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EDUCATION

- 2006 Ph.D., English Language and Literature, The University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK.
1987 M.A., Humanities, emphasis in and certificate awarded in Women's Studies,
Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA.
1977 B.A., Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

DISSERTATION

The Uncanny as "Home": Doris Lessing, Toni Morrison, Keri Hulme, and Sheri Reynolds
Director: Holly A. Laird; **Readers:** Gordon Taylor, Lars Engle.

In this dissertation I examine contemporary novels by women of diverse backgrounds by positioning them both within and against Freud's 1919 essay "The 'Uncanny.'" Specifically, I focus on Doris Lessing's *The Memoirs of a Survivor*, Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*, Keri Hulme's *the bone people*, and Sheri Reynolds's *Bitterroot Landing*. I argue that these authors, writing in the last quarter of the 20th century, introduce the uncanny in the midst of realism. Moreover, these texts cross racial and cultural boundaries. These authors dismantle the binary oppositions of rational/irrational, magic/science, and sane/insane, and, in the selected novels I examine, indicate an acceptance, not a rejection, of alternative realities and uncanny experience. While numerous elements of these novels correspond with Freud's itemization of uncanny phenomena, thereby signaling an acceptance of Freud's description of the uncanny, I argue that these writers resist and revise Freud's theory when they refuse to present the uncanny as entirely frightening. Through the presentation of home as *unheimlich* ("uncanny" and "unfamiliar") rather than *heimlich* ("familiar" and "homelike"), the authors further revise Freud. In part because home is always already frightening in these texts, what traditionally has been deemed frightening in contrast to home and the familiar no longer appears so.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor in English, Newberry College, Newberry, SC
Fall 2009—present
(English 099, Basic Composition and Grammar; English 111, Freshman Composition; English 251, World Literature; English 350, African American Literature)

Adjunct Assistant Professor in English, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC
Fall 2008
(English 131, Critical Thinking and Writing: "Experience of the Marginal.")

Visiting Assistant Professor in English, Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory, NC

Fall 2006-2008

(English 131, Critical Thinking and Writing: "Experience of the Marginal," and "Identifying Injustice"; English 231, Writing About Literature: "Questions of Identity," "Living on the Margins," and "Outcasts, Misfits, Prodigals, and Kudzu: The Dispossessed in the Literature of the American South.")

Adjunct Faculty, Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory, NC Fall 2005.

(English 231, Writing About Literature: "Identity Crisis.")

Teaching Assistant, Department of English, The University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK 1999-2002.

(English 3003, Writing for the Professions; English 1033, Exposition and Argumentation: "Re-Visioning Our Education.")

Adjunct Faculty, Department of English, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA

Fall 1991

(English 112L, Enjoying Literature); Fall 1988 (Basic Writing, Freshman Composition, and American Literature.)

Instructor, Programs in Liberal Arts Continuing Education, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA Spring 1989

(Designed and instructed course in contemporary American literature.)

Adjunct Faculty, Paul D. Camp Community College, Franklin, VA Winter and Spring 1988, Fall 1989

(Designed and instructed courses, "Stages of a Woman's Life," to introduce community college students to women's literature.)

Guest Lecturer, Department of English, Old Dominion University, 1988 (Lectured on *The Grapes of Wrath* for English 548, The American Novel); Paul D. Camp Community College, 1988 (two lectures on Women Writers for National Library Week); Salem College, Winston-Salem, NC, 1984 (lecture on Doris Lessing in Women's Studies class.)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director, Center for Communication and Learning, Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory, NC 2006 – 2007.

Legal Writing Tutor, The University of Tulsa College of Law, Summer 2004.

Book Review Editor, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, 2002-2004.

Editorial Intern/Advertising Manager, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, 2000-2002.

Research Assistant, Dr. Nancy Topping Bazin, Department of English, Old Dominion University, 1987-1995 as needed.

PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

Specialist Reader for *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, 2009.

"Ample Ambiguity: Interview with Sheri Reynolds." *The South Carolina Review*. Spring 2009.

Rev. of *Adventures of the Spirit: The Older Woman in the Works of Doris Lessing, Margaret Atwood, and Other Contemporary Women Writers*, ed. By Phyllis Sternberg Perrakis. Forthcoming. *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*. 2009.

Rev. of *Healing Narratives: Women Writers Curing Cultural Dis-ease*, by Gay Wilentz. *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*. 24.1 Spring 2005.

Specialist Reader for *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, 2004.

Rev. of *In the River Sweet*, by Patricia Henley. *Women Writers: a Zine*. Winter 2004. <http://www.womenwriters.net/winter2004/bookreviews/IntheRiverSweet1.htm>

Interview with author Sheri Reynolds. Norfolk, Virginia, March 2003.

Rev. of *A Sabbath Life: One Woman's Search for Wholeness*, by Kathleen Hirsch. *Women Writers: A Zine*. Winter 2001.

Initial reader for manuscript *Between East and West: Sufism in the Novels of Doris Lessing* by Müge Galin for SUNY Press, 1997. <http://www.sunypress.edu/sunyp/backads/html/galin.html>

Conversations with Nadine Gordimer, co-edited with Dr. Nancy Topping Bazin. Published by University Press of Mississippi, 1990.

"The Use of Language in the Church," used in coursepak for English 577, Language, Gender, and Power, Old Dominion University. Available online through the course website: <http://courses.lib.odu.edu/engl/jbing/seymour.html>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Breaking Bones and Breaking Barriers: Keri Hulme's *the bone people*." 2010 Philological Association of the Carolinas Conference. Charleston, South Carolina, March 2010.

"Breaking Through the Pain: Sheri Reynolds's *Bitterroot Landing*." 2009 Southern Writers Symposium. Fayetteville, NC, February 2009.

"Still Searching for the 'Good' Terrorist: Doris Lessing, John Updike, and Transnational Literary Responses to Terrorism." Second International Doris Lessing Society Conference. Leeds, England, July 2007.

"Lessing Revises Freud: *The Memoirs of a Survivor* and 'The Uncanny.'" First International Doris Lessing Society Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana, April 2004.

"'Gods change colors and spin themselves new garments every day': Mystical Healing in *Memoirs of a Survivor* and *Bitterroot Landing*." American Comparative Literature Association Conference. San Marcos, California, April 2003.

"Arabella's Narrow Escape: Reading and Madness in *The Female Quixote*." South Central Society for Eighteenth Century Studies Conference. Fayetteville, Arkansas, March 2001.

“Integrating Women’s Literature Into the Curriculum” with Dr. Laura Edwards at Teaching/Learning About Women Conference. Roanoke College, Salem, VA, 1983.

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS

2003-2004 Chapman Distinguished Ph.D. Award, The University of Tulsa
2004 Chapman Travel Grant, The University of Tulsa
2004 Women’s Studies Governing Board Research Grant, The University of Tulsa
2003 Chapman Graduate Scholar Presentation Award, The University of Tulsa
2003 Women’s Studies Governing Board Research Grant, The University of Tulsa
2001 Chapman Graduate Scholar Presentation Award, The University of Tulsa
2001 Department Finalist, Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, The University of Tulsa
1999- 2004 Graduate Assistantship, The University of Tulsa
1987 Women’s Studies Graduate NWSA Travel Recipient, Old Dominion University

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association
South Atlantic Modern Language Association
Doris Lessing Society
Toni Morrison Society
Margaret Atwood Society
Kate Chopin Society
Society for the Study of American Women Writers
American Religion and Literature Society

SELECTIVE ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Managing Editor, *Doris Lessing Studies*. 2007 –
Treasurer, Doris Lessing Society. 2007 –
Publicity coordinator. Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, ELCA. Conover, North Carolina. 2007 – 2008.
Volunteer, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, NC Foothills Affiliate. 2007-2008.
Sound Technician. Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, ELCA. Conover, North Carolina. 2006 – 2009.
Judge, Scholastic Writing Awards. The University of Tulsa. Tulsa, Oklahoma. 2001-2002.
Group 5 Portfolio Committee. Chair. The University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Oklahoma. 2001- 2002.
Defining “College-level” Writing Committee. Chair. The University of Tulsa. Tulsa, Oklahoma. 2001.
Treasurer, Graduate Student Association in English. The University of Tulsa. Tulsa, Oklahoma. 2000-2001.
English 3003 Committee. The University of Tulsa. Tulsa, Oklahoma. 2000-2001.
English 1003 Committee. The University of Tulsa. Tulsa, Oklahoma. 1999-2000.
John Miller Scholarship Committee. Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania. 1998-1999.
Albright College Organizing Committee. Reading, Pennsylvania. 1997-1998.
Student Essay Judge. Southwestern Elementary School. Suffolk, Virginia. 1994.
Old Dominion University Library Building Committee. Norfolk, Virginia. 1993-1994.
Old Dominion University Library Staff Manual Committee. Norfolk, Virginia.

1992-1993.

Paul D. Camp Community College Curriculum Advisory Committee, Project ADVANCE and The Opportunity Center. Franklin, Virginia. 1993-1995. Southern Conference, UCC, Women's Task Force, Chair. Suffolk, Virginia. 1986-1987.