

JANELLE RODRIQUES, PHD

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Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Washington

Curriculum Vitae

Education

PhD, English – ‘Representations of Obeah in Twentieth-century Anglophone West Indian Literature’
Newcastle University, 2016

MA, Comparative Literature – Dissertation: ‘Discourses of Darkness: Henry Morton Stanley and the Image of Africa’
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 2009

BA, English and Related Literature (First Class Honours)
University of York, 2008

Research Interests

- Caribbean Literature and Culture
- Obeah, related African Caribbean Spiritual/Religious Praxis
- Tricksters
- Speculative Literatures
- Black Atlantic Literature and Culture
- Creolisation and Hybridity
- Migration and Diaspora
- Critiquing ‘The Human’

Professional Appointments

Associate Professor, English Department, The University of Washington, Seattle
2022 – present

Assistant Professor, English Department, Auburn University, Alabama
2018 – 2022

Research Associate, Department of English-Speaking Cultures, Universität Bremen, Germany
2015 – 2018

Publications

Monographs

[In progress] *Waiting, Watching, Warning: Caribbean Literature’s Quarrel with Humanity*.

Narratives of Obeah in West Indian Literature: Moving Through the Margins. Routledge, 2019.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- “It’s Enough to Survive through this Hell to Make Ourselves Immortal in the Eyes of our Descendants:” Death and Mourning in Orlando Patterson’s *Die the Long Day*.” *Cultural Dynamics*, vol. 34 nos. 1-2, 2022, pp. 28-44.
doi: [10.1177/09213740211011193](https://doi.org/10.1177/09213740211011193)
- “Being very Human in one of the Most Inhuman Cities in the World:” Lagos as Site of Africanfuturist Invasion in *Lagoon* and *Godhunter*.’ *Speculative & Science Fiction*, special issue of *African Literature Today*, vol. 39, 2021, pp. 14-30.
- ‘Promises Are Merely Sweet Lies: Mandatory Motherhood and Migration in Nicole Dennis-Benn’s *Patsy*.’ *Caribbean Quarterly*, vol. 67, no. 3, 2021, pp. 267-282.
doi: [10.1080/00086495.2021.1957447](https://doi.org/10.1080/00086495.2021.1957447)
- ‘Women Loving Women in the Erotic-Pornographic Binary: Sex and Intimacy via Audre Lorde, in Nicole Dennis-Benn’s *Here Comes the Sun*.’ *Journal of West Indian Literature*, vol. 29, no. 2, 2021, pp. 62-73.
- “Do Something to Mek she Change:” Reading Respectability in- and unto the National Female Body in two Jamaican Interwar Fictions of Obeah.’ *Gender and Anticolonialism in the Interwar Caribbean*, special issue of *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*, vol. 12, 2018, pp. 199-220.
- “Living in Hidden Relationship:” Doomed Romance and Bonded Citizenship in A. R. F. Webber’s *Those That Be in Bondage*.’ *Commemorating 1917: A Discussion of Citizenship and Freedom in Caribbean Literature*, special issue of *sx salon*, vol. 26, 2017.
<http://smallaxe.net/sxsalon/discussions/living-hidden-relationship>
- ‘Obeah as Conduit in Elizabeth Nunez-Harrell’s *When Rocks Dance*.’ *Hegemony in the Work of Elizabeth Nunez*, special issue of *Africology: Journal of Pan-African Studies*, vol. 10, no. 8, 2017, pp. 71-88.
- ‘Threads Thin to the Point of Invisibility, yet Strong as Ropes: Reconnecting the Diaspora in Paule Marshall’s *Praisesong for the Widow*.’ *The Work of Paule Marshall Today*, special issue of *Anthurium: A Caribbean Studies Journal*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2017, Article 7.
doi: [10.33596/anth.331](https://doi.org/10.33596/anth.331)
- ‘Obeah as Trickster in *Hamel, the Obeah Man*.’ *Obeah: Knowledge, Power, and Writing in the Early Atlantic World*, special issue of *Atlantic Studies: Global Currents*, vol. 12, no. 2, 2015, pp. 219-234.

Peer-Reviewed Chapters, Edited Collections

- ‘Singing the Lord’s Song in a Strange Land: Caribbean Spiritual Survival.’ *Routledge Handbook of Caribbean Studies*, edited by Patricia Noxolo, Kevon Rhiney and

Ronald Cummings, Routledge, 2025, pp. 245-256.

‘Obeah, Religion and Nineteenth Century Literature.’ *Caribbean Literature in Transition, Vol. 1: 1800s-1920s*, edited by Evelyn O’Callaghan and Tim Watson, Cambridge University Press, 2021, pp. 198-211.

Reviews

Strolling in the Ruins: The Caribbean’s Non-sovereign Modern in the Early Twentieth Century, by Faith Smith. *Journal of West Indian Literature*.

‘a correct and singular language for an antireal history.’ Review of *A Tall History of Sugar*, by Curdella Forbes. *sx salon*, vol. 36, 2021.
<http://smallaxe.net/sxsalon/reviews/correct-and-singular-language-antireal-history>

Obeah, Race and Racism: Caribbean Witchcraft in the English Imagination, by Eugenia O’Neal. *New West Indian Guide*, vol. 95, nos. 1-2, 2021, pp. 156-157.

Santería, Vodou and Resistance in Caribbean Literature: Daughters of the Spirits, by Paul Humphrey. *Bulletin of Spanish Studies: Hispanic Studies and Researches on Spain, Portugal and Latin America* vol. 97, no. 2, 2020, pp. 32-33.

Public (Digital) Scholarship

Twitter residency, Tourism in Caribbean Literature. *Journal of West Indian Literature* (@jwilonline), 8-14 November 2021.

Keywords for Caribbean Studies: Spirituality. *The Caribbean Digital VII*, launched 4 December 2020.

<http://caribbeandigitalnyc.net/keywords/2020/11/11/spirituality/>

‘Claude McKay: *Banana Bottom*.’ *Anglophone Writing and Culture of Central America and the Caribbean*, special issue of *The Literary Encyclopaedia*, vol. 4.1.1, 2019.
<https://www.litencyc.com/php/sworks.php?rec=true&UID=19571>

‘C. L. R. James: *Minty Alley*.’ *Anglophone Writing and Culture of Central America and the Caribbean*, special issue of *The Literary Encyclopaedia*, vol. 4.1.1, 2019.
<https://www.litencyc.com/php/sworks.php?rec=true&UID=38900>

Other Writing/Publications

Interview with Hortense Spillers, *The Black Scholar Journal: A Visual and Documentary History*.

Conference Presentations

“‘A paper doll. A silhouette.’” Reading the Rastaman in John Hearne’s *Land of the Living*.’ 43rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference, 8-11 October 2025, University of Miami.

Roundtable, ‘Caribbean Inheritances and Informal Archive Making: Intergenerational Intimacy as Method.’ 42nd Annual West Indian Literature Conference, 9-12 October 2024, University of the West Indies St Augustine Campus.

‘Madman Rastaman, Ginnal: Masculine Performance, the Tourist Imaginary, and Three Postcolonial Jamaican Films.’ 41st Annual West Indian Literature Conference, 12-14 October 2023, University of the West Indies Mona Campus.

Roundtable, ‘Victorian Studies and Caribbean Studies.’ Modern Languages Association (MLA) Annual Convention, 5-8 January 2023, San Francisco.

“‘To Live like a human an not a beast.’” Quarrelling with Humanity in Orlando Patterson’s *The Children of Sisyphus*.’ 40th Annual West Indian Literature Conference, 11th Annual Critical Caribbean Symposium Series, 13-15 October 2022, University of The Bahamas.

‘Sex and Intimacy via Audre Lorde, in Nicole Dennis-Benn’s *Here Comes the Sun*.’ Society for Caribbean Studies (SCS) 44th Annual Conference, 5-10 July 2021, online.

“‘As if the Virgin Islands barely existed at all.’” Islandness and Self-Perception in Tiphonie Yanique’s *Land of Love and Drowning*.’ Postcolonial Islands Seminar, American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Annual Conference, 2020 (delivered virtually, April 2021).

Postgraduate Supervision

Kimani Bishop, PhD (Ethnomusicology), University of Washington, 2025

Abygail Gutierrez, MA (English), University of Washington, 2024

Ashley Hughes, MA (English Literature/Creative Writing), Auburn University, 2022

Britney Henry, MA (English Literature), Auburn University, 2020

Peer Review

Agenda

Ohio State University Press

PMLA: Publications of the Modern Language Association

Peter Lang

Journal of the African Literature Association

Atlantic Studies

Journal of West Indian Literature

African Literature Today

archipelagos | a journal of Caribbean digital praxis

**Professional
Service**

Executive Committee, Caribbean Studies Association, 2025-2027

Vice Chair, Society for Caribbean Studies, 2022-2024

**Awards/
Grants**

University of Washington Simpson Centre for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship, Religious Cultures/Sacred Practices/Spiritual Teachings, 'Spiritual Challenges to Political Power: Reading Rasta's Refusal in Caribbean Fiction,' 2024

University of Washington Royalty Research Fund, 'Waiting, Watching, Warning: Un/Human Being in Caribbean Literature,' 2024

University of Washington Simpson Centre for the Humanities Faculty Summer Reading Group Collaborative Project Award, 'Sylvia Wynter Reading Group,' 2023

**Professional
Memberships**

Caribbean Studies Association

West Indian Literature Association

Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies

Society for Caribbean Studies