

CATHERINE C. SAUNDERS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. African American Literature, Howard University

Dissertation: *Quiet As It's Kept: Toni Morrison and the Insurrectionary Power of Black Interiority*

Advisor: Dr. Dana A. Williams

Committee: Drs. Jennifer D. Williams, Sheshalatha Reddy, David F. Green

M.A. English and American Literature, Mills College

Thesis: *The Resurrection of the Tragic Black Heroine: A Discussion of Contemporary Mistresses on Prime-Time Television.*

Advisors: Drs. Ajuan Mance and Kirsten Saxton

B.A. English Literature, Howard University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

20th & 21st Century African American Literature, African American Women Writers, Critical Race Theory, Toni Morrison, Archive Studies, African American Culture and Culture Creation, Critical Gender Theory, Black Popular Culture, Speculative Fiction, Carceral Studies, Caribbean Literature, Black British Literature

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of African American Literature and Media

University of Florida: Gainesville, Florida

Courses Taught: Survey of African American Literature, Black Diasporan Critical Thought

Visiting Assistant Professor of Africana

Bates College: Lewiston, Maine

Courses Taught: Africana 100, The Writings of Toni Morrison, The Africana Novel As Theory, Survey of Literatures of the Caribbean, Narrating Slavery

Adjunct Lecturer, College of Liberal Arts

Morgan State University: Baltimore, Maryland

Courses Taught: English 101, English 102

Teaching Fellow

Howard University: Washington, DC

Courses Taught: Freshman Seminar

Adjunct Professor, Institute for Writing Studies

St. John's University: Queens, New York

Courses Taught: Composition and Rhetoric

Adjunct Professor, The Writing Program

Hofstra University: Garden City, NY

Courses Taught: Composition and Rhetoric

Part-time Lecturer: First-Year Writing Program

Rutgers University: New Brunswick, New Jersey

Courses Taught: Basic Composition- English 100, Expository Writing 101

Instructor, Department of English

Long Island Business Institute

Courses Taught: College English, The American Contemporary Short Story

Lecturer

The College of New Rochelle

Courses Taught: Critical Thought and Language, Literary Thought And Critical Analysis

Teaching Intern

Berkeley City College

Courses Taught: Research Writing and Critical Thought

Teaching Assistant (to Dr. Kirsten Saxton, Department of English)

Mills College

Course Taught: Intro to Literary Studies

PUBLICATIONS

“Black Interiority, DEI, and Langston Hughes’ Racial Mountain.” *The Langston Hughes Review*, (forthcoming 2026).

“The ‘Other’ Mother: Flesh, Filicide, and Toni Morrison’s ‘Feminist’ Provocation.” *The Routledge Research Companion to Toni Morrison*. Routledge, 2025. (under peer review)

“Profess*Her: The Revelatory Power of the Black Female Professor.” *A Cross-Cultural Examination of Women in Higher Education and the Workplace*. IGI Global, 2024

“Suicide or Genocide? Policing the Womb and Killing the Carceral State.” *Jump the Cut: A Review of Contemporary Media*. No. 62, Winter 2023-24.

"Afrodemia: The Interior Essence of African American Literature as Manifested in the Historically Black Institution." *Teaching Humanities with Cultural Responsiveness at HBCUs and HSIs*. IGI Global, 2023.

Kindred Spirits (Review). *Studies in American Culture*. Fall 2022.

Indexer. *Caribbean Literature in Transition, 1920-1970*, Vol. 2. Edited by Curdella Forbes and Raphael Dalleo. Cambridge UP, March 2021, Print.

Guest Editor. *Race, Dystopia, and American Identity*. *The St. John's University Humanities Review*. April 2018. Print.

Copy Editor. Jenifer Travis, Author. *Danger and Vulnerability in Nineteenth Century American Literature*. The Rowman and Littlefield Publishing Group, 2018.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Finalist, Leading Edge Fellowship, *ACLS* Spring 2024

Recipient, Just Julian Fellowship, Howard University 2022-2023

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Just Julian Fellow

The Graduate School, Howard University

Doctoral Fellow

Summer Writing Academy, Howard University

Project Assistant

Archives Collection, Williams College

Research Assistant (to Dr. Curdella Forbes)

Howard University, Department of English

Research Assistant (to Dr. Ajuan Mance)

Mills College, Department of English

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Writing Tutor, The Petey Greene Program

DC Central Detention Facility, Washington, DC

Tutor, The Writing Center

Howard University

Writing Instructor

Johns Hopkins's Center for Talent Youth

English Instructor

Oliver Scholars

CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS

Presenter. "Dissenting from Disruption: The Neo Slave Narrative and Re-Claiming Black Cultural Inheritance." CLA Conference, Vancouver, WA, April 23-26, 2025

Presenter. "Afrodemia: The Pedagogical Power of the African American Literary Landscape." *Howard Research Month Symposium*, Washington, DC, April 27-28, 2023.

Presenter. "Afrodemia, An Interior Institution: Toni Morrison and the Pedagogical Power of the Black Literary Landscape" *CLA Conference*, Atlanta, Georgia, April 5-8, 2023.

Presenter. "Why Sorry to Bother You Is Not a Bother at All: Boots Riley and the Labyrinth of Assimilation." *CLA Conference*, Raleigh, North Carolina, April 12, 2019.

Presenter. "Escaping the Burning House: *Linden Hills* as a Literary Portrait of Black Power," *Graduate English Student Association Conference*, Howard University, March 31, 2019.

Presenter. "Georgia Douglas Johnson and Eva B. Dykes: An Integrative Archive of the American-African in 20th Century America" *Howard University Research Week*, Howard University, April 11, 2019.

Presenter. "Not Your Story to Tell: Seizing The Black Narrative" *The St. John's University English Conference*, St. John's University, April 7, 2018.

Presenter. "The Resurrection of the Tragic Black Heroine: A Discussion of Contemporary Mistresses on Prime-Time Television" *SAMLA Conference*, Nov. 4-6, 2016.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Public Relations Director, College Language Association (CLA)

Member, Toni Morrison Society

Member, Modern Language Association (MLA)

INVITED TALKS/SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Speaker. "A Literary Love: Love Between Black Women and Black Literature." *BLKTLKPLATFORM*. 26.3.2023.

Speaker. "On Reparations and the ADOS Movement." *TRT News*, 2019 Panel Member.

Speaker. "Perspectives on the 2020 Election." *TRT News*, 2019.

