

Linda J. Webster
Professor of English
English Department
College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Degrees Earned

Ph.D. in English, Texas A&M University, 1998

M.A. in English, Sam Houston State University, 1977

B.A. in English Sam Houston State University, 1976

Professional Licensure and Certifications

Teaching Certification for teaching English, 7-12

Peer-Review Publications and Artistic Performances/Exhibitions

Articles

Byrd, Linda J. "The Emergence of the Sacred Sexual Mother in Lee Smith's *Oral History*." *Southern Literary Journal* 31.1 (Fall 1998): 119-42.

---. "An Interview with Lee Smith." *Shenandoah: The Washington and Lee University Review* 47.2 (Summer 1997): 95-118.

---. "Pudd'nhead Wilson's Roxy as a Tragic Hero." *Conferences of College Teachers of English Studies* 43 (1998): 50-58.

---. "Reconciliation with the Great Mother Goddess in Lee Smith's *Saving Grace*." *The Southern Quarterly* 40.4 (Summer 2002): 97-112.

Byrd-Cook, Linda. "Reclamation of the Feminine Divine: 'Experiencing the Spirit Directly' in Lee Smith's Novels." *Humanities in the South* 90 (2004): 28-42.

Cook, Linda Byrd. "Censorship of 'Literary Pornography.'" *Academic Exchange Quarterly* 13.3 (Fall 2009): 162-66.

---. "A Spiritual Journey: An Interview with Lee Smith." *The Southern Quarterly* 47.1 (Fall 2009): 74-103.

Book

Cook, Linda Byrd. *Dancing in the Flames: Spiritual Journey in the Novels of Lee Smith*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2009.

Chapters

Byrd, Linda J. "The Emergence of the New Mother in Fiction by Southern Women Writers." *TR5: To Research, To Read, To Reason, To Write, To Report: An Introduction to Research Writing*. Ed. Diane Dowdey, Barbara Jones, and Katie Pannell. Needham Heights, MA: Simon & Schuster, 1998. 303-308.

---. "The Reclamation of the Feminine Divine: 'Walking in My Body Like a Queen' in Lee Smith's *Fair and Tender Ladies*." *He Said, She Says: An RSVP to the Male Text*. Ed. Mica Howe and Sarah Appleton Aguiar. Cranbury, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson Univ. Press, 2001. 42-56.

---. "Toward Healing the Split: The Integration of Sexuality and Motherhood in Lee Smith's *Fancy Strut* and *Black Mountain Breakdown*." *The World Is Our Home: Society and Culture in Contemporary Southern Writing*. Ed. Jeffrey J. Folks and Nancy Summers Folks. Lexington: Univ. Press of Kentucky, 2000. 201-19.

Cook, Linda Byrd. "Reclaiming My Self." *If Love Hurts: Writings By and About Survivors of Abuse*. Ed. Pamela VanderHeide, Linda Williamson, and Wendy van Diver. Santa Barbara, CA: Sea-Hill P, 2009. 93-97.

Webster, Linda J. "Lee Smith: A Diamond from the Rough." *Rough South, Rural South: Region and Class in Recent Southern Literature*. Ed. Jean W. Cash and Keith Perry. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2016. 145-56.

Peer-Review Presentations

Byrd, Linda J. "Atonement with the Goddess in Lee Smith." Conference of the South Central Modern Languages Association (Memphis, TN Oct. 1999).

---. "'Enclosed in God's Womb' in Lee Smith's *Oral History*." Southern Humanities Council Conference (Hampton, VA March 1999).

---. "Female Dominance in Marriage Relationships in Katherine Anne Porter's Short Fiction." International Conference on the Short Story (New Orleans, June 1998).

---. "Fenced In or Out? The 'Impenetrable' Wire Fence in Steinbeck's 'The Chrysanthemums.'" International Conference on the Short Story in English (Iowa City, IA Oct. 2000).

---. "The Integration of Sexuality and Motherhood in the Novels of Lee Smith." "Blood Ties Panel." *Crossing the Lines: A Conference on Contemporary Southern Women's Literature* (Fayetteville, AR Oct. 1997).

---. "'Looking-Glass Shame' in the Short Stories of Virginia Woolf." "British and American Modernism Panel." Conference on Language and Literature (College Station, TX Oct. 1994).

---. "The 'Mother Tongue' of Zora Neale Hurston." "African/African-American Literature Panel." Century's End: 54th Annual Meeting of the South Central Modern Languages Association (Dallas, TX Oct.-Nov. 1997).

---. "*Pudd'nhead Wilson's* Roxy as a Tragic Hero." The Conference of College Teachers of English (San Antonio, April 1998).

---. "Reconciliation with the Feminine Divine in Lee Smith's *Saving Grace*." "The Christ-Haunted South": A Conference on Southern Religion, Social Practice, and Literature (Waco, TX Oct. 1998).

---. "Toward Healing the Wound: 'Figures A-Dancing in the Flames' in Lee Smith's *The Devil's Dream*." Writing on Masks: Women's Lives in the South Conference (Macon, GA Oct. 1999).

---. "Troubled and Troubling: Katherine Anne Porter's View of Marriage." American Studies Association of Texas Annual Meeting (SHSU, Nov. 2001).

---. "A View of Marriage and Divorce in Kate Chopin's *At Fault*." Sixty-Second Annual Meeting of the Conference of College Teachers of English (South Padre Island, TX April 1997).

---. "The Voice of the Mother in Zora Neale Hurston's *Dust Tracks on a Road*." National Association of African American Studies International Conference (Cancún, MX Aug.-Sept. 2001)

---. "'Walking in My Body Like a Queen': Female Friendships in Lee Smith's *Fair and Tender Ladies*." Communities of Women Conference (Waco, TX Sept. 1999).

- . "Welty's Treatment of Motherhood in the Context of Other Contemporary Southern Women Writers." "Motherhood/Daughterhood Panel." *Mississippi Home Ties: An International Eudora Welty Conference* (Jackson, MS April 1997).
- Cook, Linda Byrd. "A Century of History as Revealed in Lee Smith's Novels." Southern Comparative Literature Association Conference (Columbia, SC Sept. 2004).
- . "Bringing Down the Mountains: Appalachian Writers Expose Environmental Catastrophe." Northeast Modern Language Association Conference. (New Brunswick, NJ April 2011).
- . "Contemporary Appalachian Fiction: Looking-Glass or Crystal Ball?" Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities (Honolulu, Jan 2011).
- . "Divine Healing in Lee Smith's *The Devil's Dream*." Southern Comparative Literature Association Conference (Austin, Sept. 2003).
- . "The Divine Sexuality of Lee Smith's Characters: Reconciliation with the Goddess." Central New York Conference on Language and Literature (Cortland, NY Oct. 2003).
- . "Fairy Religion in Lee Smith's *On Agate Hill*." South Central Modern Languages Association Conference (Baton Rouge, Oct 2009).
- . "The Heart Never Stops Talking': Writing to Survive in Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*." Central New York Conference on Language and Literature (Cortland, NY Oct. 2004).
- . "Intertextuality between Two Tales of Indian Captivity." Conference of College Teachers of English (Corpus Christi, March 2006).
- . "Lee Smith: Faulkner's Literary Daughter." South Central Modern Language Association Conference (San Antonio, Nov 2012).
- ___ . "Lee Smith's *Fair and Tender Ladies*: From Pornographic Literature to Literary Junk Food." Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities (Honolulu, Jan. 2009).
- . "Lee Smith's Preservation of the Appalachian Heritage through Storytelling." Appalachian Studies Association Conference (Huntington, WV March 2010).
- . "Lee Smith's Revision of the American Hero's Journey." South Atlantic Modern Languages Association Conference (Atlanta, GA Nov. 2007).
- . "*Notes on a Scandal: A Scandalously New Portrayal of Working Women*." South Central Modern Languages Association Conference (San Antonio, TX Nov. 2008).
- . "Novelist Lee Smith's Exposure of the Devastating Damage to Appalachia: A Reflection of the Current Worldwide Environmental Crisis." College of Humanities and Social Sciences First Annual Research Conference (Huntsville, TX, SHSU, April 2010).
- . "Patriarchal Assault: 'Visions of Rape' in Lee Smith's *Fancy Strut* and *Black Mountain Breakdown*." College English Association Annual Conference (San Antonio, April 2006).
- . "Praying Straight into the Wind': The Circular Female Journey in Lee Smith's *The Last Girls*." Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities (Honolulu, Jan. 2007).
- . "The Preservation of Vanishing Appalachia in Lee Smith's Fiction." Southern Women Writers Conference (Mount Berry, GA Sept 2009).
- . "Re-Emergence of the Goddess in Lee Smith's *Oral History*." South Atlantic Modern Languages Association Conference (Charlotte, NC Nov. 2006).

---. "The Road Less Traveled: Subverting the Heroic Quest." College English Association Conference (St. Louis, MO March 2008).

---. "Selecting the Smoothest and Roundest': Jackson's Boys of Stone in 'The Lottery.'" International Conference on the Short Story in English (New Orleans, July 2002).

---. "Singing Her Own Song/Telling Her Own Story." South Central Modern Languages Association Conference (Memphis, TN Nov. 2007).

---. "Subversive Feminine Texts: Redefining the Feminine Experience." Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities (Honolulu, Jan. 2005).

---. "Toward Healing the Wound in Lee Smith's *Family Linen*." South Central Modern Language Association Conference (Hot Springs, AR Oct. 2003).

---. "The Voice of the New Mother in Fiction by Contemporary Southern Women Writers." Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities (Honolulu, Jan. 2003).

---. "The Wild Women of Lee Smith's Fiction." Southern Women Writers Conference (Rome, GA Sept. 2007).

Webster, Linda J. "A Changing World for Women: The Egypt of Alifa Rifaat, Nawal El Saadawi, and Salwa Bakr." Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities (Honolulu, Jan. 2016).

Work or Professional Experiences

2012-Present, Professor of English, Sam Houston State University

2005-2011, Associate Professor of English, Sam Houston State University

1998-2004, Assistant Professor of English, Sam Houston State University

1988-1997, Pool Faculty, Dept. of English, Sam Houston State University

1986-1987, Marketing and Public Relations Officer, First National Bank, Huntsville, TX

1979-1985, English Teacher, Huntsville High School

1977-1978, English Teacher, Aldine Senior High School

1975-1976, Teaching Assistant, Dept. of English, Sam Houston State University