

CURRICULUM VITAE

University of Idaho

NAME: Erin (Somerville) James

DATE: October 1, 2019

RANK OR TITLE: Associate Professor

DEPARTMENT: English

OFFICE LOCATION AND CAMPUS ZIP:

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DATE OF FIRST EMPLOYMENT AT UI: July 2012

DATE OF TENURE: July 2016

EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL:

Degrees:

Ph.D., Comparative Literature, University of Warwick, 2008; Diss: "Soul and Soil: Nature, Culture, and the Postcolonial Pastoral"

MA, Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures in English, University of Warwick, 2003

BAH, English, Acadia University, 2002

EXPERIENCE:

Teaching, Extension and Research Appointments:

Associate Professor, University of Idaho, 2016 – present

Assistant Professor, University of Idaho, 2012 – 2016

Assistant Professor, University of Nevada, Reno, 2008 – 2012

Instructor, University of Sheffield, 2008

Instructor, University of Warwick, 2006 – 2008

TEACHING ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Areas of Specialization: Narrative and narrative theory; environmental humanities; ecocriticism; postcolonial theory; global Anglophone literatures and cultures, especially African, Caribbean, and Black British

Courses Taught:

Associate Professor, University of Idaho

ENGL 175 – Introduction to Literary Genres, Spring 2016 (online), Spring 2017 (online)

ENGL 258 – Literature of Western Civilization, Part II, Spring 2012, Spring 2013

ENGL 310 – Introduction to Literary Theory, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2015, Spring 2018, Spring 2019

ENGL 322: Environmental Literatures and Cultures, Spring 2018

ENGL 485 – Global Anglophone Literatures, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2015, Fall 2017, Spring 2019

ENGL 490 – Senior Seminar, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018

ENGL 501 – Nixon Institute Seminar, Summer 2014, Summer 2016

ENGL 504 – Topics in Anglophone Literature, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2018

ENGL 511 – Studies in Literary Criticism, Fall 2016

IS 485 – Martin Scholars Senior Seminar, Fall 2014

Assistant Professor, University of Nevada, Reno

Core Humanities 202 – The Modern World, Fall 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011
Eng 298 – Writing About Literature, Fall 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011
Eng 425 – Topics in Anglophone Literature, Fall 2008
Eng 480 – Comparative Literature, Spring 2008
Eng 486A – Postcolonial Literature, Spring 2010 and 2011
Eng 724 – Topics in Literature, Spring 2010 and 2012
Eng 786 – Topics in Anglophone Literature, Fall 2010

Instructor, University of Sheffield

ACE 3045 – Reflections on Critical Theory, 2008

Instructor, University of Warwick

En 122 – Modes of Reading, 2006
En 123 – Literature in the Modern World, 2007 and 2008
Cs 133 – Professional Skills, 2007 and 2008
Px 376 – Communicating Science, 2007 and 2008

Students Advised:

Undergraduate Students:

Advised 11 students 2013-2017

Graduate Students:

Advised to completion of degree as major professor:

John MacPherson, 2019
Janire Sebastien, 2019
Kit Stokes, 2019
Joseph Perreault, 2018
Gabrielle Roglin, 2018
Jordan Clapper, 2017
Cody Brown, 2017
Sandra Mullen, 2016
Jennifer Steere, 2016
Megan Tribbley, 2015
Dustin Purvis, 2015
Vanessa Schmolke, 2015
Adam Benson, 2014
Katie Cooper, 2014
Megan Dodd, 2013

Served on graduate thesis committee:

Tara Howe, MFA, 2017 - 2018
Joseph Perrault, MFA, 2015 - 2016
Brett Miller, MSc, 2013 - 2015
Chrystal Graham, MA-Eng, 2013

Serving on PhD dissertation committee as externa reader:

David Rodriguez, Stony Brook University

Courses Developed (since arriving at the University of Idaho):

ENGL 258 – Literature of Western Civilization
Empire State of Mind, Spring 2013

ENGL 310 – Literary Theory, Spring 2013

ENGL 322 – Environmental Literatures and Cultures
Climate Change Fiction, Spring 2018

ENGL 485 – Global Anglophone Literatures
Nigerian Literature, Fall 2017
African Literature: From *Graceland* to *Graceland*, Fall 2013
Caribbean Literature: Roots, Rhythms, and Languages, Fall 2012

ENGL 490 – Senior Seminar
How to Tell a Story: Narratives and Narrative Theory, Spring 2016

ENGL 501 – Nixon Institute Seminar
“Is English We Speaking”: Language as Cultural Experience in African and Caribbean Literature, Summer 2014
Language and Environment, Summer 2016

ENGL 504 – Topics in Anglophone Literature
Climate Change Fiction, Fall 2018
Narrative Theory/Environments, Fall 2014
Caribbean Literature and the Environment, Fall 2013
The End of Postcolonial Theory?, Fall 2012

ENGL 511 – Studies in Literary Criticism
Narrative Theory, Fall 2016

IS 485 – Martin Scholars Senior Seminar
Environments Across Communities, Fall 2014

Non-credit Classes, Workshops, Seminars, Invited Lectures, etc.:

Chair, European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture, and the Environment International Postgraduate Workshop on “Ecocriticism and Narrative Form,” University of Giessen, December 9-10 (forthcoming)

Invited Lecture: “Narrative in the Anthropocene,” University of Giessen, December 9, 2019 (forthcoming)

Invited Lecture: “Narrative and the Anthropocene,” University of Wuppertal, November 14, 2018

Guest Lecture: “The Environmental Humanities.” EnvS400, University of Idaho, September 4, 2018

Invited Lecture: “Narrative and the Anthropocene,” University of Ghent, March 27, 2018

Guest Lecture: “African and Caribbean Literature,” AFST 101, University of Idaho, March 7, 2018

Invited Lecture: “Chimp Lit, Reader Empathy, and the Ethics of Narration.” Cal State Channel Islands (via Skype). October 26, 2015.

Guest Lecture: “Narrative Empathy,” ENGL 490, University of Idaho, Fall 2013, Spring 2018

Invited Lecture: “J.M. Coetzee’s *Disgrace*: Truth and Reconciliation in Post-Apartheid South Africa,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Reno, 2012

Invited Lecture: “Paul Simon’s *Graceland* and Postcolonial South Africa,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Reno, 2011

Invited Lecture: “Sam Selvon’s *The Lonely Londoners*,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Reno, 2011

Invited Lecture: “Caribbean Literature: Colonization and Calypso,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Reno, 2010

Invited Lecture: “What is African Literature?,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Reno, 2009

SCHOLARSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Publications:

Peer Reviewed and Refereed:

Environment and Narrative: New Directions in Econarratology. Co-edited with Eric Morel. Forthcoming, “Theory and Interpretation of Narrative” series, Ohio State University Press.

The Storyworld Accord: Econarratology and Postcolonial Narratives. University of Nebraska Press, 2015.

“Nonhuman Fictional Characters and the Empathy-Altruism Hypothesis.” *Poetics Today* 2019 40.3: 579-596.

“Ecocriticism and Narrative Theory” special issue of *English Studies* 99.4 (2018), co-edited with Eric Morel. Contains six original essays and introduction co-written with Morel.

“What the Plant Says: Plant Narrators and the Ecosocial Imaginary.” *The Language of Plants: Science, Philosophy, Literature, and Cinema.* Patricia Vieira, Monica Gagliano, and John Ryan, eds. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2017.

“Immersed in the Storyworld: Rotten English and Orality in Ken Saro-Wiwa’s *Sozaboy*.” *Journal of Narrative Theory.* 45.3 (Fall 2015).

“Teaching the Postcolonial Ecocritical Dialogue.” *Teaching Ecocriticism and Green Cultural Studies.* Greg Garrard, ed. Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. 60 – 71.

“Bioregionalism, Postcolonial Literatures and Ben Okri’s *The Famished Road*.” *The Bioregional Imagination: Literature, Ecology, Place.* Karla Armbruster, Cheryll Glotfelty, and Tom Lynch, eds. University of Georgia Press, 2012. 261 – 77.

“Doomed Kyoto: Language, Environment and National Interests,” *Journal for Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies.* 14.2 (Spring 2007): 83 – 100.

Other:

Book Reviews:

Affective Ecologies: Empathy, Emotion, and Environmental Narrative. Alexa Weik von Mossner. *ISLE* (forthcoming)

EnvironMentality: Ecocriticism and the Event of Postcolonial Fiction. Roman Bartosch. *Environmental Values.* 24.6 (2015): 825-827.

The Power of Narrative in Environmental Networks. Raul Lejano, Merrill Ingram, and Helen Ingram. *ISLE* 21.2 (Spring 2014): 493-5.

Myths of Wilderness in Contemporary Narratives: Environmental Postcolonialism in Australia and Canada. Kylie Crane. *ISLE*. 20.4 (2013): 902-4.

Postcolonial Ecologies: Literatures of the Environment. Elizabeth DeLoughrey and George B. Handley, eds. *Comparative Literature Studies*. 50.1 (2013): 172 – 5.

Postcolonial Green: Environmental Politics and World Narratives. Bonnie Roos and Alex Hunt, eds. *ISLE*. 18.4 (2011): 891 – 3.

Postcolonial Ecocriticism. Graham Huggan and Helen Tiffin. *Green Letters* 13 (2010). 112 – 3.

Romantic Ecologies and Colonial Cultures in the British-Atlantic World, 1770-1850. Kevin Hutchings. *ISLE* 17.4 (2010): 824 – 6.

Caribbean Literature and the Environment: Between Nature and Culture. Elizabeth DeLoughrey, Renée K. Gosson and George B. Handley, eds. *ISLE* 13.2 (2006): 295 – 6.

Book Chapters:

““A Part of it All: the Necessity of Gaia in Sam Selvon’s Pastoral Writing.” David Dabydeen and Letizia Gramaglia, eds. *Coral Identities: New Essays in Indo-Caribbean Literature*. Leeds: Peepal Tree Press, 2014.

Encyclopaedia Entries:

The Oxford Companion to Black British History. David Dabydeen, John Gilmore, and Cecily Jones, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. Includes the following entries written by Erin Somerville: Sam Selvon, C.L.R. James, Robert Wedderburn, Sir John Hawkins, Edward Jenkins, Thomas Day, Soubis, *Robinson Crusoe*, Notting Hill Carnival, Colonial and Indian Exhibition, Great Exhibition, Royal Africa Company, Slave Ship Zong, Race and London Transport, and Banking, Insurance and Colonial Trade.

Edited Collections:

Green Letters 9 (2008). Co-edited with John Miller. Includes introduction by editors.

Painted Love: The Literature of Interracial Love and Sex. Co-edited by David Dabydeen and Benjamin Zephaniah, with Michael Niblett, Jonathan Morley, and Erin Somerville. Coventry: Derek Walcott Press, May 2008. Includes introductions by editors.

“*What is the Earthly Paradise?*”: *Ecocritical Responses to the Caribbean*. Co-edited with Chris Campbell. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2007. Includes chapters “The Sinking Ship’: Environmentality and the Caribbean” (Erin Somerville and Chris Campbell), “The Problem with Culture: Sam Selvon and the Postcolonial Pastoral” (Erin Somerville) and “Eco, Feminism: Indo-Caribbean Women and Nature” (Erin Somerville and Letizia Gramaglia).

Work in Progress:

Monograph:

Narrative in the Anthropocene. Under contract with Ohio State University Press.

Professional Meeting Papers (selected):

Keynote Speaker, International Workshop: Ecocritical Life Writing in the Dystopic Present. University of Augsburg, Germany. December 5-6, 2019. Forthcoming.

“Reading Narrative Environments in the Digital Age.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. University of California Davis, Davis, CA, June 27-30, 2019.

Contemporary Narrative Theory Keynote Speaker. The International Society for the Study of Narrative, University of Navarra, Spain, June 6-8, 2019. Forthcoming.

“The Potentials and Pitfalls of Climate Change.” The Apocalyptic Dimensions of Climate Change and Fluctuating Environments in Scientific Models and Cultural Discourse. RWTH Aachen University, Germany, 2018.

“Narrative in the Anthropocene.” Environmental Humanities Symposium, University of Utah, 2018.

“Fuzzy Spatialization in the Anthropocene.” The International Society for the Study of Narrative, McGill University, Montreal, QC, 2018.

“How Do ‘We’ Narrate the Anthropocene?” Modern Language Association. New York, NY, 2018.

“Water Narratives in the Anthropocene.” Water and Human Settlements: UC Celebrates Water Week, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, 2017.

“Notes from Underground: Categorizing Subterranean Narrative Space.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, 2017.

“Notes from Underground: Exploring Anthropocenic Narratology.” The International Society for the Study of Narrative, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, 2017.

“Narrative in the Anthropocene.” The World in 2050: Creating/Imagining Just Climate Futures. University of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, 2016.

“Narrative in the Anthropocene.” The International Society for the Study of Narrative, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, 2016.

“The Anthropocene in Narrative, the Narrative in the Anthropocene.” The Future of the Environmental Humanities: Art, Thought, and Action in the Anthropocene, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT. 2015.

“Chimp Lit, Reader Empathy, and the Ethics of Narration.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, 2015.

“Green Reading: Narrative Theory, Material Ecocriticism, and Plant Narrators.” International Society for the Study of Narrative, MIT, Cambridge, MA, 2014.

“Empathy, Environmentalism, and Narrative Storyworlds.” The Future of the Environmental Humanities, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 2013.

“Ecocriticism and Narrative Storyworlds.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KA, 2013.

“The Current Boundaries of Ecocritical Thought.” Border/Lands: An Interdisciplinary Ecocriticism Conference, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, 2013.

“Travelling the Famished Road: The Storyworld and Postcolonial Narratives.” International Society for the Study of Narrative, Las Vegas, NV, 2012.

“Postcolonial Ecocriticism and the Storyworld.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Indiana

University, Bloomington, IN, 2011.

“What is Real Here?: Bioregionalism, Magic Realism and the Global Environmental Crisis.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, 2009.

“Reading the Environment in Ken Saro-Wiwa's Rotten English.” Beyond Environmentalism: Culture, Justice, and Global Ecologies, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA, 2009.

“We *Do* Work in Africa: Ecocriticism and Ken Saro-Wiwa's Rhetoric of Protection.” Junior Faculty Research Colloquium, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV, 2009.

Grants and Contracts Awarded:

CLASS Travel Grant, University of Idaho, 2019, \$750

Co-founder, with Teresa Cavazos Cohn and Jennifer Ladino. The Confluence Lab, University of Idaho, 2018.
Start-up funds provided by the following: English Department, History Department, Music Department, Philosophy and Political Science Department, Pacific Northwest Studies, College of Natural Resources, Office of Research and Economic Development

CLASS Summer Research Grant, University of Idaho, 2018, \$2494

Senior Researcher, Decolonizing Space and Time: Tribal Water Quality Governance. NSF Geography and Spatial Sciences \$350,007. Co-PIs: Teresa Cavazos Cohn, Kate Berry, Kyle Whyte.

Seed Grant, University of Idaho, 2014, \$12,000

Summer Faculty Research Stipend, University of Idaho, 2012, \$5000

Junior Faculty Summer Research/Artistry Small Grant Program, University of Nevada, Reno, 2010, 2011

Junior Faculty Research Grant, University of Nevada, Reno, 2009

Honors and Awards (selected):

Mid-Career Award, University of Idaho, 2019-2021

Center for Digital Inquiry and Learning Fellow, University of Idaho, 2019

Teaching Excellence Award, University of Idaho, 2016/7

Finalist, Best Ecocriticism Book Award, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, 2017

Alumni Award for Excellence, University of Idaho, 2016

Perkins Prize for Best Book of 2015, International Society for the Study of Narrative, 2016

Best English Graduate Seminar Award, University of Nevada, Reno, 2012

Lakshmi Persaud Fellowship, University of Warwick, 2005, 2006

Kathy Dent Fellowship, University of Warwick, 2006

Canadian Centennial Scholarship Fund, Canadian Women's Club, 2006

HRC Doctoral Fellowship, University of Warwick, 2005

SERVICE:

Major Service Assignments:

University of Idaho, Department of English:

Director, MA-English, 2014 – present

Executive Committee, 2014 – present

Curriculum Committee, 2012 – 2018

Chair, Ecocriticism Reading Group, 2012 – present

Search Committee, Pre-1900 American Literature, 2016 – 2017

Search Committee, Nineteenth-Century British Literature, 2014 – 2015

Search Committee, Director of Creative Writing, 2014

Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2013 – 2014

University of Idaho, College of Liberal Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences:

Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2013 – 2014

Search Committee Member, Director of James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research, 2012 – 2013

University of Idaho

Sabbatical and Leave Evaluation Committee 2015 – 2018 (Chair 2017-8)

Faculty Sponsor, University of Idaho Running Club 2016 – 2018

Ubuntu, 2014 – 2017 (Chair 2015-6)

Rhodes Scholarship Committee, 2013

Floor Marshal, University Commencement, 2013 – 2014

University of Nevada, Reno, Department of English:

Graduate Committee, 2011 – 2012

Late Nineteenth- and/or Early Twentieth-Century American Literature Search Committee, 2011 – 2012

Literature Committee, 2010 – 2011

Literature and Environment Committee, 2008 – 2012

Transatlantic Postdoctoral Fellow Search Committee, 2011

Twentieth-Century British/Postcolonial Literature Search Committee, 2009 – 2010

University of Nevada, Reno, College of Liberal Arts:

Diversity Task Force, 2010 – 2012

Ethnic Studies Committee, 2009 – 2012

Gender, Race, and Identity Program Faculty Associate, 2008 – 2012

University of Warwick:

Student Representative, Centre for Caribbean Studies, 2005 – 2008

Professional and Scholarly Organizations

Sustainability Committee, International Society for Study of Narrative, 2019 – present

Best Ecocritical Book Award Judge, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, 2019

Perkins Prize for Best Book in Narrative Theory Judge, International Society for the Study of Narrative, 2018

Manuscript Reviewer, incl. MIT Press, Bloomsbury Academic, Routledge, U of Edinburgh P, 2017 - present

Futures of the Conference Committee, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, 2017 – present

Travel Awards Committee, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, 2017 – present

Mentoring Program Co-coordinator, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, 2014 – present

Conference Site Host, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, 2013 – present

Assistant Editor, *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, 2013 – 2016

Postgraduate Coordinator, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment: UK, 2006 – 2008

Editorial Board, *Green Letters*, 2008

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, 2008 – present

International Society for the Study of Narrative, 2012 – present