

RADICAL TEACHER

A SOCIALIST, FEMINIST, AND ANTI-RACIST JOURNAL ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING

Contributors' Notes

Teaching Afrofuturism: Race, Erasure, and Corona



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Giselle Liza Anatol is a professor of English at the University of Kansas, specializing in Caribbean and African American literature and multicultural works for young readers. She has edited three collections of scholarly essays on popular fantasy literature for children and young adults: *Reading Harry Potter* (Greenwood, 2003), a follow-up volume published in 2009 (*Reading Harry Potter Again*), and *Bringing Light to Twilight: Perspectives on the Pop Culture Phenomenon* (Palgrave, 2011). She is also the author of *The Things That Fly in the Night: Female Vampires in Literature of the Circum-Caribbean and African Diaspora* (Rutgers University Press, 2015). This book explores the skin-shedding, bloodsucking soucouyant figure from Trinidadian folklore and found in various children's stories, travel writing, and contemporary fiction for adults. Anatol is currently the director of the J. Wayne & Elsie M. Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction.

V. Neethi Alexander is Assistant Professor of English from the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vellore Institute of Technology, Andhra Pradesh University, India.

Kimberly Nichele Brown is an associate professor of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her areas of specialization include contemporary African American women's literature and culture, black feminist theory, Africana film, Afrofuturism, and twentieth-century American and Africana literatures. Professor Brown is the author of *Writing the Black Revolutionary Diva: Women's Subjectivity and the Decolonizing Text*, published by Indiana University Press in 2010. She is currently working on two book-length manuscripts, *IncogNegro Stances: Cross-racial Espionage in Contemporary Literature and Film* (under contract with University of Mississippi Press) and *Through Ebony Eyes: A Black Feminist and Ethical Praxis of Viewing Contemporary Film*.

Currently a PhD candidate at James Cook University, **Karen Cornelius** has had extensive metropolitan, rural and remote Australian and overseas educational leadership experience in schools, regional offices, and state office. Her interests include: policy, social justice, leadership and remote schools.

Dr Aidan Cornelius-Bell is an Academic Developer with the University of South Australia. His academic background is in cultural studies, sociology, higher education and political philosophy. He is passionate about leveraging radical education to create transformative societal change.

Víctor Calderón-Fajardo (Barcelona, Spain, 1983) is a PhD student of the Interuniversity PhD Programme in Tourism (University of Malaga). He is attached to the Department of Economics and Business at the University of Malaga with a Predoctoral Research Staff contract (FPU00235) granted by the Ministry of Education. He has dedicated his entire academic life, more than a decade, to the study of the Tourism Industry with official studies. These include the Master's Degree in Electronic Tourism: Technologies Applied to Tourism Management and Marketing, the Degree in Tourism and the Degree in Management and Public Administration. All this has been complemented with a Higher Technical Degree in Travel

Agencies and various courses related to Tourism Marketing, Tourism Management and Cultural Heritage Management.

Joseph Entin is a Professor in the English Department and the American Studies program at Brooklyn College, as well as an editor for *Radical Teacher*.

Makeba Lavan is an assistant professor of English at Grinnell College. Her research focuses on (African) American Studies, Afrofuturism/Speculative Fiction and Popular Culture. Makeba's intellectual musings have been published in *Africology: The Journal of Pan African Studies* and *Modern Language Studies*. As part of Lost and Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative, she co-edited "Realizing the Dream of A Black University" & Other Writings", a collaborative publication of Toni Cade Bambara's teaching materials from CUNY and Spelman College. Her current project explores the ways in which writers and artists of the African diaspora use speculative fiction to imagine and thus create better futures for Black people.

Dalia Davoudi is an NEH Postdoctoral Fellow in American Studies at Montclair State University and holds a PhD. in English from Indiana University. Her research focuses on nineteenth-century American literature, queer temporality, and experimental modes of knowledge production. She also serves on the short film selection committee for the Chicago Latino Film Festival.

Aránzazu Elizondo Moreno was born in Zaragoza, Spain, in 1978. She received the degree in Social Integration from the Rodrigo Giorgeta Education Center, Valencia, Spain, in 2013, and the M. Sc. degree in Family Mediation from the Universidad Camilo José Cela, Madrid, Spain, in 2014. She has published several papers related to different education issues. Her research interests include holistic education methods, gender-equality in education, the obtaining of improved teaching-learning strategies, and the study of the importance of emotion in the learning process.

Domingo Pardo-Quiles was born in Albox (Almería), Spain, in 1974. He received the Telecommunications Engineering degree from the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (UPV), Spain, in 1998, and the Ph.D. in Communications Engineering from the Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena (UPCT), Spain, in 2021. From 1999 to 2000, he was an Ericsson engineer involved in the roll out of cell networks in Spain. From 2000 until now, he has belonged to Navantia Cartagena Shipyard, where he is responsible of Sonar Systems. He is currently a lecturer at the Information Technologies and Communications Department (TIC) of the UPCT. His research activities have focused on acoustic propagation models, noise pollution mitigation, underwater sensors and radio wave propagation.

Ignacio Rodríguez-Rodríguez (Murcia, Spain, 1980) completed a PhD in Computer Science (Universidad de Murcia, Spain, 2020) after his Engineering degree (Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, Spain, 2006), dedicating his research to Machine Learning applications to medicine and biosignals for the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes mellitus and dyslexia. In parallel, he completed a Master's degree in Equality and Gender (Universidad Jaume I, Spain, 2018) and a PhD in Interdisciplinary Gender

Studies (Universidad de Alicante, Spain, 2021), developing several relevant publications in this field and its transversalities with technology. His areas of interest involve artificial intelligence, gender equality, gender-based violence, as well as pedagogy and teaching methodologies.

José-Víctor Rodríguez was born in Murcia, Spain, in 1975. He received the B. Sc. degree in Telecommunications Engineering from the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (UPV), Spain, in 2001—after doing his graduate thesis at the Lund Institute of Technology, Lund University, Sweden—, the M. Sc. degree in Astronomy and Astrophysics from the Valencian International University (VIU), Spain, in 2018, and the Ph.D. in Communications Engineering from the Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena (UPCT), Spain, in 2006. In 2002, he joined the Department of Information Technologies and Communications, at the UPCT, where he is currently an Associate Professor. His research interests include the modeling of radio wave propagation, the development of acoustic propagation models, the obtaining of biomedical algorithms through biosensors and the investigation of improved teaching-learning methodologies in University education.

Willa Schneberg's poem "Skin" is from a recently completed manuscript from the collection, "The Naked Room," a true synthesis of her life as a psychotherapist, (one not exempt from angst), and life as a poet. These are poems of the unconscious, the dreamscape, the despondent, the unmoored and the mortal.

Emily Schnee is Associate Professor of English at Kingsborough Community College of the City University of New York.

Prartho Sereno served as fourth Poet Laureate of Marin County, 2015–17. She has taught poem-making to children as a Poet in the Schools since 1999 and for over 12 years to adults at the College of Marin. Her four prizewinning poetry collections include *Indian Rope Trick*, *Elephant Raga*, *Call from Paris*, and her illustrated collection, *Causing a Stir: The Secret Lives and Loves of Kitchen Utensils*.

Jesse W. Schwartz is an Associate Professor of English and Director of the Writing & Literature Major at LaGuardia Community College (CUNY) in Queens, NY. He has held fellowships with the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) in Osnabrück, Germany, as well as at the National Endowment for the Humanities. Some of his interests include radical American history and literature, periodical studies, Marxism, critical race and ethnic studies, and Russian-American relations before the Cold War. His current project traces American cultural responses to transnational socialism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries at the intersection of racialization and radical politics, with a particular focus on representations of the Bolshevik Revolution within US print cultures. A member of the editorial board of *Radical Teacher*, his work can be found there as well as in *Nineteenth-Century Literature* and *English Language Notes*. He is also currently co-editing an essay collection on new directions in print

culture studies forthcoming from Bloomsbury Academic in the summer of 2022.

Wendy M. Thompson is an Assistant Professor of African American Studies at San José State University. The coeditor of *Sparked: George Floyd, Racism, and the Progressive Illusion*, she is currently working on a book titled *Chasing the Sun: Staging Life, Belonging, and Displacement in the Black Bay Area*. Both a poet and a scholar, her creative work has most recently appeared in *Sheepshead Review*, *The Account*, *Funicular Magazine*, *Palaver*, and *Gulf Stream Lit*. She has two essays, one on black displacement and real estate in the Bay Area and the other on black women's othermothering practices, forthcoming in *Urban Transcripts Journal* and *Women's Studies Quarterly*.

Dr. Belinda Deneen Wallace (she/her) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of New Mexico. She is a post-colonialist whose research is rooted in Caribbean Literary and Cultural Studies; her research branches, however, are diasporic and best understood as an on-going conversation between blackness and queerness. Her research is informed by intersectional feminists' standpoints, new social history, and queer of color critique. Her writings have appeared in several journals, including *Cultural Dynamics*, *Journal of Canadian Studies*, *Women, Gender, and Families of Color* and *ProudFlesh: New Afrikan Journal of Culture, Politics, and Consciousness*. Presently, she is completing her forthcoming manuscript that centers on historical metafiction and queering literary reimaginings of Caribbean slave rebellions, political revolutions, and cultural resistance movements (under contract with SUNY Press).

Wendy W. Walters is a Professor in the department of Writing, Literature, and Publishing, and the Director of the Honors Program at Emerson College, Boston. She is the author of two books, *Archives of the Black Atlantic: Reading Between Literature and History* (Routledge, 2013), and *At Home in Diaspora: Black International Literature* (University of Minnesota Press, 2005). She has also published essays in *Callaloo*, *African American Review*, *American Literature*, *Novel*, and in other edited collections.

Tony Vick, 59 years old, has served 24 years on a life sentence in Tennessee. In 2018, his essays and poems, *Secrets From A Prison Cell* was published by Cascade Books. His works have been included in multiple venue, most recently in *Pensive: A Global Journal of Spirituality and the Arts* and in the poetry anthology, *A 21ST Century Plague: Poetry from a Pandemic*, edited by Elayne Clift.



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