature Conference, Miami, FL, October 2012.

"Building Bridges, Crossing Borders: Conceptions of a Caribbean Transnation in Paule Marshall's *Daughters*," Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars, Paramaribo, Suriname, May 2012.

"Behind Closed Doors: The (Im)possibility of the African Diasporic Home," American Studies Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD October, 2011

"A Walk Through Carnival": Edwidge Danticat, Wyclef Jean and the Haitian Dyaspora," Mellon 23 Faculty Workshop, Poughkeepsie, NY, May 2010.

"Walking the Creole City: Paule Marshall's Novels of the African Diaspora," American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2010.

"The Transnational Subject and the City in Paule Marshall's *The Fisher King*," American Literature Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA, May 2009.

"'A Walk Through Carnival': Metaphors of Transnationalism in the Narratives of Paule Marshall and Edwidge Danticat," Transnational American Studies Symposium, University College-Dublin, Clinton Institute for American Studies, Dublin, Ireland, July 2007.

"Cultural Memory and the Staging of Blackness," Hawaii International Conference of the Humanities, Honolulu, HI, January 2004.

Respondent. Black Women's Travel Narratives, Modern Language Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, December 2003

"Vodou Ritual and the Performative Diasporic Subject," Modern Language Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, December 2001.

“The Predicament of ‘Urban Bush Women’: The Case of Black Female Anthropologists in the 30s,”  
Modern Language Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, December 2001.

“African-American Literature and the Ethnographic Imagination,” Institute for Research on Women,  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, November 2001.

“The Spy-Glass of Anthropology and the Black Modernist Gaze,” Annual Conference of the  
Modernist Studies Association, Rice University, Houston, TX, October 2001.

“Zora Neale Hurston and Katherine Dunham: Black Women's Bodies in the African Diaspora,”  
Conference on Black Women and the African Diaspora, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,  
Urbana, IL, June 2000.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD AND CREATIVE WRITING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER**

*Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*

### **MANUSCRIPT EVALUATION**

*African American Review, Journalism of Feminist Studies, MELUS, Meridians, Mosaic, Signs*, University of  
North Carolina Press, Routledge, University of Illinois Press, Rutgers University Press, University of  
Virginia Press, Cornell University Press, Polity Books, Columbia University Press.

### **TENURE AND PROMOTION EVALUATIONS**

Amherst College, University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Georgetown University,  
Hunter College-City University of New York, UNC-Greensboro.

### **PROGRAM REVIEW**

American Studies Department, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA, Fall 2014.

## **AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS**

Humanities Writ Large Fellowship, Duke University, 2017-18.

Mellon Summer Research Opportunity Grant, Smith College, 2011.

Gayley Fellowship, Smith College, 2009-2010.

Honorable Mention, Modern Language Association, William Sanders Scarborough Prize, 2008.

Faculty Fellow, Institute for Research on Women/Institute for Women's Leadership, Workshop  
Theme: “Gender-Race-Ethnicity: Rearticulating the Local and the Global,” Rutgers University, 2001-  
2002.

Mabelle McLeod Lewis Dissertation Fellowship, 1995-1996.

U.C. Berkeley Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, 1995-1996.

Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, 1990-1993.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Comparative Literature Association

American Studies Association

Caribbean Studies Association

Modern Language Association

National Women's Studies Association

## CAMPUS LECTURES, PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

Introduction and Moderator, *Till*, 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Massachusetts Multicultural Film Festival, May 2023.  
“Black Time and the Aesthetic Possibility of Objects,” Keynote Lecture, Admitted Students Visitation Day, April 2023.

Commentator, PBS American Experience: *Zora Neale Hurston: Claiming A Space*, dir. Tracy Heather Strain, January, 2023.

“To Try For Beauty in Black Art,” OBND Emeriti Faculty Presentation, March 2022.

Moderator. Roundtable, Virtual showcase of 7 new plays, Jouska PlayWorks, Simpatico Theater, Philadelphia, PA, March 2021.

Discussant, Panel on Faculty Research and Teaching, Women of Distinction Weekend, October 2018.  
“Visibilities and Reflections: Seeing Ourselves in Julie Dash’s *Daughters of the Dust*, When and Where I Enter Symposium, Smith College, October 2016.

“Sound and Song in African-American Literature,” Smith in the City, Washington D.C. February 2016.

“On Privilege,” All Campus Meeting, Smith College, April 2012.

“Racial Others/Artistic Othering: What Jazz and Literature Tell Us About African American Resilience,” Women of Distinction Weekend, Smith College, Fall 2011.

Discovery Weekend Master Class, Smith College, Spring 2010.

Discussant, Panel on Faculty Research and Teaching, Discovery Weekend, Smith College, Spring 2011.

Keynote Speaker, Women of Distinction Dinner, Smith College, Fall 2010.