

**Jason Richards, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Department of English  
Rhodes College  
richardsj@rhodes.edu

***EDUCATION***

- 2005 **Doctor of Philosophy in English**, University of Florida  
Dissertation: *Whites in Blackface, Blacks in Whiteface: Racial Fluidities and National Identities*  
Committee: Malini Johar Schueller (Chair), David Leverenz, Louise Newman, Stephanie Smith
- 2000 **Master of Arts in English**, California State University, Long Beach
- 1997 **Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature and Classics**, CSU, Long Beach

***FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION***

- Early and Antebellum American Literature
- Critical Race Theory
- Gothic Studies
- Postcolonial Studies
- Modernity Studies

***TEACHING EXPERIENCE***

- 2018-Present Associate Professor, Department of English, Rhodes College
- 2012-18 Assistant Professor, Department of English, Rhodes College
- 2008-12 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, Rhodes College
- 2006-08 Lecturer, Department of English, SUNY Brockport
- 2005-06 Full-time Instructor, Department of English, Auburn University
- 2002-05 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of English, University of Florida

***SCHOLARSHIP***

**Book**

*Imitation Nation: Red, White, and Blackface in Early and Antebellum U.S. Literature* (the University of Virginia Press, December 2017)

Reviewed in *Early American Literature*, *ALH Online Review*, *American Literature*, *American Nineteenth Century History*, *Legacy*, and *Chapter 16*

**Work in Progress**

Monograph: *Poe in the Modern Maelstrom*

Chapters planned or in development: “Poe’s Gothic Modernity,” “Poe’s Plague Writing,” “Postcolonial Poe,” and “The Mechanical Poe”

## Articles

“Emerson and the Gothic.” *Nineteenth-Century Prose* 40/1 (2013): 61-90.

“Melville’s (Inter)national Burlesque: Whiteface, Blackface, and ‘Benito Cereno.’” *American Transcendental Quarterly* 21.2 (2007): 73-94.

“Imitation Nation: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Making of African American Selfhood in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.” *Novel* 39.2 (2006): 204-20.

“Localizing the Early Republic: Washington Irving and Blackface Culture.” *ARIEL* 35.3-4 (2004): 159-81.

## Book Reviews

Review of *The Oxford Handbook of Edgar Allan Poe*, eds. J. Gerald Kennedy and Scott Peeples, *American Literary History Online Review* (Series XXI, 2020).

Review of *Burnt Cork: Traditions and Legacies of Blackface Minstrelsy*, by Stephen Johnson, *African American Review* 46.4 (2013): 784-86.

## Short Essays

“North American Anti-Colonialism.” *The Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2016. 1222-27.

“Herman Melville.” *Men and Masculinities: A Social, Cultural, and Historical Encyclopedia*. ABC-CLIO, 2003. 515-17.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

“Poe’s Gothic Modernity.” American Literature Association Conference, Boston, MA, May 23-26, 2019.

“A Shrinking World: Edgar Allan Poe’s ‘The Masque of the Red Death’ as Global Fiction.” American Literature Association Symposium, New Orleans, LA, September 7-9, 2017.

“Anti-Colonialism in Early America.” The Society of Early Americanists Eighth Biennial Conference, Savannah, Georgia, February 28-March 2, 2013.

“Transatlantic Mimicries: Playing Indian, Acting European in Eighteenth-Century America.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, San Antonio, TX, March 22-25, 2012.

“Cooper’s National Masquerade: Redface, Whiteface, and *The Pioneers*.” American Literature Association Conference, Boston, MA, May 26-29, 2011.

“Minstrelsy’s Legacy in American Popular Culture.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 5-7, 2010.

- “Blackface Aggression: Attacking Minstrelsy’s Violence.” The Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference, Boston, MA, November 5-7, 2009.
- “Walt Whitman and Transcendentalism.” “Bold, Cautious, True: Walt Whitman and American Art of the Civil War Era” Exhibit, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, July 8, 2009.
- “Emerson and the Gothic Mode.” The National Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, April 8-11, 2009.
- “On *Edgar Huntly*’s Hybridity.” American Literature Association Symposium, Savannah, GA, October 2-4, 2008.
- “The New Republic’s Two Frontiers: *Edgar Huntly* and the Postcolonial Gothic.” Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Buffalo, NY, April 10-13, 2008.
- “Minstrelsy and Melville.” Seminar on Early American Literature, St. John Fisher College, October 29, 2007.
- “Restaging Blackface: Fictional Histories of Minstrelsy in Wesley Brown’s *Darktown Strutters* and Spike Lee’s *Bamboozled*.” Literature/Film Association Conference, Towson, MD, November 2-5, 2006.
- “Working in the White Way: Horatio Alger’s *Ragged Dick* and Blackface Minstrelsy.” American Literature Association Conference, Cambridge, MA, May 22-25, 2003.
- “Teaching Bernal Diaz Del Castillo.” Early Ibero/Anglo Americanist Summit, Tucson, AZ, May 16-19, 2002.
- “A Shadow in the Mirror: Reversing Power Relations in Herman Melville’s ‘Benito Cereno.’” Comparative Literature Conference, CSU, Long Beach, March 15-16, 2001.
- “Postcolonial Perspectives: Revisualizing the Indian’s Image in Mary White Rowlandson’s Narrative of Captivity.” The National Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, April 19-22, 2000.
- “Progressing toward Community in Richard Wright’s *Uncle Tom’s Children*.” Comparative Literature Conference, CSU, Long Beach, March 16-17, 2000.
- “Chaos and Order, Hubris and Humility: A Comparative Study of Greek and Mesoamerican Mythology.” Southern Comparative Literature Conference, Knoxville, TN, September 16-18, 1999.