

Mark Christian Thompson
Curriculum Vitae

Professor and Chair of English
Johns Hopkins University
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14 Gilman Hall
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Email: mcthompson@jhu.edu

EXPERIENCE:

Chair of English, Johns Hopkins University, 7/2018-present
Professor of English, Johns Hopkins University, 6/2016-present
Associate Professor of English, Johns Hopkins University, 1/2010-5/2016
Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 9/2007-12/2009
Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature, the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 9/2001-8/2007

EDUCATION:

New York University, 1996 - 2001
Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, September 2001
M.A. in Comparative Literature May 1998
B.A. University of Virginia, 1988-1993, in The History of Art

PUBLICATIONS:

BOOKS:

Anti-Music: Jazz and Racial Blackness in German Thought Between the Wars. Albany, NY: The State University of New York Press, June 2018. **Paperback:** January 2019.

Kafka's Blues: Figurations of Racial Blackness in the Construction of an Aesthetic. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, June 2016.

Black Fascisms: African-American Literature and Culture Between the Wars. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, December 2007.

ESSAYS, CHAPTERS and REVIEWS:

“Richard Wright and Fascism.” Forthcoming in the Cambridge University Press volume, *Richard Wright in Context*.

“What Will Be African-American Literature?” *American Literary History* (Winter 2013) 25 (4): 958-966.

“The Negro Who Disappeared: Race in Kafka’s *Amerika*.” *Violence, Aesthetics, Culture: Germany, 1789-1938*. Eds. Carl Niekerk and Stefani Engelstein. Amsterdam/ New York: Rodopi, 2011. 183-198.

“Aesthetic Hygiene: W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, and the Work of Art.” *The Blackwell Companion to African American Literature*. Ed. Gene Jarrett. New York: Blackwell, 2010. 244-253.

“A Response to Xiomara Santamarina.” *American Literary History* 20.1-2 (Spring-Summer 2008): 317-320.

“Voodoo Fascism: Fascist Ideology in Arna Bontemps’ *Drums at Dusk*.” *MELUS* 30.3 (Fall 2005): 155-178.

“National Socialism and Blood-Sacrifice in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Moses, Man of the Mountain*.” *African American Review* 38.3 (2004): 395-415.

“The God of Love: Fascism in George S. Schuyler’s *Black Empire*.” *CLA Journal* 48.2 (Dec. 2004): 183-99.

“Hamid, Sufi Abdul,” *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance*. 2 vols. Eds. Cary D. Wintz and Paul Finkelman. New York: Routledge, 2004. 459-460.

PAPERS AND CONFERENCES:

“The Jazz Paradox: Race and Totalitarian Politics,” Invited Lecture, Emory University, Department of German, Atlanta, 11/18.

“The Way Out: The Slave Narrative in Kafka’s *Ein Bericht für eine Akademie*,” Invited Lecture, New York University, Prague, 3/14.

“Ape Autobiography: On Kafka’s *Ein Bericht für eine Akademie* as a Slave Narrative,” Invited Lecture, Symposium: “Blackness, Germany, and the Concept of Race,” UCLA, 4/12.

“Being Beloved: Morrison, Heidegger, and Black Anti-Humanism,” Invited Lecture, Americanist Colloquium Series, Yale University, 12/09.

“The Apostles of Beauty: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Aesthetics of Double Consciousness,” Invited Lecture, Brown University, 01/09.

“The Apostles of Beauty: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Aesthetics of Double Consciousness,” Invited Lecture, The Johns Hopkins University, 01/09.

“The Critique of Nonviolence: Benjamin, Martin Luther King, Jr, and Sovereignty,” Invited Lecture, Brown University, 08/08.

“The Critique of Nonviolence: Benjamin, Martin Luther King, Jr, and Sovereignty,” Invited Lecture, The Institute for American Studies, Rome, Italy, 04/08.

“Jazz: The Music of Fascism: On Adorno and His Negroes,” Friedrich-Alexander University, Invited Lecture, Erlangen, Germany, 03/08.

“The Black Arts and Black Neofascism,” Invited Lecture, The University of California, Santa Barbara, 01/07.

“The Sun Also Races: Hemingway’s Blackness,” Invited Lecture, The University of California, Irvine, 12/06.

“Performing Revolution: The Black Aesthetic as Insurgence,” Invited Panelist, New Directions in African American Theory and Criticism Conference, Indiana University, 04/06

“Black Fascisms,” States of Welfare: A Mellon Foundation Conference, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 03/06

"The Negro Who Disappeared: Race in Kafka's Amerika," Violence in German Literature, Culture and Intellectual History, 1789-1938, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 10/05

"The Negro Who Disappeared: Race in Kafka's Amerika," Die Fruchtbringende Gesellschaft, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 02/05

“Jazz: The Music of Fascism: On Adorno and His Negroes,” Invited Panelist, The Frankfurt School Today, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 04/04

“Jealous Rebels: Fascism in The Outsider, Invited Panelist, New Directions in African American Theory and Criticism Conference, Indiana University, 04/04

“The Myth of Marcus Garvey.” Invited Speaker, Harvard University, 01/04

“The Sufi.” Invited Speaker, Vassar College, 01/04

“My Own Private Ethiopia: Ethiopianism and Classical Black Nationalism in *The Souls of Black Folk*.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, 12/03

“The Possessed Island: African-American Cultural Appropriations of Post-Occupation Haiti.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, 11/03

“In Turban and Gorgeous Robe”: Claude McKay, Black Labor and Fascism in 1930s Harlem.” American Studies Association Annual Conference, Hartford, CT, 10/03

“The Myth of Marcus Garvey: Marcus Mosiah Garvey, the Universal Negro Improvement Association and Fascist Ideology.” New Directions in African American Theory, Criticism and Cultural Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 4/03

“The God of Love: Fascism and Melodrama in George S. Schuyler’s *Black Empire*.” Guest Speaker, University of California, Los Angeles, 2/03

“Distant Drums: Voodoo, Fascism and Haitian Revolution in Arna Bontemps, *Drums at Dusk*.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association Annual Conference, 11/02

“The Death Continent: Blood-Sacrifice and Authoritarian Rule in D.H. Lawrence’s *The Plumed Serpent*.” Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Annual Conference, 10/02

“Killing Coons: The Scapegoating of African America in Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises*, and Ellison’s *Invisible Man*.” Guest Speaker, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2/01

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS:

Fulbright Fellowship, Charles University, Prague, CZ, Spring 2008.

Incomplete List of Instructors Ranked as Excellent by Their Students, Fall 2001 thru Spring 2006

Runner-Up for *African American Review*'s Joe Weixlmann Award for Outstanding Essay, 2004-5

Mellon Foundation Fellowship Award, Spring 2004

Humanities Released Time Grant, Fall 2004

New England Board of Higher Education Minority Scholar in-Residence Dissertation Fellowship, University of New Hampshire, 2000-2001

New York University-Freie Universität zu Berlin Summer Dissertation Research Grant, Freie Universität zu Berlin, 2000

Finalist, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, Jahresstipendium, New York University, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, 1998

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:

19th- and 20th-Century African-American and American literature and culture; political theory; critical theory.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Courses have included: Philosophy of Race; Survey of African-American Literature; African-American Literature and Philosophy; Introduction to Literary Studies; The Literature of

American Ethnic and Racial Minorities; The Body and Visual Culture; Kafka; Decadence; Transnationalism in African-American Literature and Culture; Critical Approaches to Literature; Neo-Slave Narratives; Literature and Society: Postmodernism; African-American Literature, 1914-Present; American Literature, 1865-Present; The Bible as Literature; The Frankfurt School; Race and the Enlightenment.

ACADEMIC SERVICE:

Department Chair, Johns Hopkins English, 2018-present
Director of Graduate Studies, Johns Hopkins English, 2012-2015, 2016-2017
Search Committee for the Kurrelmeyer Chair, 2017-2018
Search Committee for Africana Studies New Faculty Hire, 2015-2016
Graduate Student Placement Officer, 2015-2016
Search Committee for the New Dean, 2014-2015
Ad Hoc Committee for Tenure and Promotion, 2014, 2015
Referee, Oxford University Press, University of Virginia Press, University of Illinois Press, *ELH*, *PMLA*, *African American Review*, etc.
Faculty Advisory Committee, Department of English, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2003-2004
Faculty Advisory Committee, Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2003-2004
Organizer, New Directions in African American Theory, Criticism and Cultural Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2003
Organizer, Faculty Reading Group for the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory
Graduate Admissions, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2002-03
Chair, ENGL 247, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2002-03
Search Committee for the Hire of an Assistant Professor of English and Afro-American Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2001-02
Library Committee, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2001-02
Graduate Assistant, Department of Comparative Literature, New York University, 1998-1999
Research Assistant, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, New York University, 1997

LANGUAGES:

Near-Native German; Excellent spoken, written French; Italian for reading; Basic Czech