

ERICH NUNN

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Department of English, Auburn University

Associate Professor, 2015 – present
Faculty Affiliate in Africana Studies and Women's Studies
Assistant Professor, 2009 – 2015

Department of English and Fine Arts, United States Air Force Academy

Distinguished Visiting Professor, Fall 2020 – Spring 2022

EDUCATION

Ph. D. University of Virginia, English Language and Literature
M.A. University of Florida, English
B.A. Centenary College of Louisiana, Cultural Studies

HONORS AND AWARDS

External awards

Lillian Gary Taylor Fellowship in American Literature. Harrison Institute. University of Virginia.
Summer 2022.
Mortar Board Excellence in Teaching Award. February 2018.
Honorable Mention. C. Hugh Holman Award for best book in southern literary studies. Society for the
Study of Southern Literature. 2016.
Certificate of Merit for Best Historical Research on General Recording Topics. Association for Recorded
Sound Collections. 2016.
Postdoctoral Fellowship. Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University,
Fall 2012 – Spring 2013.
Jerome Stern Award for most outstanding article published in *Studies in American Culture*.
American Culture Association in the South. 2012.
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Research Fellowship. Harry Ransom Center. University of Texas at Austin.
Summer 2010.
Lillian Gary Taylor Visiting Fellowship in American Literature. Harrison Institute. University of Virginia.
Summer 2010.
Appalachian Sound Archives Fellowship. Berea College. Summer 2009.
Formby Research Fellowship. Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library.
Texas Tech University. Summer 2008.

University, College, and Departmental awards

English Department Support for Research. Summer 2022.
Provost-Funded Professional Improvement Leave. Fall 2019.
Recognition and Development Committee Summer Fellowship. Department of English, Auburn University.
Summer 2018.

Research Incentive Committee Summer Fellowship. Department of English, Auburn University. Summer 2016.

Excellence in Research Award. Department of English, Auburn University. April 2016.

Research Incentive Committee Travel Grant. Department of English, Auburn University. Fall 2014.

College of Liberal Arts Competitive Research Grant. Auburn University. Summer 2014.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Men, Women, and Beasts. Monograph in progress.

Speculative Souths. Edited collection in progress. Co-edited with Amy Clukey.

Sounding the Color Line: Music and Race in the Southern Imagination. University of Georgia Press. 2015.

Articles

“Songs of the South: Southern Music.” Co-written with William C. Palmer. In *The Routledge History of the American South*. Routledge. 2018. 140-150.

“‘A great addition to their harmony’: Plantation Slavery and Musical Exchange in Seventeenth-Century Barbados.” *The Global South* 10:2 (Fall 2016): 27-47.

“Folk.” In *Keywords for Southern Studies*. Ed. Jennifer Rae Greeson and Scott Romine. University of Georgia Press. 2016. 189-199.

“Screening the Twenty-First Century South.” *PMLA* 131.1 (January 2016): 187-190.

“American Balladry and the Anxiety of Ancestry.” In *Transatlantic Roots Music: Folk, Blues, and National Identities*. Ed. Jill Terry and Neil A. Wynn. University Press of Mississippi. 2012. 57-76.

“A Connecticut Yankee in Dixie: Mark Twain’s Reconstruction.” *The Mark Twain Annual* 9.1 (Fall 2011): 20-30.

“‘He Ain’t Wrong, He’s Just Different’: Willie Nelson’s Queer Outlaws.” *Studies in American Culture* 34.1 (Fall 2011): 87-102.

“Country Music and the Souls of White Folk.” *Criticism: A Quarterly for Literature and the Arts* 51.4 (Fall 2009): 623-649.

“‘Dont play no blues’: Race, Music, and Mourning in Faulkner’s *Sanctuary*.” *The Faulkner Journal* 24.2 (Spring 2009): 77-98.

Other Publications

Entries on Rufus “Tee Tot” Payne and William Thomas (Buckwheat). *African American National Biography*. Ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Evelyn Higginbotham. Oxford University Press, 2008.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Invited talks

“On the Internet NøEveryone Knows You’re a Possum.” United States Air Force Academy. October 2020.

“Music in Cabbagetown: Past, Present, and Future.” Music in Common Salon. The Patch Works Art & History Center. Atlanta. August 2019.

“Popular Music, Gentrification, and the Future of Atlanta’s Cabbagetown.” Center for the Study of the American South. University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. May 2019.

“Hip-hop, Gentrification, and the Future of Cabbagetown.” The Patch Works Art & History Center. Atlanta. October 2018.

“GPB The Great American Read Event.” Roundtable participant. Atlanta History Center. August 2018.

“Plantation Modernity: A Global South Symposium.” Plenary panelist. Clemson University. October 2017.

“Confederate Memorials: De-Mythologizing the Iconography of the South.” Plenary panelist. Margaret Mitchell House/Atlanta History Center. Atlanta. September 2017.

- “Popular Music and the Politics of Interracial Friendship.” *Black/White Intimacies: Reimagining History, the South, and the Western Hemisphere*. University of Alabama. April 2017.
- “The South Today.” Plenary panelist. University of Louisville. March 2017.
- “Roll Me Up and Smoke Me: Willie Nelson, Snoop Dogg, and the Politics of Interracial Friendship.” Keynote address. Southern Writers/Southern Writing Graduate Conference. University of Mississippi. July 2016.
- “Sounding the Color Line.” University of Kentucky. February 2016.
- “Music and Race in the South.” Panelist. AJC Decatur Book Festival. Decatur, GA. September 2015.
- “Look at my shit’: *Spring Breakers*’ Disposable South.” Georgia State University. April 2014.
- “Hillbilly Records, Zulu Yodels, and the Sounds of a Global South.” The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry. Emory University. Video in *Southern Spaces*, March 26, 2013. “Faulkner’s *Sanctuary*: Race, Music, and the Archive.” Harrison Institute, University of Virginia. July 2010.

Conference presentations

- “Birth of an Ape Man: *Tarzan*’s Plantation Imaginary.” Modernist Studies Association. Portland, OR. October 2022.
- “South to Alaska: Country Music’s Arctic Imaginary.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Atlanta. June 2022.
- “Keywords on *Hillbilly Elegy*.” Roundtable participant. Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Fayetteville, AR. April 2020. (Cancelled due to COVID-19).
- “After the New Southern Studies.” Modern Language Association. Seattle. January 2020.
- “Urban/Suburban Anti-Nostalgia.” Roundtable participant. American Studies Association. Honolulu. November 2019.
- “On the Internet No One Knows You’re a Possum.” Southeastern American Studies Association. Atlanta. March 2019.
- “Teaching *Atlanta*.” Roundtable participant. Atlanta Studies Symposium. Atlanta. April 2018.
- “A Confederacy of Douchebags.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Austin. February 2018.
- “Plantation Modernism.” Roundtable participant. Modernist Studies Association. Amsterdam. August 2017.
- “Willie, Whiskey, Weed.” Southern American Studies Association. Williamsburg, VA. March 2017.
- “Doing American Studies in Red State America.” Roundtable participant. American Studies Association. Denver. November 2016.
- “‘A great addition to their harmony’: Plantation Slavery and Musical Exchange in Seventeenth- Century Barbados.” West Indian Literature Conference. Montego Bay, Jamaica. October 2016.
- “The Cultural Logic of *Monday Night Football*.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Atlanta. March 2016.
- “Queer Affinities and Metamodern Sounds.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Boston. March 2016.
- “Plantation Modernity.” Roundtable participant. Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Boston. March 2016.
- “Futures in Southern Studies.” Roundtable participant. Modern Language Association. Austin, TX. January 2016.
- “*A Confederacy of Dunces*’ Queer New Orleans.” American Literature Association Symposium on the City and American Literature. New Orleans, LA. September 2015.
- “Reconstructing *Gone with the Wind*.” Roundtable participant and chair. Southern American Studies Association. Atlanta, GA. February 2015.
- “The Ratchet of the Earth: Global Teen Pop and Dirty South Minstrelsy.” *The South in the North*. Vancouver, BC. January 2015.

- “Not a Georgia song’: John Lomax and the Limits of ‘Folk.’” South Central Modern Language Association. Austin, TX. October 2014.
- “Future Souths: A Roundtable of Emerging Voices.” Roundtable participant. Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Arlington, VA. March 2014.
- “Minstrelsy and Mountain Ballads.” Society for American Music. Lancaster, PA. March 2014.
- “Teaching Racist Texts: Pedagogical Challenges.” Roundtable participant. Modern Language Association. Chicago, IL. January 2014.
- “Alan Lomax and the Romance of the Color Line.” The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900. University of Louisville. February 2013.
- “Yodeling Across the Transnational Color Line.” Southern Sounds/Out of Bounds: Music and the Global American South. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. February 2013.
- “The Puerto Vallarta ‘Postcolonial Theory, the U.S. South, and New World Studies’ Conference at Ten.” Roundtable participant. American Studies Association. San Juan, PR. November 2012.

Chaired sessions

- “Urban Ecologies.” Modernist Studies Association. Portland, OR. October 2022.
- “Resisting Barnum: Sensation and Embodiment at the American Museum, 1841-1865.” American Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico. October 2021. (Moved online due to COVID-19.)
- “Ecological Catastrophe and the American Plantation Imaginary.” American Studies Association. Atlanta. November 2018.
- “Speculative Souths.” Seminar (co-organized with Amy Clukey). Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present. New Orleans. October 2018.
- “Sexual Properties.” Faulkner and Slavery. Oxford, MS. July 2018.
- “Speculative Souths.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Austin. February 2018.
- “Atlantans on *Atlanta*.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Atlanta. November 2017.
- “Jazz and Black Arts Modernism.” Modernist Studies Association. Las Vegas. October 2012.
- “Shades of Whiteness: Irish National and Ethnic Attitudes on Race.” Ireland and African America. Clinton Institute for American Studies, University College Dublin. March 2012.

Seminars, Institutes, and Symposia

- “Expanding the Narrative: Symposium on Early American Music.” Invited participant. University of Virginia. August 2020.
- “Rethinking Race and Place After the New Southern Studies.” After the New Southern Studies Symposium. Vancouver. January 2020.
- NEH Summer Institute, “Privilege and Prejudice: Jewish History in the American South,” College of Charleston, Summer 2019.
- NEH Summer Institute, “Ernest J. Gaines and the Southern Experience,” University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Summer 2016.

Other presentations

- “New Approaches to *Gone with the Wind*.” Moderator/respondent. Margaret Mitchell House and Museum. Atlanta. December 2015.
- Film screening and public discussion of *Smokey and the Bandit*. American Transport Film Series. Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. Auburn University. April 2015.
- Film screening and public discussion of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*. Southern Outsiders Film Series. Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. Auburn University. March 2011.

COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate Seminars, Auburn University

- “Global American Studies.” Graduate seminar in American Studies.
- “Speculative Souths.” Graduate seminar in American literature.
- “The New Southern Studies.” Graduate seminar in American Studies.
- “Southern Sexualities.” Graduate seminar in American Studies.
- “Music and American Cultural Studies.” Graduate seminar in American Studies.
- “The 1970s.” Graduate seminar in American Studies.
- “Sex and the New Southern Studies.” Graduate seminar in American Studies.
- “Fictions of the Color Line.” Graduate seminar in American literature.

Undergraduate Seminars, Auburn University

- “The 1970s.” Seminar in American literature and film.
- “Men, Women, and Beasts.” Seminar in film studies.
- “The Contemporary South.” Seminar in American literature and culture.
- “Speculative Souths.” Seminar in American Studies.
- “American Captivity.” Seminar in film studies.
- “Queer Souths.” Seminar in American Studies.
- “Whiteness and American Culture.” Capstone seminar in American literature.
- “The Twenty-First-Century South.” Seminar in American Studies.
- “Twentieth-Century American Short Fiction.” Seminar in American literature.
- “Survey of Critical Theory.” Seminar in literary and critical theory.
- “Racial Science Fictions.” Seminar in African American literature.
- “Music and African American Literature.” Seminar in African American literature and culture.
- “Southern Literature: The Country and the City.” Seminar in American literature.
- “Realism and Its Discontents.” Seminar in American literature.

Undergraduate Surveys and Core Courses, Auburn University

- “African American Literature since 1900.” Survey of African American Literature.
- “American Literature: Beginnings to 1865.” Survey of American literature. Multiple sections.
- “American Literature since 1865.” Survey of American literature. Multiple sections.

Other Teaching

- “Men, Women, and Beasts.” Undergraduate seminar in film and literature. United States Air Force Academy.
- “Race and American Music.” Undergraduate seminar in Fine Arts. United States Air Force Academy.
- “Literature of Encounter: Humans, Animals, and Others.” Undergraduate seminar in literature. United States Air Force Academy.
- “Fantastic Encounters.” Undergraduate seminar in literature. United States Air Force Academy.
- Great Works Seminar on *Gone with the Wind*. Emory University.
- “Race and American Music.” Seminar in American Studies. Emory University.

TEACHING INTERESTS

American studies, southern studies, popular music, nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature, African American literature and culture, American modernism, literary and cultural theory

ADVISING

Ph.D. exam/dissertation committees, Auburn University

David Vinson. Committee member. Dissertation: "Transatlantic Nationalisms and Parallel Performances: Afterlife Texts of the Revolutionary Era." Defended November 2019.

Michael Frazer. Committee member. Dissertation: "Crossing Over: Interactions with(in) the Permeable Screen." Defended March 2017.

Kirsten Iden. Committee member. Dissertation: "The Materiality of Mastery: Eliza Lucas Pinckney and the Production of Plantation Culture in the Eighteenth-Century South." Defended December 2016.

Jessica Sims. Committee member. Dissertation: "Nineteenth-Century Southern Fictions of Reproduction." Defended April 2015.

Virginia Grant. Committee member. Dissertation: "Flannery O'Connor and Mid-Century America." Defended October 2014.

Thesis/Portfolio committees, Auburn University

M.A. Portfolios/Theses:

Matthew Thomas. Portfolio defended April 2021.

Kerri Green. Portfolio defended April 2020.

Laura Mulqueen. Portfolio defended April 2020.

Andrew Wells. Portfolio defended April 2020.

Angela Winsor. Portfolio defended March 2020.

Leslie Rewis. Chair/major professor. Portfolio defended March 2018.

Trivius Caldwell. Chair/major professor. Portfolio defended April 2016.

William Palmer. Chair/major professor. Portfolio defended April 2016.

Emma Kinsey. Committee member. Portfolio defended April 2016.

Andrew Arick. Committee member. Portfolio defended April 2015.

Jessica Walker. Committee member. Portfolio defended April 2015.

Ryan Charlton. Chair/major professor. Portfolio defended April 2012.

Benjamin Arnberg. Committee member. Portfolio defended April 2011.

Benjamin Doty. "Beyond Alterity: Narrative Ethics in Faulkner and Agee." Committee member. Thesis defended April 2010.

B.A. Honors Theses:

Timothy Collier. "'So yo then man what's your story': The Narrative Ethics of David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest*," Director/major professor. Thesis defended April 2016.

Thomas Pennington. "Nancy Cunard and the Sexual Politics of Race," Director/major professor. Thesis defended April 2011.

SERVICE

Professional Service

Juror, Atlanta Writers Club Townsend Prize for Fiction, Spring 2023.

Planning Committee, Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference. Spring 2021 – Spring 2022.

Editorial Advisory Board, *The Southern Quarterly: A Journal of Arts & Letters in the South*. Spring 2020 – present.

Executive Committee, Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Spring 2018 – Spring 2022; Chair, Presidential Search Committee, Spring 2019.

Manuscript reviewer for University of Mississippi Press (2019), University of Alabama Press (2017), University of Massachusetts Press (2016), Louisiana State University Press (2014), and Routledge (2013).

Manuscript reviewer for *Humanities* (2022), *Massachusetts Historical Review* (2021), *Southern Quarterly* (2020), *Religion and Literature* (2015), *Mississippi Quarterly* (2014), *Journal of American Studies* (2014), *Genre: Forms of Discourse and Culture* (2012), and *Studies in American Culture* (2011).

Departmental and College Service, Auburn University

Reviewer. College of Liberal Arts Grant Applications. Spring 2021.

Assistant Chair. Spring 2018 – Spring 2020; Chair, postdoctoral teaching fellows search committee, Spring 2019, Spring 2020.

Vision and Steering Committee. Spring 2018 – Spring 2020.

Graduate Studies Committee. Fall 2017 – Spring 2018; Fall 2010 – Spring 2012.

Undergraduate Studies Committee. Fall 2014 – Spring 2016.

Ad Hoc Web Site Committee. Spring 2014.

Core Curriculum Committee. Fall 2013 – Spring 2015.

Job Placement Committee. Fall 2011 – Spring 2012.

Ad Hoc Committee on Governance. Fall 2010.

Departmental and College Service, United States Air Force Academy

Coordinator, American Studies Minor. Fall 2021 – Spring 2022.

Faculty Senate Special Committee on Tenure. Fall 2021 – Spring 2022.

Graduate School Program Committee. Fall 2021 – Spring 2022.

Executive Committee. Department of English and Fine Arts (DFENG). Fall 2020 – Spring 2022.

Curriculum Committee. DFENG. Fall 2020 – Spring 2022.

Community Service

Working group on Cyclorama exhibit (invited participant). Atlanta History Center. December 2017 – May 2018.

Cabbagetown (Atlanta) Initiative Community Development Corporation. Vice President, June 2015 – October 2015. Member, Board of Directors. June 2014 – June 2015.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Studies Association, Modern Language Association, Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Society for the Study of Southern Literature