

KETTE THOMAS

Humanities, Michigan Technological University
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Diverse Literatures, Michigan Technological University

Assistant Professor of Diverse Literatures, Michigan Technological University.

Instructor, Stony Brook University, SUNY

Research Interests: Comparative Cultural Studies, Diverse Literatures, Mythology, Religion, Caribbean and Latin American Studies

EDUCATION

PhD. Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, SUNY Stony Brook Defended 2008

Areas of Specialization: Latin America and Caribbean Societies
World Literature, Diversity Discourse, and Mythology

Dissertation: “The Lazarus Crisis: Subjectivity, Language and Sacrifice in Cultural Narratives.” Directed by Dr. Robert Harvey.

M.A. Comparative Literature, SUNY Stony Brook May 2004

M.A. Liberal Studies, SUNY Stony Brook December 1999

B.S. CUNY York College May 1993

PUBLICATIONS

“A Black Church, Black Woman and the Lure of Black Sexuality.” *Black Scholar: At the Limits of Desire* (Special Issue). Forthcoming May 2020.

“The Zombie We Know” Bitch Media Press (Invited and under review).

“The Haitian Zombie in its Religious Context: Reflecting on the uses of the zombie in Colonial and Postcolonial discourses” *Caribbean Vistas* Volume, 1 Issue.2 (February 2014).

“National Literatures as Intimate Expression and the Problem of Teaching World Literatures.” *CLC Web: Comparative Literature and Culture* 15.6 (2013).

“With An Eye On A Set Of New Eyes: *Beasts of the Southern Wild*.” *Journal of Religion and Film*. Volume 17, Issue 2, Article 6 (2013).

"Getting Beyond the Mythmakers: How the focus on diversity reveals modern religions and archaic traditions." *The International Journal of Diversity in Organizations, Communities, and Nations*. Volume 10, Number 6 (March, 2011), 107-18.

Continued...

"What We Need Now Is A Poet: A preemptive argument for developing art in memory of Haiti's earthquake victims." *International Journal of Arts in Society*. Volume 5, Issue 4 (December, 2010), 243-52.

"Haitian Myth, Zombie, and Modern Identity." *CLC Web: Comparative Literature and Culture* Volume 12, Issue 2, Article 12 (June 2010).

"Review of Judith Mayne, *Le Corbeau*. *Contemporary French Civilization* Vol XXXII, no. 1 (Summer/Autumn 2008).

Selected reviews. Robert Harvey and Hélène Volat, *Marguerite Duras: Les Écrits de Marguerite Duras*. Paris, France : Institut Mémoires de l'Édition Contemporaine (Bio-Bibliographies in World Literature) 2008.

"Public Secrets and Insidious Speech: *Restavec: From Haitian Slave Child to Middle Class American* and visions of metaphorical identity." *New Academia* (Under review).

BOOKS

A History of the French Speaking Baptist Church, 1961 – 1979 (In preparation)

The Archetypal Restavec: Developing strategies for thwarting human right violations in Haiti and abroad. (In preparation)

PERFORMANCES

Agnes of God. Lead Actress in the role of Dr. Livingston. Directed by Patricia Helsel. Michigan Technological University Visual and Performing Arts, January 2019.

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Callaloo, A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters

The International Journal of Diversity in Organizations, Communities, and Nations

International Journal of Arts in Society

PANK, a literary magazine

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor, Diverse Literatures, Michigan Technological University.

Literature Across Borders 2020

Mythology – World Myth

Introduction to Film – History of Cinema 2019

Introduction to Literature

Mythology (Online)

Topics in Diversity Studies - Freaks

Mythology – World Myth

Introduction to Film – History of Cinema 2018

Literary Forms, Genres, and Modes

Continued...

Mythology (Online)	
Mythology – World Myth	
Introduction to Film – History of Cinema	2017
Topics in Diversity Studies - Freaks	
Mythology (Online)	
Mythology – World Myth	
Introduction to Literature	2016
Literature Across Borders – Sacred Borders	
Mythology (Online)	
Literature Across Borders – Sacred Borders	2015
Topics in Diverse Studies - Freaks	
Critical Approaches to Literature (Graduate Level)	
World Mythology (Lecture Series)	2014
Cultural Diversity in American Literature	
Senior Seminar in English and Liberal Arts	
Cultural Diversity in American Literature	2013
Literature Across Borders	
World Cultures (MTU General Education lecture series)	
Rhetoric of Alterity/Difference (Graduate Level)	2012
World Mythology	
Literature Across Borders (Online)	
World Cultures (MTU General Education lecture series)	
Science Fiction and Fantasy	2011
Literature Across Borders	
World Mythologies	
Literature Across Borders (Online)	
Topics in Diverse Studies	
World Mythology	
Literature Across Borders	2010
Intro to Diverse Literatures	
World Mythology	
Topics in Diverse Studies	
Rhetoric of Alterity/Difference (Graduate Level)	2009
Literature Across Borders	
Topics in Diverse Studies	
Cultural Diversity in American Literature	
Literature Across Borders	2008
The Human Crisis in 20 th Century Literature	
Visiting Professor, Boyce Bible College	
United States History I	2017
Instructor, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, SUNY Stony Brook.	
Theorizing Cinema and Culture	2008
	2008

Classical Mythology: From Ancient Greece to Modern American Mythology	
American Pluralism in Film and Literature	2007
Classical Mythology: Polytheism and Greek Tragedy	
Philosophy and Literature in Social Context	
Twentieth-Century Novel: Variations on the Human	2006
Twentieth- Century Novel: Post World War II Cross-Cultural Perspectives	
Classical Mythology: Greek Tragedy	
Death and Afterlife: Survey of Literature on the Afterlife	
Twentieth-Century Novel: Post World War Cross-Cultural Perspectives	2005
Cross-Cultural Encounters: Latin American and Caribbean Literature	
Twentieth-Century Novel: African American Literature in Cultural Context	
Images of Women in Literature: The Madonna to Madonna	
Philosophy and Literature in Social Context	
Twentieth-Century Novel: African American Narratives from the Harlem	2004
Renaissance to the Civil Rights Movement	
Classical Mythology: Survey of Mortal Gods and Divine Humans	
Death and the Afterlife: From Gods to Death of God	
Cross-Cultural Encounters: Discontent and the 20 th Century	
Images of Women in Literature: Goddesses and Heroines	2003
Cross-Cultural Encounters: A Survey of Literature from the East	

Teaching Assistant, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, SUNY Stony Brook

Sin and Sex in Literature	2003
Introduction to Cinema and Culture	2002

Instructor, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, SUNY Stony Brook

Intermediate Composition Level Two	2002
Intermediate Composition Level One	2001

PRESENTATIONS

“Reconstructing Eden: The “Modern Freak” Myth and The Substituted Human in American Protestantism.” *The Skin I Live In: Desire of the Other, Gender, and Freaks*. American Comparative Literature Association, Georgetown university, Washington, DC. January 2019.

“Agents of Redemption: a missionary economy of rescue.” *The European Conference on Ethics, Religion & Philosophy*, The International Academic Forum, Brighton, UK, July 2017.

“The Holy Kiss and the Material Body.” *Convention Annuelle de L'Union des Femmes Missionnaires*, Haitian Women's Missionary Union, Brooklyn, NY, May 2017. (Invited)

“Detecting Hate.” *Convention Annuelle de L'Union des Femmes Missionnaires*, Haitian Women's Missionary Union, Brooklyn, NY, May 2016. (Invited)

“The Vitality of Corpses: Resurrection vs the Zombie.” *A Zombie Symposium*, MTU October 30, 2014. (Invited)

Continued...

“Haiti’s Restaveks and the Question of Slavery.” *Restavek Freedom Conference*. Restavek Freedom Foundation in Hinche, Haiti, May 2013.

“The Zombie in its Mythological Context.” *A Zombie Symposium*, MTU November 3, 2013. (Invited)

"Bodies Without Flesh: The Ethics of Representation in Writing the Black Female Body as Exception." *ACLA (American Comparative Literature Association)* annual conference at Brown University, March 2012.

“John Henry and the Noble Peasant: On the conflict of virtuous identity for immigrant peasants and their American working-class sons and daughters.” *Working Class Studies Conference*. Chicago, IL 2011.

“Making Love at the Public Square: National literature as intimate expression and the problem of World Literatures classrooms.” *American Comparative Literature Association*. Vancouver, Canada, 2011.

"Getting Beyond the Mythmakers: How the focus on diversity reveals modern religions and archaic traditions." *Diversity in Organizations, Communities, and Nations Conference*. Belfast, UK, 2010.

“Traditions of Deception: How slave narratives helped to create Haiti's Restavecs.” *Reading Race. Reception Study Society*. Purdue University, September 2009.

“Lazarus and the Zombie: Theorizing the consequences of gods, demons and resurrection narratives.” *Rethinking Inequalities. Latin American Studies Association Congress*, June 2009.

“The Exacting Wound: Absences in sex trafficking representations in Lukas Moodyson’s *Lilya 4 Ever* and UNICEF’s *They Call Me Dog*.” *Mobilizing the Future/Screening the Past. Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference*, May 2009.

“Held Together by Absence and a String: Representations of incompatible subjects in *Divine Horsemen* and *The History of Mary Prince*.” *Global Languages, Local Cultures. American Comparative Literature Association*, Harvard University, March 2009.

“On Haiti's Restavecs.” *Global City Seminar*. Guest Lecturer. Michigan Technological University, Fall 2008.

“Is Lazarus A Zombie? Cross-Cultural Encounters in Christian Narratives and Vodou Mythology.” *Comparative Literature Colloquium*, SUNY Stony Brook, December 2006.

“Where Christianity and Vodou Intersect.” *Religion in American Culture*. Guest Lecturer. SUNY Stony Brook, Fall 2006.

“Can Haitian Ideas on the Zombie Facilitate a Feminist Revolution?” *Images of Women in Literature*. Guest Lecturer. SUNY Stony Brook, Fall 2006.

“The Haitian Insurrection and New World Thought in Alejo Carpentier’s *Kingdom of This World*.” Cross-Cultural Encounters. Guest Lecturer. SUNY Stony Brook, Fall 2006.

“Public Secrets: Linguistic Institutions in Jean Robert Cadet’s *Restavec: From Haitian Slave Child to Middle Class American*.” Comparative Literature Colloquium, SUNY Stony Brook, December 2005.

“Surreal Expressions in *Sor Juana: Traps of Faith*.” *Comparative Literature Colloquium*, SUNY Stony Brook, December 2004.

“The Impossible Search for Cuba in Cristina Garcia’s *Dreaming in Cuban*.” New Directions in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Latin American and Caribbean Studies Conference, SUNY Stony Brook, September 2003.

“Reading Silence in Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* and Emma Mishinini’s *Strikes Have Followed Me All My Life*.” *Of Lighthouses and Libraries: History Relit*. African Literature Association, March 2003.

“Maya Deren in Exile: From America to Haiti and the Loss of Return.” *Cross Cultural Relations and Exile*. University of Wales Conference, April 2002.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop – Creative Nonfiction Workshop study with Fred D’Aguiar. July 2015, Oxford University.

GRANTS

Michigan Technological University REF-Scholarship & Creativity Grant – Full funding for research on Haiti’s Restavec children. This project will result in a book scheduled for completion in December 2014.

AAUW (American Associated of University Women) Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship application submitted on November 15, 2010. Not funded.

AWARDS

Michigan Tech University - Nominated and inducted as a member of Michigan Tech University’s Distinguished Teachers.

Turner Burghardt Fellowship (full funding for five years), SUNY Stony Brook.

Tinker Fellowship (Travel funding for research in Latin America and the Caribbean), SUNY Stony Brook/University of Havana, Cuba.

SERVICE

Chair of Search Committee for Humanities Chair, 2019, 2020.

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Chair of Search Committee for Creative Writing and Literature, 2019, 2020.
College of Sciences and Arts Promotion and Tenure Committee, Member, Spring 2020.
General Education Goal 8 Assessment Committee, Member, 2019 to present.
University Senate, Alternate Senator, 2018 to present.
Chair of Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2016, 2017.
English and Liberal Arts Steering Committee Member, 2016 to present.
Chair of English/English Ed/Liberal Arts Steering Committee, Michigan Tech University, 2014, 2015.
Chair of Search Committee for English/English Ed., Michigan Tech University, 2011, 2013.
English and Liberal Arts Steering Committee Member, 2011.
Humanities Working Retreat Committee Member, Michigan Tech University, 2011 - 2012.
Humanities Distinguished Speakers Series Committee Member, 2009 - 2012
Diversity Studies Committee Member. Michigan Tech University, 2009 – 2010.
Interim Chair of the Diverse Studies Committee, 2011.
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Member. Michigan Tech University, 2009, 2010.
Departmental Steering Committee Member, Michigan Tech University, 2009.
Faculty and Student Colloquium, SUNY Organizer (bi-weekly lecture series), 2006-2007.
Graduate Student Committee, SUNY Graduate Student Representative, 2002-2003.
Graduate Student Organization, SUNY Department Senator, 2001-2002.
Missions Aide, French Speaking Baptist Church, Port-au Prince, Haiti (annual humanitarian assistance and education), 1989-2000.

LANGUAGES

English (Native), Francophone Creole (Fluent), French (proficient), Spanish (proficient)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Studies Association (ASA)
Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP)
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)
American Academy of Religion (AAR)
National Council of Teachers of English
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
Reception Study Society (RSS)
Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)
International Association for Philosophy and Literature (IAPL)