

April Shemak
Curriculum Vitae

Employment

- 2011-present Associate Professor, Department of English, Sam Houston State University
- 2005-2011 Assistant Professor, Department of English, Sam Houston State University
- 2004-2005 Adjunct Assistant Professor, University Writing Program, George Washington University
- 2003-2005 Lecturer, Department of English, Georgetown University

Education

- Ph.D. English, University of Maryland, December 2003
Women's Studies Graduate Certificate, University of Maryland (18 credit hours of Women's Studies graduate coursework)
- M.A. English, University of Maryland, 1998
- B.A. English and French, University of Wisconsin, 1993. Graduated with Distinction
- American Studies Summer Institute, Dartmouth College, June 21-27, 2004

Research and Teaching Interests

Caribbean Literature, U.S. Ethnic Literature, Transnational Studies, Postcolonial Literature and Theory, Feminist Theory, Refugee Discourses, Testimonial Narrative, Human Rights and Literature, American Studies.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Book

Asylum Speakers: Caribbean Refugees and Testimonial Discourse (Fordham University Press, 2011)

Edited Volume

Associate Editor, *The Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies*, General Editors: Sangeeta Ray and Henry Schwarz. Associate Editors: José Luis Villacañas Berlanga, Alberto Moreiras and April Shemak. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2016. 3 volumes, 1728 pages (print).

Available at Blackwell Reference Online. 10 February 2016

<http://www.literatureencyclopedia.com/subscriber/book.html?id=g9781444334982_9781444334982>

Articles

“Refugee Women and the Work of Caregiving in the African Diaspora: Évelyne Trouillot’s *Memory at Bay*.” *Cultural Dynamics* 30.1-2 (Feb. 2018): 19-34.

“Haitian Refugees and the Guantanamo Public Memory Project.” *Humanity: An International Journal on Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development* 8.3 (Winter 2017): 555-557.

“Re/writing Reconciliation in Merle Collins’s *Angel*.” *Caribbean Quarterly* 60.1 (March 2014): 42-60.

“The Cartographic Dimensions of Humanitarianism: Mapping Refugee Spaces in Post-Earthquake Haiti.” *Cultural Dynamics* 26.3 (Nov. 2014): 251-275.

“A Wounded Discourse: The Poetics of Disease in Cristina Garcia’s *Dreaming in Cuban*.” *Postcolonial Text* 2.3 (June 2006): 1-23.

“Alter/Natives: Myth, Translation and the Native Informant in Pauline Melville’s *The Ventriloquist’s Tale*.” *Textual Practice* 19.3 (2005): 353-372.

“Re-Membering Hispaniola: Edwidge Danticat’s *The Farming of Bones*.” *Modern Fiction Studies* special issue: “Postmodernism and the Globalization of English” ed. Michael Bérubé. 48.1 (Spring 2002): 83-112. Reprinted in *Postcolonial Literary Studies: The First Thirty Years*, ed. Robert Marzec. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011.

Book chapters

“Literary and Linguistic Crossings: The Shifting Boundaries of Anglophone Caribbean Literature.” *Approaches to Teaching Anglophone Caribbean Literature*, ed. Supriya Nair. (New York: MLA, 2012): 131-154.

“Refugee and Asylum Seeker Postcolonial Travel Writing.” *Postcolonial Travel Writing*. Edited by Robert Clarke (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018).

“Interdict: Scenes of Military Maritime Encounter.” *Caribbean Military Encounters*. Eds. Shalini Puri and Lara Putnam (Palgrave MacMillan, 2017).

Encyclopedia Entries

“Caribbean Literature, Criticism and Theory.” *The Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies*. Ray, Sangeeta, Henry Schwarz, José Luis Villacañas Berlanga, Alberto Moreiras and April Shemak (eds). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2016, 4983 words.

“Postcolonial Refugee Narratives.” *Encyclopedia of Global Human Migration*, edited by Immanuel Ness. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013, 3400 words, (invited submission).

Book Reviews

Review of Donette Francis’ *Fictions of Feminine Citizenship: Sexuality and the Nation in Contemporary Caribbean Literature*. *Anthurium: A Caribbean Studies Journal*. Spring , Vol. 9, Iss. 1, (2012) Art. 4, 1759 words. Available at:
<http://scholarlyrepository.miami.edu/anthurium/vol9/iss1/4>

Review of Yolanda Martinez-San Miguel’s *Coloniality of Diasporas: Rethinking Intra-Colonial Migrations in a Pan-Caribbean Context for New West Indian Guide*. Forthcoming in 2016, 763 words.

Under Review

“Representing the Grenada Revolution: Merle Collins’s *Angel* and the Work of Tony Martin.”

Review of Kate Houlden’s *Sexuality, Gender, and Nationalism in Caribbean Literature*. *New West Indian Guide*.

Works in Progress

In Search of Caribbean Refugees, book manuscript

Humanitarianism in Relief: Cultural Cartographies of Humanitarianism in the Caribbean, book manuscript

Awards

Faculty Development Leave, Fall 2013.

Enhancement Grant for Professional Development, Sam Houston State University, June 2008-May 2009. \$7,797.

Enhancement Grant for Professional Development, Sam Houston State University, June 2007-May 2008. \$10,461.

Faculty Research Enhancement Grant, Sam Houston State University, Summer 2006. \$5,000.

Research and Travel Grant, Committee on Africa and the Americas, University of Maryland, 2002.

Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland Graduate School, 2002.

Travel Funds, University of Maryland, Department of English, 2002.

Graduate Fellow, University of Maryland Graduate School, 1995-96; 1996-97.

Professional Activities

Invited Lecture

Telling Our Stories of Home. University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. March 31-April 2, 2016.

“Charting Rhizomic Networks in Dionne Brand’s *At the Full and Change of the Moon*” Africana Studies’ Symposium on Caribbean Women Writers. University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, October 24, 2011.

“Haitian Refugees Before and After the Earthquake,” Haiti Roundtable. Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars Conference, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, April 2010.

“Refugee Cartographies: Mapping the Zone of Indistinction in Post-Earthquake Haiti,” Symposium on the Politics and Poetics of Refugees, New York University, New York, NY, September, 2010.

“Breaking the Surface: Kamau Brathwaite’s ‘Dream Haiti,’” Focus on Haiti, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, April 25, 2007.

“*Testimonio* in Francisco Goldman’s *The Ordinary Seaman*,” College Park Scholars Seminar on American Cultures, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, November 29, 2004.

Conference Presentations

“Narrating the Structures of Global Health: Oonya Kempadoo’s *All Decent Animals*.” Global Crossroads Conference. Howard University, Washington, DC, September 9-10, 2015.

“Wasting Space and Resurrecting Ruins.” Caribbean Studies Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, May 25-28, 2015.

“*Nwa Noir*: Colonial Infection and Zombie Plagues in U.S. Film and Haitian Literature,”

Seventh Annual CHSS Medicine, Humanities, and Social Sciences Conference. Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX. March 4-5, 2015. Due to an emergency, I could not attend the conference and my paper was read by Dr. Paul Child.

"*Tents Beyond Tents: The Carto(on)graphy of Post-earthquake Haiti*," American Comparative Literature Association, New York City, March, 2014

"Leprosy and Revolution in *The Motorcycle Diaries* and 'How to Escape from a Leper Colony,'" Medicine and Humanities Conference, SHSU, April 2014.

"Discourses of Compassion and the USNS *Comfort*," Caribbean Studies Association. Merida, Mexico, June 2014. Merida, Mexico, June, 2014

"Charting Colonial Heritage through Disease in Michelle Cliff's *Free Enterprise*, 'Haiti, 'Compassionate Invasions,' and Discourses of Healing." Haitian Studies Association, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, November 2013.

"The Leper Colony as Empire and Revolution in the Americas." Radical Caribbeans Conference, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 2013.

"Voicing the Ruptures of the Nation: Reading the Grenada TRC and Merle Collins's *Angel*." Caribbean Studies Association, St. George's, Grenada, West Indies, June 2013.

"Literary and Linguistic Crossings: The Shifting Boundaries of Anglophone Caribbean Literature." Modern Language Association. Boston, MA, January 2013.

"The Cartographic Dimensions of Empire: Mapping Refugee Spaces in Post-Earthquake Haiti." American Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico. November 2012. Due to a family emergency, I was unable to attend the conference, but a colleague read my paper for me.

"Reading African Refugee Literacies in the United States." African Literature Association, Dallas, TX, April 2012.

"Refugees in the 'New World Order': Caryl Phillips' *A Distant Shore*" Critical Refugee Studies Conference, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, November 2011.

"Imagining 'Preposterous Encounters' between Postcolonial Studies and American Studies." Roundtable. American Studies Association Conference, Baltimore, MD, October 2011.

"The Atlas Lied": The Routes of Humanitarian Biopower in Post-earthquake Haiti" Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Curacao, June 2011.

"Genealogies of Change: Dionne Brand's *At the Full and Change of the Moon*." Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars Conference, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, April 2010.

"The Limb/o Gateway of Caribbean Refugee Articulations." CLS Global Caribbean Conference, University of Miami, Miami, FL, February 2010.

"The Law/s of Hospitality? U.S. Congressional Hearings and Humanitarian Discourse." American Studies Association, Washington DC, November 2009.

"Julia Alvarez's Post-Refugee Narratives." Southwest Council on Latin American Studies (SCOLAS), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, March 2009.

"Environmental Histories in Dionne Brand's *At the Full and Change of the Moon*," Afro-Caribbean Diaspora Conference, Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas, November 2008.

"False Witnessing: U.S. Coast Guard Photography of Haitian Boat Refugees," American Studies Association Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 2008.

"Translating Haitian Women's Oppression in *Walking on Fire: Haitian Women's Stories of Survival and Resistance*," 11th International Conference of the Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars, Grenada, West Indies, May 2008.

"Transnational Labor and Testimonial Narrative in Francisco Goldman's *The Ordinary Seaman*," International Conference on Narrative, Austin, Texas, May 2008.

Session Organizer, Presider, and Respondent, MLA Special Session, "Writing the Caribbean in(to) the United States," Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, December 27-30, 2007.

"Narrating the Abyss: The Figure of the Haitian Refugee," International Conference on Caribbean Literature, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. November 2006.

"Rights of Passage: The Refugee Narratives of Kamau Brathwaite and Edwidge Danticat," United States Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies Conference, Santa Clara University, San Jose, CA, October 27-29, 2006.

"Julia Alvarez and the Eth(n)ics of Consumption," Cultural Studies Association Conference, Fairfax, VA, April 2006.

"Female Economies of Violence in Edwidge Danticat's *Krik? Krak!*" College English Association Conference, San Antonio, TX, April 6-8, 2006.

"The Refugee Narratives of Edwidge Danticat and Kamau Brathwaite," Caribbean Philosophical Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 2005.

"Absolut Alvarez: The Ethnic Writer as Native Informant," Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars Conference, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, April 21-24, 2004.

Session Organizer, MLA Special Session, "Bio-Tropics: Latin American Discourses of Disease," Modern Language Association Convention, San Diego, CA, December 27-30, 2003.

"Communicating Disease: Cristina Garcia's *Dreaming in Cuban*," Modern Language Association Convention, Special Session, Bio-tropics: Latin American Discourses of Disease, San Diego, December 27-30, 2003.

"Discourses of Endo/Exogamy in Pauline Melville's *The Ventriloquist's Tale*," Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Belize City, Belize, May 22-27, 2003.

"In the Limbo Space: Constructions of Race, Ethnicity and Gender in Elizabeth Nunez's *Beyond the Limbo Silence*," Color, Hair and Bone: The Persistence of Race into the 21st-Century, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA, September 26-28, 2002.

"The Shifting Voices of Macunaima in Pauline Melville's *The Ventriloquist's Tale*," Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars Conference, Trois-Islets, Martinique, April 2-6, 2002.

"Testimonial Discourse in the Congressional Hearings on Haitian Cane Cutters in the Dominican Republic," Caribbean Studies Association Conference, St. Martin, May 2002.

"Rites/Rights of Passage: The Transitional Narratives of Cristina Garcia and Edwidge Danticat," Postcolonial Studies Conference, California State University-Long Beach, Long Beach, CA, March 2001.

"Solidarity or Sovereignty: Testimonial Discourse in Edwidge Danticat's *The Farming of Bones* and the U.S. Congressional Hearings on the Plight of Haitian Canecutters in the Dominican Republic," MELUS 2000, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, March 2000.

"Re-membering Hispaniola: Julia Alvarez's *In the Time of the Butterflies* and Edwidge Danticat's *The Farming of Bones*," American Studies Association, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, October 1999.

"'Family Land', Legitimacy and Identity in Michelle Cliff's *No Telephone to Heaven*," Gendered Landscapes: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Past and Space, Pennsylvania

State University, State College, PA, May, 1999.

“Land, Class and Gender: Revolutionary Caribbean Spaces in Michelle Cliff’s *No Telephone to Heaven*,” Seventh Annual Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars Conference, St. Georges, Grenada, May, 1998.

“Revolutionary Narratives: Julia Alvarez’s *In the Time of the Butterflies* and Merle Collins’ *Angel*,” Women’s Studies Graduate Conference, Institute for Research on Women, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, April, 1997.

Courses Taught at SHSU

Introduction to World Literature (ENGL 2332)
Introduction to World Literature (ENGL 2333)
Introduction to World Literature (ENG 2333) online
African American Literature (ENGL 3337)
African American Literature online (ENGL 3337)
Multicultural Literature (ENGL 3338)
Women’s Literature (ENGL 3336)
Teaching Literatures of Diversity (English 4339)
Studies in World Fiction (Caribbean Fiction) (ENGL 4378)
Modern World Literature (Postcolonial Literature) (ENGL 5371)
Literary Theory and Criticism (ENGL 5368)
Studies in Multicultural Literature (ENGL 5370)
Caribbean Literature (ENGL 6330, Special Topics course)
Directed Study: Theories of the Other (ENGL 5339, Fall 2011)

The George Washington University

Adjunct Asst. Professor, Regular Part-time, University Writing Program (2004-05)
University Writing 20: Testimony, Truth, Justice and the Nation (Fall '04; Spr.'05)

Georgetown University

Lecturer, Department of English (2003-2005)
Caribbean Literature (ENG 432, Summer 2005)
Postmodernism in Literatures and Cultures (English 032, Fall and Spring 2004)
Postmodern Literature Tutorial: Caribbean Literature (English 299, Fall 2004)
Rites/Rights of Passage: Racial Formations in African American and Caribbean Literature (English 226, Spring 2003)

University of Maryland-Baltimore County

Adjunct Asst. Professor, Women’s Studies (Spring 2004)
Black Women: Cross-Cultural Perspectives (Women’s Studies 370)

University of Maryland at College Park

Teaching Assistantship, Department of English (1997-2003)
Introduction to African-American Literature (English 234)
Introduction to American Folklore (English 260)
Introduction to American Literature (English 222)
Introduction to Literature by Women (English 250/Women's Studies 255)
Introduction to Academic Writing for non-native speakers of English (Engl 101X)
Introduction to Academic Writing: "Common Ground" first-year focus (Engl 101U)
Introduction to Academic Writing (English 101)

SHSU Professional Service

Coordinator, American Studies Minor, 2016/present.
Search Committee Member, Transatlantic and Early American Literature, 2013.
Search Committee Member, Postdoctoral Fellowship in Transatlantic and Early American Literature, 2013.
Department of English Curriculum Committee, 2014-present
Department of English Recruitment Committee, 2014-present.
Faculty Development Leave Review Committee, 2014-2015
Transatlantic Studies Committee, 2013-present.
Chair's Advisory Committee, Fall 2009-2012.
Dean's Advisory Committee, Fall 2011-2013.
American Studies Committee, Fall 2009-present.
Common Reader Program Committee, Spring 2008-2011.
Graduate Studies Committee, 2006-2010.
CHSS Women's Caucus, 2007-present.
Underrepresented Minority Faculty Populations Committee, Fall 2009-2012.
Teaching Mentor for Rachel Bryant, Fall 2009-Fall 2010.
Teaching Mentor for Wendy Hanks, Spring 2012.
Teaching Mentor for Bridget Chabron, Spring 2015.
Thesis Director. William Kerr, Spring 2013.
Thesis Director. Travis Franks. Fall 2012. I took over as director after the departure of Dr. Drew Lopenzina. I was originally a thesis committee member.
Thesis Director. Rachel Bryant, Fall 2010.
Thesis Director. David Clarke, Fall 2008-Fall 2009.
Thesis Director. Bernadette Russo, Fall 2008-Fall 2009.
Thesis Committee Member, William Tunningly, Fall 2012.
Thesis Committee Member, Kimberly Davis, 2014.
Thesis Committee Member, Nathan Ridings, Fall 2015.
Thesis Committee Member, William Tunningly, Fall 2012.
Thesis Committee Member, Jennifer Child, Fall 2009-present.
Thesis Committee Member, Brian Derrig, Summer 2008.
Thesis Committee Member, Katherine Echols, Summer 2007.

Thesis Committee Member, Marcia Wilson, Summer-Fall 2006.
Graduate Exam Committee Chair for Hayley Pennington, Summer 2012.
Graduate Exam Committee Member for Susanna Shupp, Summer 2012.
Graduate Exam Committee Member for Andrea Sumrall, Fall 2009.
Graduate Exam Committee Member for José de la Garza, Spring 2008.
Graduate Exam Committee Member for Sheila Patel, Spring 2006
Graduate Exam Committee Member for Jason Garrison, Fall 2005.

Graduate Comprehensive Exam Reader, Summer 2015
Graduate Comprehensive Exam Reader, Fall 2015.
Graduate Comprehensive Exam Reader, Summer 2014.
Graduate Comprehensive Exam Reader, Spring 2014.
Graduate Comprehensive Exam Reader, Fall 2013.
Graduate Comprehensive Exam Reader, Spring 2013.
Graduate Comprehensive Exam Reader, Spring 2012.
Graduate Comprehensive Exam Reader, Spring 2010.
Graduate Comprehensive Exam Reader, Spring 2009.
Graduate Comprehensive Exam Reader, Fall 2008.
Graduate Comprehensive Exam Reader, Spring 2006
Graduate Directed Study: Theories of the Other, Fall 2011
Undergraduate Directed Studies, Literatures of the African Diaspora,
Faculty Advisor, SHSU, West Indian Student Association, Spring 2006
Faculty Advisor, SHSU, Tennis Club, Spring 2006.
Faculty Advisor, Caribbean Student Organization, Fall 2012.

Professional Development

Online course development for ENGL 3337 (taught in Spring 2016), 2 Sessions with Jay Wilson of SHSU Online.

Blackboard Online Certification. Summer 2016.

“*Nwa Noir: Colonial Infections, Zombie Plagues, and Chromatic Healing in Haitian Art and Literature*” First Friday Faculty Forum. Department of English. Sam Houston State University. February 6, 2015.

Other Professional Service

Editorial Board Member, Lexington Books series: Cultural Studies/Pedagogy/Activism
Manuscript Reviewer for University of Florida Press, Palgrave MacMillan, Lexington
Books, Fordham University Press. University of Virginia Press, Wissenschaftlicher
Verlag Trier
Manuscript Reviewer for *Anthurium*

Manuscript Review for *Women, Gender and Families of Color*
Manuscript Review for *Postcolonial Text*
Manuscript Review for *MELUS: Multiethnic Literatures of the United States*
Manuscript Reviewer for *Modern Fiction Studies*.
Manuscript Reviewer for *Wadabagei: A Journal of the Caribbean and Its Diaspora*.
Member, Faculty Working Group, The George Washington University, University Writing Program, 2004

Faculty Development Workshops, The George Washington University, University Writing Program, August 3-5, 2004
Caribbean Research Interest Group (CRIG), University of Maryland, 2001-2002
Graduate English Organization, executive committee, 1998-1999

Tenure Reviewer

University of Miami, Department of English, Summer 2012.
Clemson University, Department of English, Summer 2015.

Professional Affiliations

Modern Language Association
American Studies Association
American Comparative Literature Association
Caribbean Studies Association