

## **ERNEST L. GIBSON III, PhD**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PROGRAM OF AFRICANA STUDIES  
RHODES COLLEGE ▪ 2000 NORTH PARKWAY ▪ MEMPHIS, TN 38112  
(901) 843-3445 ▪ GIBSONE@RHODES.EDU  
<https://www.rhodes.edu/bio/gibsone>

### **EDUCATION**

PH.D., AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

University of Massachusetts-Amherst ▪ Amherst, MA ▪ May 2012

M.A., AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

University of Massachusetts-Amherst ▪ Amherst, MA ▪ May 2010

M.A., AMERICAN STUDIES

Purdue University ▪ West Lafayette, IN ▪ May 2007

B.A., PHILOSOPHY

Fisk University ▪ Nashville, TN ▪ May 2005 (Honors, Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa)

### **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

20<sup>th</sup> Century African American Literature ▪ Diasporic Literature ▪ Male Studies ▪  
Gender and Sexuality Studies ▪ Cultural Studies ▪ Literary Movements ▪ Black  
Popular Culture

### **ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Rhodes College ▪ Memphis, TN ▪ August 2012 – Present

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PROGRAM OF AFRICANA STUDIES

Rhodes College ▪ Memphis, TN ▪ Spring 2016 – Present

#### *COURSES TAUGHT*

FYWS (Dark Penmanship) ▪ Survey of African American Literature ▪ Harlem  
Renaissance ▪ Coloring the Prize: African American 'Prestigious' Fiction ▪ Black  
Women Writers ▪ Black Arts Movement ▪ Novels of Toni Morrison ▪ Natives  
Sons: Black Muses and Manhood ▪ Interrogating Blackness: African American  
Literary and Cultural Theory

COMMITTEE MEMBER, HOOKS INSTITUTE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD  
University of Memphis ▪ Memphis, TN ▪ 2016 – Present

THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE  
African & African American Studies Program (Dissertation Fellow)  
Dartmouth College ▪ Hanover, NH ▪ May 2011 – August 2012

GRADUATE INSTRUCTOR, AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES  
University of Massachusetts-Amherst ▪ Amherst, MA ▪ Fall 2009 – Spring 2011

INSTRUCTOR, ETHNIC AND GENDER STUDIES  
Westfield State University ▪ Westfield, MA ▪ Fall 2010

FACULTY, INSTITUTE FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS  
Phillips Academy ▪ Andover, MA ▪ Summer 2009/2010

FACULTY, RONALD E. MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM  
Fisk University ▪ Nashville, TN ▪ Summer 2007

GRADUATE INSTRUCTOR, AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES  
Purdue University ▪ West Lafayette, IN ▪ Fall 2006 – Spring 2007

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT:  
*W.E.B. Du Bois on Asia: Crossing the World Color Line*. Bill Mullen and Cathryn Watson,  
eds. (University of Mississippi Press, 2005).

## **SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS**

“Digging through the Ruins’: *Just Above My Head* and the Memory of James A. Baldwin.” *James Baldwin: Challenging Authors*. Eds. A. Scott Henderson and Paul Thomas. (Sense Publishers, 2014).

“The Envy of Erudition: Booker T. Washington’s Desire for a Du Boisian Intellectuality.” *The Black Scholar* 43.2 (2013).

“For Whom the Bell Tolls’: The Wire’s Stringer Bell as a Tragic Intellectual.” *Americana: The Journal of American Popular Culture* (1900-present) 10.1 (2011).

### ▪ FORTHCOMING

“Tangled Skeins’: *Scandal*’s Olivia Pope and the Counter-narrativizing of Black Female Enslavement.” *Gladiators in Suits: Race, Gender, and the Politics of Representation in Scandal*. Eds. Ron. Jackson, Kimberly Moffitt, and Simone Puff (Projected 2017).

### ▪ ONLINE

“For the Love of Freedom: Writing, Radical Praxis and the Transformative Power of

a Slave's Words"  
*The Feminist Wire*. Wordpress. September 2013

### **INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS**

"I Am Not Your Negro: Contextualizing and Exploring James Baldwin" ▪ Raoul Peck, "I Am Not Your Negro" Documentary Screening ▪ Indie Memphis Film Festival ▪ November 2016

Memphis Public Library "Great Conversations" Series ▪ Jesmyn Ward's *Salvage the Bones* Talk/Discussion ▪ Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library ▪ October 2016

"Somewhere in that Wreckage': James Baldwin, the Novel, and a Project of Male Intimacy" ▪ MOCH Humanities Series ▪ University of Memphis ▪ March 2016

"Black in the Ivory Tower": A PhD Panel  
 UNCF/Mellon ▪ Emory University ▪ Atlanta, GA ▪ June 2013

"The Sound(s) of New York's Absurdity: James Baldwin's *Another Country* and the Blue-sing of an 'Empire State of Mind.'" ▪ Blues Symposium ▪ Dominican University ▪ May 2012

"A Critical Conclusion: *Just Above My Head* and the Memory of James Baldwin." ▪ Black Studies Conference ▪ Northwestern University ▪ April 2012

"James Baldwin: The Writer, the Man, the Memory"  
 English Colloquium Keynote ▪ Wittenberg University ▪ February 2011

"Silhouettes of *Souls*: Du Boisian Subjectivity in the Literature of the Harlem Renaissance." ▪ Harlem Renaissance Conference ▪ Paine College ▪ 2008

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

"Pedagogical Resistance to 'Paradigms of the Obvious'" (Panelist)  
 American Studies Association ▪ Toronto, CA ▪ 2015

"Melancholic Masculinities: The Erotics of James Baldwin." (Chair/Commentator)  
 American Studies Association ▪ 2014

"Identity and Ideality: Exploring the Potency and Pressures of Black Masculinity Imagery." (Chair/Moderator)  
 Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) ▪ 2014

"The Flaming Torpor of Passivity': Intimacy, Distance and the Perversion of Salvation in Another Country."  
 International James Baldwin Conference ▪ Montpellier, FR ▪ 2014

- "A Fly in the Buttermilk": Fancying Flight and Disciplining Difference in the Academy.  
 Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) ▪ 2013
- "From the Streets to the Ivory Tower: Re-Imagining Black Intellectual Space, Past(s) & Present(s)."  
 National Council for Black Studies (NCBS) ▪ 2011
- "For Whom the Bell Tolls': The Wire's Stringer Bell as a Tragic Intellectual."  
 Louisville Conference on Literature & Culture Since 1900 (LCLC) ▪ 2010
- "The Black Promethean: The Mythology and Cultural Criticism of W.E.B. Du Bois."  
 NCBS ▪ 2010
- "The Envy of Erudition: Booker T. Washington's Desire for a Du Boisian Intellectuality."  
 ASALH ▪ 2009
- "Where Are My Kinsmen?: The Trope of Loneliness in James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans* and Frederick Douglass' *Narrative of the the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave.*"  
 NCBS ▪ 2009
- "Tracing Shadows of the Invisible: Percival Everett's *Erasure* and the Evocation of Ralph Ellison."  
 ASALH ▪ 2009
- "Subverting the Scapegoat: An Examination of Girardian Theory in James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time.*"  
 ASALH ▪ 2008
- "Narratives of Consciousness & the Quest for Freedom: A Theoretical Reading of the Lives of Frederick Douglass and Malcolm X."  
 International Conference on Arts & Humanities ▪ 2007
- "Philosophy, Person(ality) & the Irony of Identity: A Theory exploring Du Boisian Subjectivity in the Literature of Claude McKay."  
 African American Studies Research Center Symposia ▪ Purdue University ▪ 2006

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Spence Wilson International Travel Grant  
 Rhodes College ▪ 2014

Junior Faculty Early Leave (Spring 2015)

Rhodes College ▪ Awarded 2014

Faculty Development Endowment Grant  
Rhodes College ▪ 2013

Africana Research Center Postdoctoral Fellowship  
Pennsylvania State University ▪ 2012 (declined)

Thurgood Marshall Fellowship  
Graduate Studies ▪ Dartmouth College ▪ 2011-2012

Shabazz Center for Intellectual Inquiry  
Scholar-In-Residency ▪ Dartmouth College ▪ 2011-2012

Dissertation Completion Grant  
SSRC ▪ Mellon Foundation ▪ 2011

Predocctoral Research Development Grant  
SSRC ▪ Mellon Foundation ▪ 2010

Ford Foundation Grant  
National Council of Black Studies ▪ 2009

Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant  
SSRC ▪ Mellon Foundation ▪ 2008/2009

David M. Knox Fellowship  
Graduate Studies ▪ Purdue University ▪ 2005-2007

Andrew W. Mellon-Mays Fellowship  
MMUF ▪ Mellon Foundation ▪ 2003-2012

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Men's Studies Association  
American Studies Association  
Association for the Study of African American Life and Culture  
College Language Association  
Collegium for African American Research  
Modern Language Association  
Phi Beta Kappa Society

**REFEREENCES:** Available upon request