

DIANA ADESOLA MAFE

Department of English
Denison University
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EDUCATION

PhD English, McMaster University 2008
Dissertation: “Mixed Bodies, Separate Races:
The Trope of the ‘(Tragic) Mulatto’ in Twentieth-Century African Literature”

MA English, University of Guelph 2003
Research Project: “Race, Rhyme, and Ritual: Intertextual Tropes of Africa(ness)
in Twentieth-Century Yoruba Plays and Contemporary Adaptations of *Othello*”

BA (Honors) English and Art, McMaster University 2002

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Denison University
Professor of English 2022–present
James M. and Carolyn O. Gillingham Endowed Chair 2018–23
Associate Director of the Lisska Center for Intellectual Engagement 2019–22
Associate Professor of English 2015–22
Suzanne B. and Theodore A. Bosler ’56 Endowed Faculty Fellowship 2012–15
Assistant Professor of English 2009–15

York University
Visiting Instructor, English 2008–09

McMaster University
Visiting Instructor, English 2007–08
Graduate Teaching Assistant, English 2003–07

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Denison University

Courses

Reading and Writing Africa: Colonial and Postcolonial Perspectives (W101)
Women in Literature (ENGL/WGST 225)
O Canada: Multicultural Canadian Literature (ENGL/INTL 250)
Contemporary African Novels in English (ENGL/BLST 260)
African American Women’s Literature (ENGL/BLST/WGST 325)

Postcolonial Literature and Criticism (ENGL/BLST 357/INTL 250)
After Armageddon: New Millennial Post-Apocalyptic Fiction (ENGL 400)
Pandemic Fiction in the Age of Covid (ENGL 400)
Denison Seminar: Sustainability and the Apocalypse (DS 251), co-taught with Olivia Aguilar

Senior and Summer Research Directed

Kayla Boggess, “‘Rise of the Video Game’: Analyzing the Narrative Structure and Function of the Visual Novel,” Summer 2017 (Summer Scholar Research Project)
Lan Vo, “License to Kill Bond: The Women of Color of the James Bond Franchise,” Summer 2017 (Summer Scholar Research Project)
Eleanor Vandenberg, “Beyond the Text: The Evolution of Gender Roles in Caldecott Award Winning Picture Books,” Fall 2013 (Women’s Studies Senior Research Project)
Kevin Lynch, “Cultural Colonization: Postcolonialism and Globalization’s New Empire,” 2010–11 (English Senior Research Project)
Jonathan Tzeng, “The Literary Portrayal of Characters in John Steakley’s *Armor*,” 2010–11 (English Senior Research Project)
Leigh Raynor, “Family as the ‘Miniature of a Nation’: Giving Voice to the Female Experiences in Colonial Discourse through the Politicization of Family Life in Tsitsi Dangarembga’s *Nervous Conditions* and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *Purple Hibiscus*,” 2009–10 (English Senior Research Project)
Samantha Driver, “‘Letting the Spoken for Speak’: Explorations of the ‘Third World’ through Women’s Literature,” Summer 2010 (Summer Scholar Research Project)

York University

Course

The Harlem Renaissance in the Age of Jazz (ARTS/ENGL 4214)

McMaster University

Courses

Women Transforming the World (WMST 1AA3)
Women in a Multicultural Society (WMST 3DD3)
Critical Race Studies (ENGL/CSCT 3A03E/CMPL/WMST 3H03)

Graduate Teaching Assistantships

History of English Literature (ENGL 1C06)
Literature in English: Shorter Genres (ENGL 1A03)
Literature in English: Longer Genres (ENGL 1AA3)
Spectacular Bodies (ENGL/CSCT 2S03E)
Contemporary Youth Cultures (ENGL/CSCT Studies 3YY3E)

SCHOLARSHIP

Peer-Reviewed Books

Where No Black Woman Has Gone Before: Subversive Portrayals in Speculative Film and TV. University of Texas Press, 2018. *Choice Outstanding Academic Title, Choice Community College Recommendation

Mixed Race Stereotypes in South African and American Literature: Coloring Outside the (Black and White) Lines. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

Peer-Reviewed Essays

“Sister Night, Hooded Justice, and Racial Reckoning in *Watchmen*.” Forthcoming in *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*.

“Phoenix Rising: *The Book of Phoenix* and Black Feminist Resistance.” *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, vol. 46, no. 2, Summer 2021, pp. 43–63.

“Race and the First-Person Shooter: Challenging the Video Gamer in *Bioshock Infinite*.” *Camera Obscura: Feminism, Culture, and Media Studies*, vol. 30, no. 2, Sept. 2015, pp. 89–123.

“‘We Don’t Need Another Hero’: Agent 355 as an Original Black Female Hero in *Y: The Last Man*.” *African American Review*, vol. 48, no. 1–2, Spring/Summer 2015, pp. 33–48. *AAR Joe Weixlmann Award for the Year’s Best Essay in 20th- and 21st-Century African American Literature.

“It’s the Master! (Step in Time): Hearts of Darkness and Postcolonial Paradoxes in *Doctor Who*.” *The Journal of Popular Culture*, vol. 48, no. 3, June 2015, pp. 443–63.

“Ghostly Girls in the ‘Eerie Bush’: Helen Oyeyemi’s *The Icarus Girl* as Postcolonial Female Gothic Fiction.” *Research in African Literatures*, vol. 43, no. 3, Fall 2012, pp. 21–35.

“(Mis)Imagining Africa in the New Millennium: *The Constant Gardener* and *Blood Diamond*.” *Camera Obscura: Feminism, Culture, and Media Studies*, vol. 25, no. 3, Jan. 2011, pp. 69–99.

“Knowing Your Place.” *African Women Writing Resistance: An Anthology of Contemporary Voices*, edited by Jennifer Browdy de Hernandez et al., University of Wisconsin Press, 2010, pp. 281–84. *Choice Outstanding Academic Title, AASL Best Books for Special Interests, High Schools, and Professional Use

“A Portrait of the (Tortured) Artist as a Young (Coloured) Man: Reading Arthur Nortje.” *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies*, vol. 9, no. 4, Oct. 2008, pp. 427–55.

“Misplaced Bodies: Probing Racial and Gender Signifiers in Ngozi Onwurah’s *The Body Beautiful*.” *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, vol. 29, no. 1, Spring 2008, pp. 37–50.

“Self-Made Women in a (Racist) Man’s World: The ‘Tragic’ Lives of Nella Larsen and Bessie Head.” *English Academy Review: Southern African Journal of English Studies*, vol. 25, no. 1, Spring 2008, pp. 66–76.

“Black Women on Broadway: The Duality of Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun* and Ntozake Shange’s *for colored girls*.” *American Drama*, vol. 15, no. 2, Summer 2006, pp. 30–47.

“From Ògún to Othello: (Re)Acquainting Yoruba Myth and Shakespeare’s Moor.” *Research in African Literatures*, vol. 35, no. 3, Fall 2004, pp. 46–61.

Invited Book Reviews

Speculative Blackness: The Future of Race in Science Fiction, by andre m. carrington. *African American Review*, vol. 50, no. 1, Spring 2017, pp. 81–82.

British and African Literature in Transnational Context, by Simon Lewis. *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies*, vol. 14, no. 2, May 2013, pp. 227–29.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

“Gothic Nigeria: Unmasking Postcolonial Monsters in *Purple Hibiscus* and *October 1*.” Modern Language Association Conference. Washington D. C., January 2022.

“‘Praised Be, Bitch’: Moira as a Symbol of Resistance in Hulu’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*.” Midwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference. Cincinnati, Ohio, October 2019.

Roundtable: “*Where No Black Woman Has Gone Before*—Book Discussion.” African Literature Association Conference. Columbus, Ohio, May 2019.

Roundtable: “*Black Panther* and Afro-Futures.” African Studies Association Conference. Atlanta, Georgia, November–December 2018.

“Women of Wakanda: The (African) Feminist Potential in Marvel’s *Black Panther*.” African Literature Association Conference. Washington D. C., May 2018.

“Narratives of Imperialism: The Price of Conquest in Barbara Kingsolver’s *The Poisonwood Bible*.” International Society for the Study of Narrative Conference. University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 2016.

“‘Hailing Frequencies Open’: From Uhura to Uhura.” Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference. Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 2016.

“To Be Young, Gifted, and Black (When the World Ends): *28 Days Later* and *Children of Men*.” African Literature Association Conference. University of Bayreuth, Germany, June 2015.

“To Weather the Storm: Apocalyptic Displacement in *Beasts of the Southern Wild*.” The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Conference. University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, April 2015.

“Last Hope: The Black Madonna in *Children of Men*.” John Douglas Taylor Conference. McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, May–June 2014.

“‘Detecting’ Race in a South African Murder Mystery: Malla Nunn’s *A Beautiful Place to Die*.” African Literature Association Conference. University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, April 2014.

“Will the Real Hero Please Stand Up?: The Marginalized White Male Protagonist in *Y: The Last Man*.” Inter-Disciplinary.Net Global Conference. University of Oxford, England, July 2013.

“Nothing but the Truth: Ishmael Beah’s *A Long Way Gone* and the Reliability of Memoir.” Contemporary Narrative in English Research Group. University of Zaragoza, Spain, April 2013.

“Dead Roots, Bitter Fruits: The ‘Tragic Mulatto’ in Coloured South African and African American Literature.” African Literature Association Conference. Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, April 2012.

“Doctor Who, I Presume?: Hearts of Darkness and Postcolonial Paradoxes in *Doctor Who*.” Northeast Modern Language Association Convention. Rochester, New York, March 2012.

“‘Thought-Up Light of the Imagination’: Cathartic Creativity in Achmat Dangor’s *Bitter Fruit*.” Inaugural Toyin Falola International Conference on Africa and the African Diaspora. University of Ibadan, Nigeria, July 2011.

“Bearing Witness, Framing Resistance: One Woman’s Reflections on Autobiographical Writing.” African Literature Association Conference. Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, April 2011.

“Close Encounters of the Postcolonial Kind: *District 9* and Aliens in Africa.” Ghent Africa Platform. University Foundation, Ghent, Belgium, November 2010.

“‘A Wilderness for the Mind’: Representations of the Bush in Yoruba Fiction.” African Literature Association Conference. University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, March 2010.

“Mixed Race, Tongue Tied: Articulating African Hybridity in Helen Oyeyemi’s *The Icarus Girl*.” African Studies Association Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana, November 2009.

“‘T. I. A. This is Africa’: *Blood Diamond* as Neocolonialist Discourse.” Mid-Atlantic Popular American Culture Association Conference. Niagara Falls, Canada, October–November 2008.

“Controversial Mediums: The Mixed Race Subject in Sixteenth-Century Sub-Saharan Africa.” Canadian Association of African Studies Conference. University of Toronto, Canada, May 2007.

“Engraving the Mulatta: An African Precedent for an American Trope?” American Comparative Literature Association Conference. Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Mexico, April 2007.

“Self-Made Women in a (Racist) Man’s World: The Tragic Lives of Nella Larsen and Bessie Head.” AUETSA, SAVAL and SAACLALS Conference. Stellenbosch University, South Africa, July 2006.

“Are Chadha’s Cultural ‘Ha Ha’s’ Subversive?: Critiquing the Comic in *Bhaji on the Beach* and *Bend it like Beckham*.” Northeast Modern Language Association Conference. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 2006.

Public Scholarship

Editorial. “Jonathan Ferr’s ‘The Journey’ Shows Us that Love is the Way.” Afrofuturism: Blackness Revisualized Film Festival, *All Arts*, 6 January 2022.

“Interview with Dr. Diana A. Mafe on ‘Normalizing Black Women as Heroes.’” *Fighting for the Future: Essays on Star Trek: Discovery*, edited by Sabrina Mittermeier and Mareike Spychala, Liverpool University Press, 2020, pp. 191–99.

Op-ed. “A *Wrinkle in Time*: The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful.” *Media Diversified*, 23 April 2018.

Op-ed. “Normalising Black Women as Heroes: *Star Trek Discovery* as Groundbreaking.” *Media Diversified*, 6 March 2018.

Interview. “Going Where No Black Woman Has Gone Before.” By Ashlee Blackwell, *Graveyard Shift Sisters*, 1 March 2018.

Interview. “Where No Black Woman Has Gone Before.” By Carrie McClain, *Black Nerd Problems*, 1 March 2018.

Interview. “Q&A with Diana Mafe on Black Women in Speculative Film.” *University of Texas Press Blog*, 12 February 2018.

Interview. “Racism in Video Games.” By Raena Bush, Podcast, 27 April 2016.

Public Presentations

Campus Talks

Reading from *Where No Black Woman Has Gone Before*, Tuesday Lunch, March 2018.

Reading from *Where No Black Woman Has Gone Before*, Hosted by English Department and Denison Africanists, February 2018.

“Where No Black Woman Has Gone Before,” First Annual Women’s and Gender Studies Faculty Scholarship Dinner, Monomoy, February 2017.

“Where No Black Woman Has Gone Before,” Global Studies Seminar, February 2017.

“Where are the Black Women in Speculative Film and Television?” Denison Tedx Talk, March 2016.

“Race in *Bioshock Infinite*,” English Department First Thursday, March 2014.

“Agent 355 in *Y: The Last Man*,” Faculty Research Dinner, Monomoy, February 2014.

Reading from *Mixed Race Stereotypes in South African and American Literature*, Hosted by Women’s and Gender Studies, December 2013.

“(Mis)Imagining Africa in the New Millennium,” English Department, First Wednesday, October 2010.

Invited Talks

“Where No Black Woman Has Gone Before,” Department of Politics, Languages & International Studies Seminar, University of Bath, April 2021.

“From Elmina Castle to Eldritch Suburbia: The Haunted House in African and African American Imaginaries,” Gothic Research Unit, Stanford University, January 2021.

“Where No Black Woman Has Gone Before,” Black Arts Initiative Lecture Series, Northwestern University, January 2020.

Panelist, “Hollywood Stories,” Brazos Bookstore, Houston, Texas, July 2018.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Department

| | |
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| Chair, Search Committee, Tenure-Track Position in Creative Nonfiction | 2021–22 |
| Member, Review Committee, Michael Mayne (English, Queer Studies, and Writing) | 2021 |
| Member, Review Committee, Sylvia Brown (English and Writing) | 2019 |
| Member, Search Committee, Tenure-Track Position in Asian American or Latinx Literature | 2018 |
| Co-organizer, English Department Open House, October 4 | 2018 |
| Panelist, Graduate School Session for English Majors, October 14 | 2014 |
| Member, Search Committee, Tenure-Track Position in British Literature | 2011–12 |
| Member, Assessment Committee | 2011–12 |
| Co-organizer, Information Session on Revised English Major | 2010 |
| Academic Open House Representative, November 12 | 2010 |
| Writing Competition Judge | 2010–present |
| Panelist, Graduate School Session for English Majors, October 23 | 2009 |

College

Elected Positions

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|--|---------|
| Humanities Representative, President’s Advisory Board | 2016–18 |
| Humanities Representative, Writing Committee | 2014–15 |
| Humanities Representative, Student Research Grants Committee | 2013–15 |
| Humanities Representative, Committee on Honorary Degrees | 2011–12 |
| Humanities Representative, Writing Task Force | 2010–11 |

Invited Positions

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| Member, Promotion Review Committee, Toni King (Black Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies) | 2021-22 |
| Associate Director of the Lisska Center for Intellectual Engagement | 2019–22 |
| Chair, Search Committee, Associate Provost for Diversity and Intercultural Education | 2015 |
| Co-chair, Global Initiatives Refinement Group | 2014–15 |
| Member, Strategic Planning Engagement Group Eight: Intellectual Tone | 2014 |
| Member, Faculty Retreat Planning Committee | 2013–14 |
| Humanities Representative, Working Group on Student Evaluations | 2013–14 |
| Humanities Representative, MLK Day of Learning Steering Committee | 2013–14 |
| Member, Search Committee, Visiting Position in Women’s and Gender Studies and International Studies | 2013–14 |

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| Faculty Representative, Horizon Fund Board | 2011–12 |
| Denison Representative, Advanced Studies in England (ASE) Board Meeting | 2011 |
| Humanities Representative, Library Advisory Committee | 2010–12 |

Interdisciplinary Committees and Faculty Groups

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| Denison Africanists | 2016–present |
| International Studies Committee | 2011–present |
| Race and Pedagogy Group | 2010–14 |
| Black Studies Committee | 2009–present |
| Women’s and Gender Studies Committee | 2009–present |
| Faculty of Color and International Faculty (FOCIF) | 2009–present |
| Black Caucus | 2009–present |

Student Groups, Organizations, and Orientation Programs

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| Panelist, Black Studies Panel, “Race, Gender, and Identity in Wakanda,” March 6 | 2018 |
| Panelist, Pre-Orientation for Students Coming from Abroad, August 23 | 2017 |
| Panelist, Africanist Panel, My Africa Week, February 23 | 2017 |
| Panelist, Paving the Way Pre-Orientation, August 20 | 2015 |
| Faculty Co-advisor, African Student Association | 2014–18 |
| Interviewer, June Orientation Staff, March 2 | 2013 |
| Panelist, Paving the Way Pre-Orientation, August 21 | 2012 |
| Faculty Member, June Orientation, June 9–10 | 2012 |
| Discussion Co-facilitator, August Orientation, August 26 | 2011 |
| Faculty Leader, Denison Service Orientation (DSO), August 18–23 | 2011 |
| Faculty Mentor, Phi Beta Kappa | 2011 |
| Participant, Annual Posse Retreat, February 27 | 2010 |
| Faculty Member, Sister-Leaders in Dialogue | 2009–12 |

Faculty Workshops, Panels, and Other Service

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| Performer (with Denison black female faculty), “The Curriculum that has No Name: A Choreo Pedagogy for Colored Girls” by Toni King, Consortium for Faculty Diversity, Denison University, September 22 | 2018 |
| Participant, Dinner Conversation on Academic Freedom, March 14 | 2018 |
| Humanities Discussion Co-facilitator, New Faculty Orientation, August 21 | 2017 |
| Panelist, “Learning from the 2016 Election Cycle: An Interdisciplinary Conversation about the Implications, Causes, and Future Questions,” November 14 | 2016 |
| Participant, GLCA Academic Leadership and Innovation (GALI) Institute, Ann Arbor, Michigan, October 28–30 | 2016 |
| Session Co-facilitator, W-Overlay Winter Writing Workshop, January 14–16 | 2015 |
| Discussion Co-facilitator, Session on Evaluations, Camp Denison, May 14 | 2013 |
| Panelist, Preparing for the Third-Year Review, September 27 | 2012 |
| Participant, Writing Workshop, May 14–15 | 2012 |
| Discussion Co-facilitator, Teaching Matters, October 20 | 2011 |
| Participant, Advising Workshop, May 18–20 | 2011 |
| Discussion Co-facilitator, Talkback Session, <i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i> , February 23 | 2011 |
| Faculty Reader and Interviewer, Fulbright Applications | 2010–2013 |

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| Moderator and Panelist, “Africa in an Interdependent World.” Africa Network Annual Conference, April 16–18 | 2010 |
| Table Leader, Fall Faculty Symposium, August 25 | 2010 |
| Humanities Discussion Co-facilitator, New Faculty Orientation, August 23 | 2010 |
| Participant, Liberal Arts Workshop, August 9–13 | 2010 |

Field

Elected Positions

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| Member, Executive Council, African Literature Association | 2019–20 |
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Invited Positions

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| Member, Editorial Board, <i>Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies</i> | 2022–2024 |
| External Examiner, PhD Thesis, University of Cape Town | 2018 |
| Member, Awards Committee, African Literature Association | 2014 |

Reviews for Journals and Presses

Article Reviewer

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| <i>The International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics</i> | 2021 |
| <i>Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism</i> | 2020 |
| <i>Spectrum: A Journal on Black Men</i> | 2020 |
| <i>The Journal of the African Literature Association</i> | 2020 |
| <i>African Literature Today</i> | 2019 |
| <i>African American Review</i> | 2018 |
| <i>The Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships</i> | 2017 |
| <i>The Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association</i> | 2016 |
| <i>The Journal of Commonwealth Literature</i> | 2014 |
| <i>MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States</i> | 2014 |
| <i>Research in African Literatures</i> | 2013–present |
| <i>Mosaic: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature</i> | 2013 |
| <i>Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East</i> | 2010 |

Book Proposal Reviewer

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|-------------------------|------|
| Oxford University Press | 2019 |
| Routledge | 2018 |

Book Manuscript Reader

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| University of Texas Press | 2021 |
| Rutgers University Press | 2018 |

AWARDS AND HONORS

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| R. C. Good Faculty Fellowship | 2022 |
| African Literature Association Service Award | 2020 |
| African Studies Association Cover Art Prize | 2019 |

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| James M. and Carolyn O. Gillingham Endowed Chair | 2018–23 |
| <i>African American Review</i> Joe Weixlmann Award for Year’s Best Essay in 20 th - and 21 st -Century African American Literature | 2016 |
| R. C. Good Faculty Fellowship | 2015 |
| Suzanne B. and Theodore A. Bosler ’56 Endowed Faculty Fellowship | 2012–15 |
| Ontario Graduate Scholarship | 2007–08 |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association (MLA)
African Literature Association (ALA)
Multiethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Postcolonial Literature, Theory, and Cinema with an emphasis on Anglophone Africa
African American and Diaspora Literature
Women’s and Gender Studies
Speculative and Dystopian Fiction
Game Studies