**Rachel Warner**

Department of English and Comparative Literature

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**Education**

Ph.D. English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (anticipated) May 2023 Graduate Certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies

Graduate Certificate in Literature, Medicine, and Culture

B.A. English and Psychology, Wesleyan University May 2014

Certificate in Cognitive Psychology

**Dissertation**

“Transmasculine Modernism: Inverts, Tomboys, and Drag Kings, 1890-1940”

This dissertation explores intersecting histories of queer sexuality, gender variance, and racial formation in Anglo-American high modernism and the Harlem Renaissance. Through an investigation of diverse cultural tropes of masculine women and girls at the turn of the century, my research unearths an intersectional intellectual genealogy of contemporary queer and transgender identities. More specifically, I isolate a queer, transmasculine impulse running through the literary and cultural work of Willa Cather, Gladys Bentley, Djuna Barnes, and Carson McCullers. I then contextualize this queer gender formation according to the late 19th century emergence of the modern science of sex and sexuality. Overall, I argue that literary representations of queer gender constitute a reverse discourse of female-identified sexual pathology, a proto-transgender discourse of subjectivity made by possible by the very tools of normalization and control.

Director: Heidi Kim

**Publications**

***Peer-Reviewed Publications***

“‘A Winged but Grounded Bird’: Morrison’s Mixed Treatment of Animality in *The Bluest Eye*.” *Society & Animals: Journal of Human-Animal Studies*. (published online ahead of print July 2021). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/15685306-bja10041>

“Zora Neale Hurston in North Carolina: Drama, Education, and Contemporary Activism.” *North Carolina Literary Review*, no. 29, August 2020, pp. 150-163. Winner of the Paul Green Prize

***Book Chapters & Encyclopedic Entries***

“LGBTQ Fiction.” *SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies,* 2nd edition, edited by Abby Goldberg, SAGE Publications (forthcoming 2023).

“A Crisis in (Female) Masculinity: *My Ántonia* and the Imaginative Recreation of the Western Frontier.” *The Routledge Companion to Masculinity in American Literature and Culture*, edited by Lydia Cooper and Joana Conings, Routledge, November 2021, pp. 53-63.

‘The Poems and the Dances of the Shades’: Destabilizing Psychological Theories of Grief in *The Year of Magical Thinking.*” *Death Within the Text: Social, Philosophical and Aesthetic Approaches to Literature*, edited by Adriana Teodorescu, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019, pp. 10-27.

***Digital Projects***

“Inspiration, Memory, and Migration from *My Ántonia* to *Minari*.” *Modernism/Modernity* Visualities Blog, vol. 6, no. 3, April 2022. Co-written with Heidi Kim.

**Research & Teaching Interests**

Women’s & Gender Studies | 20th Century American Literature | Transgender Studies | Modernist Studies| Health Humanities | Animal Studies | Queer of Color Critique

**Fellowships, Grants & Awards**

Humanities Professional Pathway Award

Online Course Development Grant, UNC Summer School 2022

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UNC Graduate School 2021-22

Eliason Dissertation Summer Research Fellowship, UNC ECL Department 2020

Graduate Student Travel Fund, UNC ECL Department 2020

Paul Green Prize, *North Carolina Literary Review* 2019

Student Learning Circle Grant, UNC Center for Global Initiatives 2019

Winchester Fellowship, Wesleyan University Department of English 2018

Deborah W. Shelton Endowment for Graduate Travel Awards, ECL Department 2018

Winchester Fellowship, Wesleyan University Department of English 2017

Albrecht B. Strauss SAMLA Awards Fund 2016

Graduate Student Travel Fund, UNC ECL Department 2016

**Conference Participation**

***Conferences Convened***

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – King’s College London Exchange. Sponsored by: The Institute of Arts and Humanities. Chapel Hill, NC. August 2018. Co-organized with Trisha Remetir (UNC-CH) <http://configurationsofempire.web.unc.edu/>

Health Humanities Exchange. Sponsored by: Center for Bioethics, Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, Department of Social Medicine, Institute of Arts and Humanities, Center for Genomics and Society, School of Nursing, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, School of Social Work. Chapel Hill, NC. November 2016. Co- organized with Jennifer Stockwell (UNC-CH) <https://hhex.web.unc.edu/>

***Panels Organized***

“Health, Medicine, and Literature: Critical Intersections.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference. Washington, D.C. January 2022. Papers presented: Suvendu Ghatak (U of Florida), “Malaria and Mutiny: Picturesque Pathogeny in British India”; Patrick Allen (Culver-Stockton C), “‘Nothing Made Them Change Their Minds about the Medical Industry’: Medical Abuse, Incarceration, and Healing in Toni Morrison’s *Home*”; Iseult Gillespie (U of Wisconsin, Madison), “Beyond the Medical Model: A Cripped, Transfeminine Treatment Protocol in *Weed Killer*and *The Summer of Her Baldness*.”

“Transnational Approaches to Transgender Studies.” National Women’s Studies Association Virtual Conference. November 2021. Papers presented: Rachel Warner (UNC Chapel Hill), “Traversing National and Sexual Boundaries in Jeffrey Eugenides’ *Middlesex*”; Willa Dong (UNC Chapel Hill), “Conceptualizing Stigma Against Transgender Women in China.” Moderated by: Dian Dian (Emory University).

***Panels Chaired***

“Visual Culture and Political Resistance.” Queer MiniCon: Queer and Trans Futurity in Times of Crisis. UNC Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill, NC. April 2022.

“Race and Nation in Feminist Fiction.” University of North Carolina at Greensboro English Graduate Student Association Conference. Greensboro, NC. February 2018.

***Selected Papers Presented***

“Truman Capote, Carson McCullers and the Polymorphous Perverse Tomboy.” Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Meeting. January 2021.

“Transmasculinity and the ‘Femme Witness’ in Maggie Nelson’s *The Argonauts*.” Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Meeting. January 2021.

“Sexual Inverts, Tomboys, and Inverted Women: Exploring Literary Female Masculinities, American Masculinity, and Discourses of Female Sex/Gender Pathology.” Configurations of Empire Works-in-Progress Conference. King’s College, London. August 2019.

“A Crisis in (Female) Masculinity: *My Ántonia* and the Imaginative Recreation of the Western Frontier.” Kentucky Gender & Women’s Studies Conference. Lexington, KY. September 2019.

“Exploring the Humanimal in Toni Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye.*” University of North Carolina at Greensboro English Graduate Student Association Conference. Greensboro, NC. February 2018.

“Changing Bodies, Changing Selves: Feminism, Materiality, and Maternity in Maggie Nelson’s *The Argonauts.”* American Literature Association (ALA) 29th Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA. May 2018.

“Re-Envisioning Dr. Matthew O’Connor: A Trans/Feminist Reading of Djuna Barnes’s *Nightwood.”* Feminist Geography Conference. Chapel Hill, NC. May 2017.

“Essaying Illness: Virginia Woolf and the Madwoman Writer.” British Women Writers Conference. Chapel Hill, NC. June 2017.

“‘I don’t think the world likes women much’: Racialized and Queered Motherhood in Suzan-Lori Parks’s *In the Blood*.” American Society for Theatre Research. Atlanta, GA. November 2017.

“Literature and the Five Stages: A Medical Humanities Perspective on Grief.” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). Boston, MA. March 2016.

**Invited Talks**

“Female Masculinity in American Literature and Culture: Or, How to Do Things with Trans\*.” UNC LGBTQ Center, LGBTQIA+ Speaker Series. Sponsored by: The Graduate School. Oct. 2020.

“Masculine Women and Queer Modernity.” UNC Department of English and Comparative Literature, Graduate Student Lecture Series. Nov. 2021.

**Guest Lectures**

“Transmasculinity, Mortality & Queer Family Making in *Southern Comfort*.” Guest Lecture for CMPL 144: Engaging Film and Media: Independent Cinema & the American South. Sep. 2020.

“On Letting Go: Death and Dying in the Postmodern Era.” Guest Lecture for ENGL 268H: Honors Literature, Medicine, and Culture. Nov. 2019.

“Empathy and Its Discontents: On Leslie Jamison’s *The Empathy Exams*.” Guest Lecture for ENGL 268H: Honors Literature, Medicine, and Culture. Sept. 2019.

**Teaching**

***Instructor of Record***

English 105: Rhetoric and Composition Summer 2021

This fast-paced summer course offers a condensed version of first year composition taught fully online over a five-week period.

English 148: Horror: From Silent Cinema to Contemporary Literary Horror Spring 2021

This course covers a long history of horror cinema and literature from the early twentieth century to contemporary period and considers how the horror genre functions vis-à-vis race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, class, and national belonging.

English 105: Rhetoric and Composition Fall 2020, Spring 2020

Offered through the Correctional Education Program at UNC-CH, these courses teach first year rhetoric and composition to incarcerated students at Dan River Work Farm in Blanch, NC and Johnston Correctional Facility in Smithfield, NC.

English 140: Introduction to Gay and Lesbian Literature and Culture Spring 2019

This introductory course to queer literature and culture foregrounds an intersectional approach to diverse representations of non-normative gender, sex, and sexuality.

English 105i: Writing in Health and Medicine Fall 2018 & Spring 2018

This course is designed for students interested in pursuing careers within the health sciences. It thus emphasizes discipline-specific genres including policy reports, literature reviews, and oral presentations.

English 105: Rhetoric and Composition Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, & Spring 2020

This course prepares first year students to write on the college level across three major academic disciplines: Natural Sciences, Social Sciences (or Business), and Humanities.

***Teaching Assistant***

Comparative Literature 144: Engaging Film and Media Fall 2020

This course, subtitled “Independent Cinema and the American South,” explores films made outside of Hollywood that seek to represent the diversity and complexity of the contemporary South. In this viewing-intensive class, students explore films that address the relationship between the American South and the Global South and discuss issues such as diasporic identities, migration, and transnational culture in weekly recitation sections.

English 268H: Literature, Medicine, and Culture  Fall 2019 This course is an introduction to the growing interdisciplinary field known as the health humanities. Over the course of the semester, students investigate the close affinities among literary representation, the health sciences, and clinical practice and share their findings through weekly recitation sections.

**Service to Profession**

Archival Assistant, Rubenstein Rare Books Room, summer 2022

Teaching Apprentice, “Reimagining Intimacy,” Durham Night School Bar, summer 2022

Mentor to Undergraduate Writing Coaches, Virtual Prison Writing Center, fall 2021-present

Judge, Undergraduate Writing Contest, Dept. of English and Comparative Literature, spring 2021

Panelist, “How to Write the First Chapter of Your Dissertation,” DGS Workshop, spring 2021

Director, [Literature, Medicine, and Culture Colloquium,](http://lmcc.web.unc.edu/) 2016-2017; spring 2020-present

Graduate Research Consultant, English 250: Faulkner, spring 2020

Writing Coach, UNC-CH Writing Center, fall 2017

Research Assistant/Web Designer, Health and Humanities Lab at UNC-CH, 2015-2017

Kim-Frank Fellow, Wesleyan Writing Programs, 2014-2015

Writing Tutor, Wesleyan Center for Prison Education, 2013-2014

Writing Tutor, Wesleyan Writing Programs, 2012-2014

**Community Advocacy and Training**

Co-Chair, UNC Out of the Darkness Campus Walk, 2022

HAVEN: Helping Advocates for Violence Ending Now, 2020

Safe Zone: LGBTQIA+ Training, 2018

**Professional Memberships**

National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA)

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Modernist Studies Association (MSA)

American Studies Association (ASA)

American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)

Society for the Study of Multiethnic Literature (MELUS)

Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW)

Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA)

**Languages**

Reading knowledge of Spanish

**References**

Heidi Kim

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Director of the Asian American Center

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