

James Travis Rozier

Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz • Department of English and Linguistics
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Education

University of Mississippi Oxford, Mississippi

Ph.D., May 2015

Dissertation: "Material Melancholy: Stranded Objects in Modern Southern Women's Writing."

This dissertation seeks to revise new southern studies' ongoing conversation about southern obsession with the past by adding a cultural materialist lens to what has remained a largely psychoanalytic discourse. Through their memorial efforts in the decades following the Civil War, elite southern women infused objects with narratives of the past, rendering an imagined, premodern community a concrete historical fact and a haunting social presence. Modernist women writers Katherine Anne Porter, Eudora Welty, and Zora Neale Hurston place their characters in complex relationships to objects, suggesting that the latter can work both to repress and reveal the violence inherent in the material conditions of the modern South, often bulwarking southern patriarchy but also offering possibilities for escaping the strictures of an idealized southern past.

University of South Carolina Columbia, South Carolina

M.A., May 2009

Concentrations: Twentieth-Century American Literature, Modernism, Southern Literature

Master's Thesis: "Mourning and Melancholia in Carson McCullers's *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*."

University of South Carolina Columbia, South Carolina

B.A., May 2005

Major: English and American Language and Literature

Appointments

Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Germany

Visiting Assistant Lecturer -2015-16

Scholarships and Awards

Dissertation Fellowship, Spring 2014

Stipend awarded by the English department to one student per semester

Summer Research Assistantship, Summer 2014

Competitive grant awarded by the graduate school to support archival research for dissertation

Student Development Grant, Summer 2013

Competitive grant awarded by the college to support conference travel

Publications

"The Politics of Memorialization and Melancholia in Eudora Welty's *Delta Wedding*," *Texas Studies in Literature and Language* 57.3 (Fall 2015): 282-304.

“‘The Whole Solid Past’: Memorial Objects and Consumer Culture in Eudora Welty’s *The Optimist’s Daughter*,” *Southern Quarterly* 53.1 (Fall 2015): 137-152

“Mourning, Melancholia, and Textual Scapegoating,” Review Essay of Greg Forster’s *Gender, Race, and Mourning in American Modernism*, *Twentieth-Century Literature* 58.2 (Summer 2012): 341-348.

“Far Too Many Ancestral Bones: Narrative, Objects, and Necro-Décor in Katherine Anne Porter’s ‘Old Mortality.’” Under review.

The Weird and the Southern Imaginary. Travis Rozier and Bob Hodges, editors. Under review.

Material Melancholy: Material Culture in Modern Southern Women’s Writing. In progress.

Selected Conferences

“‘The Fault of the Century’: Historical Discourse in Dos Passos’s *Streets of Night*,” American Literature Association Conference, Washington, DC, May 2014.

“Ordering the ‘Family Finery’: Memorial Objects in Katherine Anne Porter’s *The Old Order*,” Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference, Arlington, VA, March 2014.

“‘To Express Something for Us Both’: Collective Loss in the Small Town in Anderson’s *Winesburg, Ohio*,” South Central Modern Language Association Convention, New Orleans, LA, October 2013.

“‘The Whole Solid Past’: The Object World of Eudora Welty’s *The Optimist’s Daughter*,” American Literature Association Conference, Boston, MA, May 2013.

“Nationhood, War, and the Return of Repressed Guilt in Elizabeth Madox Roberts’s ‘Record at Oak Hill,’” American Literature Association Symposium on the Gothic, Savannah, GA, February 2013.

“Mourning for Ellen Chesser: Traumatic Loss of Self in Elizabeth Madox Roberts’ *The Time of Man*,” South Central Modern Language Association Convention, San Antonio, TX, November 2012.

“Naturalizing the Fairchilds: The Material in Eudora Welty’s *Delta Wedding*,” South Central Modern Language Association Convention, Hot Springs, AR, October 2011.

“Class and Invisibility: The Ghostly Body in *The Turn of the Screw*,” Comparative Literature Conference: Bodies, Columbia, SC, February 2010.

Teaching Experience

Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz

Instructor of Record

Advanced Academic Writing—Fall 2015, Spring 2016

Southern Modernism—Spring 2016

University of Mississippi

Instructor of Record

Survey of Early American Literature—Summer 2012, Fall 2014

Survey of Modern American Literature—Summer, 2013

Introduction to Writing about Literature—Spring 2011

Critical Reading and Composition—Fall 2013

Critical Reading and Composition—Fall 2010

Teaching Assistant

Modern American Literature—Fall 2009

Early British Literature—Spring 2010

Early American Literature—Fall 2012, Spring 2013

University of South Carolina

Instructor of Record

Critical Reading and Composition—Fall 2007

Rhetoric and Composition—Spring 2008

Professional Activities and Academic Service

Administrator and Consultant, University of Mississippi Writing Lab, Spring 2015

Panel Chair, “American Literature II (Post-1900),” South Atlantic Modern Language Association Convention, Atlanta, GA, November 2014.

Panel Secretary, “Violent Ecology: Representations of Violence and the Environment in 20th and 21st Century American Literature,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association Convention, Atlanta, GA, November 2013.

Panel Organizer and chair, “Eudora Welty Society Panel,” South Central Modern Language Association Convention, New Orleans, LA, October 2013.

Panel Organizer and chair, “Eudora Welty Society Panel,” South Central Modern Language Association Convention, San Antonio, TX, November 2012.

Panel Organizer and chair, “John Dos Passos: Giving Modernity Form,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association Convention, Atlanta, GA, November 2011.

English 101 Restructuring Committee, 2009-2010

Duties: Developing course outcomes, choosing textbook, developing a library of writing assignments, drafting syllabus, etc.

Research Interests

American Modernism

Southern Modernism

Material Culture

Class, Gender, Race, and Sexuality Studies

Regionalism

Southern Women Writers

Gothic Studies

Weird Fiction

Professional Affiliations

Modern Language Association
American Literature Section of the Modern Language Association
South Atlantic Modern Language Association
South Central Modern Language Association
Eudora Welty Society

References

Dr. Leigh Anne Duck

Associate Professor of English – University of Mississippi (dissertation director)

lduck@olemiss.edu

Dr. Annette Trefzer

Associate Professor of English – University of Mississippi (committee member)

atrefzer@olemiss.edu

Dr. Jay Watson

Howry Professor of Faulkner Studies – University of Mississippi (committee member)

jwatson@olemiss.edu

Dr. Ben Fisher

Professor Emeritus – University of Mississippi

bfisher@ms.metrocast.net

Dr. Brian Glavey

Assistant Professor of English – University of South Carolina

glaveyb@mailbox.sc.edu