

LESLIE PETTY

Department of English
Rhodes College
2000 North Parkway
Memphis, Tennessee 38112

EMPLOYMENT

Professor. Rhodes College. Memphis, TN. August 2023-present.

T.K. Young Chair of English Literature. Rhodes College. Memphis, TN. 2021-present.

Chair, Department of English. Rhodes College. Memphis, TN. 2016-2023.

Associate Professor. Rhodes College. Memphis, TN. August 2010-2023.

Assistant Professor. Rhodes College. Memphis, TN. 2003-2010.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Department of English, The University of Georgia. Dissertation: "Romancing the Vote: Feminist Activism in American Fiction, 1870-1920." Spring 2003.

Women's Studies Graduate Certificate. The University of Georgia, Fall 2001.

M.A., Department of English, Louisiana State University, Spring 1995.

B.A., Emory University. Major: English. Spring 1992.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Feminism, Modern Fiction, and American Literary Culture. (under contract with Wiley Blackwell Publishing. 90,000 words)

New Orleans in Prose and Poetry. Eds. Leslie Petty and Nancy Dixon. (accepted and forthcoming from the University Press of Mississippi)

Romancing the Vote: Feminist Activism in American Fiction, 1870-1920. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2006.

Articles and Book Chapters

“Queer Feminism in Djuna Barnes’s Journalism.” *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 40.1 (June 2023). (accepted and forthcoming)

“The Most Salient Point in American Life: Voting Rights and Fiction in the Nineteenth Century.” *The Cambridge Companion to Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Politics*. Ed. John D. Kerkering. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (accepted and forthcoming)

“Feminism and Work in Edna Ferber’s ‘Sisters Under Their Skin.’” *Studies in the American Short Story*. 1.1 (April 2020) 19-37.

“Realism and the New Woman.” *The Oxford Handbook of American Literary Realism*. Ed. Keith Newlin. Oxford University Press, 2019. 447-464.

“‘Grim old London welcomed me back’: Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s Second Foray into Europe.” *Transnationalism and Modern American Women Writers*, special issue of *E-rea*. 16.2 (2019): 1-15.

“If you’ve had your woman . . . I’ve had my man”: May Bartram’s Ambivalence in Henry James’s “The Beast in the Jungle.” *Transforming Henry James: Essays from the Fifth Annual International Henry James Conference*. Ed. Donatello Izzo, et. al. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2013. 242-56.

“The Political is Personal: The Feminist Lesson of Henry James’s *The Bostonians*.” *Women’s Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. 34 (2005): 377-403.

“Susan Petigru King.” *American Women Prose Writers, 1820-1870*. Ed. Amy E. Hudock and Katharine Rodier. Vol. 239. *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. Detroit: Brucoli Clark Layman, 2001.174-181.

“The ‘Dual’-ing Images of la Malinche and la Virgen de Guadalupe in Cisneros’s *The House on Mango Street*.” *MELUS* 25.2 (2000): 119-32.

“‘She has some buried connection with these lives’: Autobiographical Acts in *Can’t Quit You, Baby*.” *Ellen Douglas*. Ed. Thomas L. McHaney and Noel Polk. Spec. issue of *The Southern Quarterly* 33.4 (1995): 121-29.

Book Reviews

“The Last Light by Elizabeth Sanders.” *Arkansas Review*. 50.2 (August 2019): 141-42.

“*Well-Read Lives* by Barbara Sicherman.” *Journal of American History* 98.1 (2011): 217.

“*The Female Complaint* by Lauren Berlant.” *Journal of American History* 95.4 (March 2009): 1154-1155.

“*Front Page Girls* by Jean Marie Lutes.” *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature* 27.1 (Spring 2008): 186-88.

“*Schoolgirls* by Peggy Orenstein.” *Louisiana Association for College Composition Journal for College Writing 2* (May 1995).

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND LECTURES

“How to Navigate the Academic World: Roundtable Advice for Those New to the Profession.” 34th American Literature Association Annual Conference. Boston, Massachusetts. May 25-27, 2023.

“Key issues for the Study of the American Short Story: A Roundtable.” 34th American Literature Association Annual Conference. Boston, Massachusetts. May 25-27, 2023.

“Current and Future Challenges for Feminist Scholars.” Roundtable on Feminist Approaches to American Literature in the 21st Century. 33rd American Literature Association Annual Conference. Chicago, Illinois. May 26-28, 2022.

“‘Suffrage Bored Me’: Mary Austin and Avant-Garde Feminism.” SSAWW Triennial Conference. Baltimore, MD. November 4-7, 2021.

“Voting Rights and Nineteenth Century American Literature.” ALA Symposium. New Orleans, LA. September 9-11, 2021. (proposal accepted but conference cancelled because of hurricane)

“*The Great Gatsby* in the Trump Era.” Roundtable on F. Scott Fitzgerald and Contemporary Issues. Sponsored by the Fitzgerald Society. American Literature Association Annual Conference. Boston, Massachusetts. July 8-11, 2021.

“Radical Possibilities in Nineteenth-Century American Short Stories.” Roundtable on Enduring Themes in the American Short Story. Sponsored by the Society for the Study of the American Short Story. American Literature Association Annual Conference. Boston, Massachusetts. July 8-11, 2021.

“Are Judy O’Grady and the Colonel’s Lady Really Sisters?: Women in Edna Ferber’s Short Fiction.” American Literature Association Symposium on the Short Story. New Orleans, Louisiana. September 2019.

“Being a Department Chair: The Trials, Tribulations, and Rewards.” Roundtable Discussion. American Literature Association Conference, Boston, Massachusetts. May 2019.

“From Greenwich Village to the rue Saint-Romain: Djuna Barnes’ Expatriate Feminism.” The International Hemingway Conference: Hemingway in Paris. Paris, France. July 22-28, 2018.

“‘Curious, interesting old Toulouse’ and ‘Grim old London’: Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s Second Foray into Europe.” SSAWW 2017: Border Crossings. Bordeaux, France. July 5-7, 2017.

“When friends marry, they are safe”: The Pleasures of Asexuality in Willa Cather’s *O Pioneers!*.” American Literature Symposium on Fiction. New Orleans, Louisiana. October 2012.

“‘Every woman . . . should raise her voice’: Rethinking White Women’s Activism in William Wells Brown’s *Clotel*.” The 127th MLA Annual Convention. Seattle, Washington. January 2012.

“‘If you’ve had your woman . . . I’ve had my man’: May Bartram’s Ambivalence in ‘The Beast in the Jungle.’” Transforming Henry James. The Fifth International Conference of the Henry James Society. Rome, Italy. July 2011.

“‘The Romance of a Great Cause’: Activist Heroines and Suffrage in American Fiction, 1870-1920.” Invited Lecturer. Artists and Lecturers Series. Macon State University. Macon, GA. October 2008.

“The Speculative Economy of Bachelorhood in Herman Melville’s *Benito Cereno*.” American Literature Association Symposium on Fiction. Savannah, GA. October 2008.

“Amasa Delano’s Thwarted Bachelor Desires in Herman Melville’s *Benito Cereno*.” Hearts of Darkness: Melville and Conrad in the Space of World Culture. The Melville Society Sixth Annual International Conference. Szczecin, Poland. August 2007.

“A Comparison of White Women’s Activism in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and *Clotel*,” American Literature Association Eighteenth Annual Conference. Boston, MA. May 2007.

“Popular Culture IV: Women and Television.” Panel Chair. Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference. Philadelphia, PA. November 2006.

“‘The Romance of a Great Cause’: Activist Heroines in American Fiction, 1870-1920.” Invited Lecturer. American Studies Forum. University of Memphis. Memphis, TN. September 2006.

“‘Music all the time’: Spectacle in Twentieth-Century American Suffrage Fiction.” Southeastern Modern Language Association Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA. November 2005.

“‘Being a radical is like opening the door to the witches’: Revolutionary Romance in Hamlin Garland’s *A Spoil of Office*.” American Literature Association Annual Conference. Boston, MA. May 2005.

“The Political and Personal Influence of Female Literary Communities.” Panel Chair. American Literature Association Annual Conference. Boston, MA. May 2005.

“‘True Christian Philanthropy’ or a Release from the ‘Prison-House’ of Marriage: Fictional Representations of Feminist Activism in the 1870’s.” Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference. Fort Worth, TX. September 2003.

“‘A League of their Own’ or ‘A Battle of the Sexes’: A Lose/Lose Battle of Clichés for the Colorado Silver Bullets.” Invited Lecturer. UGA Women’s Studies Noon Speaker Series. The University of Georgia, Athens, GA. October 1999.

“‘A League of their Own’ or ‘A Battle of the Sexes’: A Lose/Lose Battle of Clichés for the Colorado Silver Bullets.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference. Albuquerque, NM. June 1999.

“The ‘True’ Story of *The Woman Within*: Ellen Glasgow’s Narrative Strategies.” Southeastern Women’s Studies Association Conference. The University of Georgia, Athens, GA. April 1997.

“Writing Women's Lives: The Civil War Diaries of Kate Garland and Priscilla Bond.” 1996 Southern Women Writers Conference. Berry College, Mount Berry, GA. April 1996.

COURSES TAUGHT

ENGL 485: Senior Seminar: Henry James and Edith Wharton
ENGL 385: Bachelors and Solitary Women in American Literature
ENGL 364: African-American Literature
ENGL 362: American Modernism
ENGL 361: American Literature from 1875-1945
ENGL 361: American Realism and Naturalism
ENGL 360: American Literature until 1880
ENGL 360: American Romanticism
ENGL 285: English Seminar
ENGL 265: The “New Woman” in American Literature
ENGL 265: Feminism and American Modernism
ENGL 262: Literary Representations of the American Dream
ENGL 225: Southern Literature
ENGL 220: Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers
ENGL 215: The American Dream in Literature
ENGL 210: Introduction to Literature
ENGL 151: Critical Thinking and Writing
AMST 200: Introduction to American Studies: The American Dream
GSST 200: Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies

COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Faculty Trustee. 2023-present.

Presidential Search Committee. 2021.

Planning and Priorities Task Force. Fall 2020.

Chair, Department of English. 2016 – 2023.

Head Faculty Marshal, 2022-present.

Faculty Marshal, 2017-2022.

Strategic Plan Steering Committee, 2018-19.

Faculty Governance Committee, 2017-20; Secretary, Fall 2017 and Spring 2020; Chair, 2018-19.

Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2012-15, 2021-22; Chair, 2014-2015.

Search Committee, Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusivity, 2015-16.

Faculty Appeals Committee, 2015-16; Secretary, 2015-16.

Chair, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, 2013-2016.

Director, Eight Biennial Associated Colleges of the South Women's and Gender Studies Conference, 2009.

Faculty Development Committee. December 2006-January 2010; Secretary, 2008-2009.

Director, Gender and Sexuality Studies Student Symposium, 2004-2016.

Gender and Sexuality Studies Steering Committee, 2003-present.

American Studies Steering Committee, 2005-2010.

Faculty Mentor, Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. Tau Sigma Chapter, Rhodes College, 2004-2007.

Assistant Director, Rhodes Summer Writing Institute. 2008.

Faculty Associate, Rhodes Baseball Team, 2007-15.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Executive Coordinator, American Literature Association.

External Reviewer, Berry College English Department, Fall 2022.

Conference Director, American Literature Association 33rd Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. May 2022.

Conference Co-Director, American Literature Association 32nd Annual Conference. Boston, Massachusetts. July 2021.

Conference Director, American Literature Association 31st Annual Conference. San Diego, California. May 2020. (cancelled due to COVID)

Conference Director, American Literature Association 29th Annual Conference. San Francisco, California. May 24-27, 2018.

Director, American Literature Symposium on Fiction. "The City in American Literature." New Orleans, LA. September 2015.

Panelist, Tennessee Arts Commission, Literary Arts Panel. 2010-14.

Editorial Board, *Studies in the American Short Story*.

Reviewer of manuscripts for Oxford University Press, University of Tennessee Press, and University of Nebraska Press, Wiley-Blackwell, and Cambridge University Press.

Reader for *MELUS*, 2000-2016

Reader for *Studies in American Fiction*, 2012-present.

Reader of Advanced Placement Examinations in English Literature. ETS, 2003-2018

AWARDS AND HONORS

Jameson M. Jones Award for Outstanding Faculty Service. 2022.

Hill Pedagogy Grant, Rhodes College 2008.

Professor of the Year, Tau Sigma Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, 2008.

Faculty Development Grant, Rhodes College 2007.

Nominee from The University of Georgia, Council of Graduate Schools Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Humanities and Fine Arts, 2003.

Freeman Research Award. The University of Georgia, 2002.

Honorable Mention, Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics. Carrie Chapman Catt Center at Iowa State University, 2001.