

Patrick S. Lawrence

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Professional History

Associate Professor of English, University of South Carolina, Lancaster, Aug. 2021 to present.

Assistant Professor of English, University of South Carolina, Lancaster, 2016 to July 2021.

Conferred Degrees

Ph.D., University of Connecticut, English, 2016.

M.A., New York University, Humanities, 2008.

B.A., University of Southern California, Comparative Literature, 2004.

Published Books

[*Obscene Gestures: Counter-Narratives of Sex and Race in the Twentieth Century*](#). 85,000-word scholarly monograph. Fordham University Press, 2022.

Books under Contract

Out of the Gutters: Obscenity, Censorship, and Transgression in American Comics. Book-length collection of scholarly essays, co-edited with Jorge Santos. Under advance contract with University of Texas Press.

Scholarly Essays in Print

“In the Shadow of History: Post-9/11 Citational Aesthetics in Art Spiegelman’s *In the Shadow of No Towers*.” 6,000-word essay. In [*Artful Breakdowns: The Comics of Art Spiegelman*](#), University Press of Mississippi, 2023.

“Transnational Sexualities.” In [*Asian American Literature in Transition: 1965-1996*](#), Cambridge University Press, 2021, pp. 310-25.

This 4-volume series was awarded a 2022 Choice Award from the American Library Association for “Outstanding Academic Title.”

“Intake and Orientation: The Role of Initial Writing Center Consultations with Graduate Students”; lead author, with Molly Tetreault and Tom Deans. *Re/Writing the Center: Approaches to Supporting Graduate Students in the Writing Center*, Utah State University Press, 2018: pp. 107-23.

“Rehistoricizing Differently, Differently: American Literary Globalism and Disruptions of Neo-Colonial Discourse in Karen Tei Yamashita’s *Tropic of Orange* and Jessica Hagedorn’s *Dogeaters*.” *Asian American Literature: Discourses and Pedagogies*, Vol. 7, 2016, pp. 15-38.

As of Aug. 2023, this article has been downloaded more than 900 times by readers in 50 countries.

“The ‘Vocabulary of Human Behavior’: Gesture in *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*.” *Mosaic: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature*, Vol. 49, no. 2, 2016, pp. 35-50.

“The Unfinished Politics of Nathaniel Mackey’s *Splay Anthem*.” *A Sense of Regard: Essays on Poetry and Race*, University of Georgia Press, 2014, pp. 210-20.

Review of *Critiquing Postmodernism in Contemporary Discourses of Race*, by Sue J. Kim. *MELUS* Vol. 36, no.1, 2011, pp. 229-31.

“Refugees of a Crisis in Reference: Holocaust Memoir and the Deconstruction of Paul de Man.” *Intertext*, Vol. 13, no.1-2, 2009, pp. 17-35.

“The Morelli Method and the Conjectural Paradigm as Narrative Semiotic.” *Watermark*, Vol. 2, 2008, pp. 103-16.

“The Comedic Devices of Tragedy: Inter-Generic Dialogic in Hardy and Shakespeare.” *Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference Selected Papers*, Vol. 1, 2007, pp. 118-42.

Works of Public Scholarship

“[The War of Words over Obscenity](#)” (short course video). *Get Ready, Stay Ready: A Community Action Toolkit*, June 2023.

“[Move to Ban *The 1619 Project* from SC Classrooms Will Only Harm Future Generations](#)” (editorial article). *The State* [Columbia, SC], 2 Feb. 2022.

Manuscripts Forthcoming, under Review, and in Progress

“The Erotic Fictions of Rapacious Capitalism in Excessive Novels of the 1980s.” 10,100-word article. Article under consideration at *American Literature*. Accepted June 2023; forthcoming.

“‘Wise Up, Old Hags! Th’ Weak One Is a Valuable Possession to Us’: The Economics of Artificial Scarcity and R. Crumb’s *Bible of Filth*.” 6,000-word essay. Complete essay submitted as sample chapter with prospectus for *Out of the Gutters: Obscenity, Censorship, and Transgression in American Comics*. Collection under contract with University of Texas Press.

“Manipulations of the Edible That Show Who We Are: Culinary Self-Pleasure in Viet Nguyen’s *The Sympathizer* and Philip Roth’s *Portnoy’s Complaint*.” 8,500-word article. Essay under final consideration by editorial board following successful peer review and revision.

“Lurid and Unlimited: Interpreting Bateman’s Banality in *American Psycho*.” 5,700-word book chapter. Slated for inclusion in *Serial Killers and Serial Spectators*. Complete essay submitted to editors; book under contract with Brill Amsterdam.

Beyond Laws or Borders: Moralistic Nationalism and the Policing of Whiteness. 85,000-word scholarly monograph in progress.

Conference Presentations, Colloquia, and Invited Lectures

- “Global License, Domestic Deviance: Editorial Opportunism in a Transnational Literary Market.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, 2023. Chicago, IL.
- “Transferred Violence: Race, Labor, and Victimization in *The Bluest Eye*.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, 2023. San Francisco, CA.
- “Out of the Gutters: Obscenity, Censorship, and Transgression in American Comics.” Invited talk, Comics Studies at USC, 2022. Columbia, SC.
- “Obscene Gestures: Counter-Narratives of Sex and Race in the Twentieth Century.” Keynote lecture, Medford Library Banned Books Week, 2022. USC Lancaster.
- “Recent Developments in Academic Freedom in the State and Nation.” Invited lecture, 2022. USC Lancaster Faculty Forum.
- “Sexual Awakening in the Kitchen: Erotic Foodways in Viet Nguyen’s *The Sympathizer* and Philip Roth’s *Portnoy’s Complaint*.” Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States Annual Conference, 2022. New Orleans, LA.
- “Roots and Ramifications of 21st Century Challenges to the Freedom to Read.” Panelist and Event Co-Organizer, 2022. Winthrop University.
- “Wise Up, Old Hags! Th’ Weak One Is a Valuable Possession to Us’: The Economics of Artificial Scarcity and R. Crumb’s *Bible of Filth*.” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, 2022. Louisville, KY.
- “Comics against Culture” Invited panelist, Medford Library Graphic Novel Collection Opening, 2022. USC Lancaster.
- “Free Speech in Education and Culture.” Invited lecture, 2022. Monday Luncheon Group, Columbia, SC.
- “Obscene Gestures: Counternarratives of Sex and Race in the Twentieth Century.” Virtual Keynote Lecture, Banned Books Week Program, 2021. USC Lancaster.
- “The Boston Busing Crisis: How Racism Divides and Conquers.” Arras Foundation DEIA Summer Internship Program, 2021. Lancaster, SC.
- “Obscenity Studies.” Invited talk, Undergraduate Research Club. USC Lancaster, 2021.
- “The Sensationalism of Evil: Obscuring the Banality of *American Psycho*.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference, 2021. Toronto, ON [held virtually due to COVID-19].
- “Censorship’s Dead End: What We Lose When We Limit Speech.” Virtual Keynote Lecture, Banned Books Week Program, 2020. USC Lancaster.
- “Patently Offensive and Lacking in Serious Value: Literature, Obscenity, and Policing the Nation.” Keynote Lecture, Banned Books Week Program, 2019. USC Lancaster.
- “A Semester Long Pile of Liberal Garbage: Reflections on Teaching Race in the South.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference, 2019. Chicago, IL.
- “Obscenity and Individualism: Uses of Arousal in Contestations over National Identity.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference, 2018. New York, NY.

- “Harbors and Homes: The Birth of Legal Hierarchies and Failure of Racial Coalitions in Toni Morrison’s *A Mercy*.” Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Annual Conference, 2017. Boston, MA.
- “The Vocabulary of Human Behavior.” Invited talk, Undergraduate Research Club. USC Lancaster, 2017.
- “Anti-Reproductivity as Critique and Revelry in Cherríe Moraga’s *Heroes and Saints* and Kathy Acker’s *Don Quixote, Which Was a Dream*.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2015. Toronto, ON.
- “‘Master of the Universe’: Reagan-Era Material Excess and Sexual License in Tom Wolfe’s *The Bonfire of the Vanities*.” American Literature Association Annual Conference, 2015. Boston, MA.
- “‘*A Politic Born out of Necessity*’: Disability, Racism, and Sexuality in Cherríe Moraga’s *Heroes and Saints*.” Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Annual Conference, 2015. Athens, GA.
- “Predatory Blindness: Coercive Specularity in Cherríe Moraga’s *Giving Up the Ghost*.” Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Annual Conference, 2014. Oklahoma City, OK.
- “Gesture Selves: Embodied Discourse in *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*.” American Literature Association Annual Conference, 2013. Boston, MA.
- “Nixon, the State, and the Obscene: Transition on the Warren Court.” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, 2013. Boston, MA.
- “In the Shadow of History: Post-9/11 Citational Aesthetics in Art Spiegelman’s *In the Shadow of No Towers*.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, 2012. Providence, RI.
- “Multiple Perspectives, Singular Visions: Varieties of Narrative Power in *Dogeaters* and *Tropic of Orange*.” Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Annual Conference, 2012. San Jose, CA.
- “The Morelli Method and the Conjectural Paradigm as Narrative Semiotic.” Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association Annual Conference, 2007. Philadelphia, PA.
- “The Comedic Devices of Tragedy: Inter-Generic Dialogic in Hardy and Shakespeare.” Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference, 2007. Akron, OH.
- “Refugees from a Crisis of Reference: Holocaust Memoir, Paul de Man, and the Differend between Them.” United Kingdom Network for Modern Fiction Studies Summer Seminar Series, 2007. London, UK.

Research Grants

Excel Grant. U of SC, 2023. Project title: “Beyond Laws and Borders: American Obscenity in Transnational Contexts.” Award amount: \$11,400.

Research and Productive Scholarship Grant. USCL, 2022. Project title: “Obscenity and Comics: Exploration of Key Themes and New Perspectives.” Award amount: \$6650.

Research and Productive Scholarship Grant. USCL, 2020. Project title: “Obscene Gestures: Counter-Narratives of Sex and Race in the Twentieth Century.” Award amount: \$8821.

Research Initiative for Summer Engagement Grant. U of SC, 2019. Project title: “‘All Politics Is Local’: Counter-Narratives of Obscenity through the Lens of Community Standards.” Award amount: \$7442.

Research and Productive Scholarship Grant. USCL, 2018. Project title: “Counter-Narratives of Sex and Race in the 1970s.” Award amount: \$6159.

Other Conference Activities

Panel Chair: “Towards Public Kinship: Love, Ethics, and Intimacies beyond Nation-States.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Montreal 2023.

Panel Chair: “Philippine-American Intersections and the Emergence of Transpacific Studies.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta 2018.

Panel Co-Organizer and Co-Chair, “Narrative Harbors and American Myths of Racial Harmony.” MELUS Annual Conference, 2017.

Panel Moderator. MELUS Annual Conference, 2014.

Panel Organizer and Chair, “Obscenity and the Warren Court.” NeMLA Annual Conference, 2013.

Panel Moderator. UCONN Annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing, 2012.

Panel Moderator. MELUS Annual Conference, 2012.

Panel Moderator. MELUS Annual Conference, 2011.

Panel Moderator. UCONN Annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing, 2010.

Editorial and Administrative Experience

Director: USC Lancaster Academic Success Center; January 2022 to present.

Assistant Editor: *MELUS: The Journal of the Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*; June 2010-May 2012.

Coordinator for Graduate Writing Support: University of Connecticut Writing Center; fall 2015 to spring 2016.

Editorial Assistant: *MELUS: The Journal of the Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*; May 2012-June 2014.

Research Assistant: *Asian America: A Primary Source Reader*, edited by Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, K. Scott Wong, and Jason Oliver Chang (Yale UP); summer 2014 and spring 2015.

Research Assistant: *Keywords for Asian American Studies*, edited by Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, Linda Trinh Võ, and K. Scott Wong (NYU Press); summer 2014.

Managing Editor: *Children’s Literature Association Quarterly*; September 2013-May 2014.

Courses Taught

Free Speech in American Literature and Culture (ENGL 285, Special Topics; University of South Carolina, Lancaster)

American Literature (ENGL 287; University of South Carolina, Lancaster)

Obscenity Controversies in American Literary History (ENGL 429, Special Topics; University of South Carolina, Lancaster)

Children's Literature (ENGL 431A; University of South Carolina, Lancaster)

Race in American Literature and Culture (ENGL 285; University of South Carolina, Lancaster)

Ethnic Literatures of the United States (ENGL 3218; University of Connecticut)

Short Story (ENGL 2407; University of Connecticut)

Business Writing (ENGL 463; University of South Carolina, Lancaster)

Upward Bound Summer Experience English and Composition (University of Connecticut and University of South Carolina, Lancaster)

Rhetoric and Composition (ENGL 102; University of South Carolina, Lancaster)

Critical Reading and Composition (ENGL 101; University of South Carolina, Lancaster)

Writing and Literature (Three Rivers Community College)

Introduction to Academic Writing (ENGL 1004; Student Support Services)

Seminar in Writing through Literature (ENGL 1011; University of Connecticut)

Seminar in Academic Writing (ENGL 1010; University of Connecticut):

Writing for Business and Professions (ENG 303; Rutgers University)

Expository Writing (ENG 101; Rutgers University)

College Composition (Essex County College)

Service

Native American Studies Faculty Advisory Committee. USC Lancaster, 2016-present.

Research and Productive Scholarship Standing Committee. USC Lancaster, Member 2020-present; Acting chair 2022.

Library Committee. USC Lancaster, Member 2019-present; Chair 2020-2023.

Ad Hoc Committee on Freedom of Expression. USC Columbia Faculty Senate, Advisory Member 2021-2022.

Staff Librarian Search Committee. USC Lancaster, Member 2021-2022.

DEIA Research Mentor. Arras Foundation, 2021.

Assistant Professor of English Search Committee. USC Lancaster, Member 2021-2022.

Assistant Librarian Search Committee. USC Lancaster, Member 2020-2021.

Town-Gown Advisory Council. USC Lancaster, 2019-2020.

Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate. USC Lancaster, 2017-2020.

Academic Honor Code Council. USC Lancaster, 2016-2019.

Research and Productive Scholarship Grant Evaluation Committee. USC Lancaster, 2018.

Poetry Out Loud Recitation Competition (Judge). Lancaster County School District, 2018.

Invited Speaker: Roundtable on Collegiality, English Graduate Student Association. UCONN, 2017.

Aetna Writing in the Disciplines Award Committee (Humanities). UCONN, 2015.

Upper-Division Teaching Workshop (Facilitator). UCONN, 2015.

Invited Speaker: Critical Race Theory Roundtable, English Graduate Student Association. UCONN, 2014.

Peer Mentor Coordinator, English Department Graduate Program. UCONN, 2013.

Implementation Committee, Freshman English New Teaching Assistant Orientation. UCONN, 2013.

Freshman English New Teaching Assistant Practicum (Group Leader). UCONN, 2012.

Implementation Committee, Freshman English New Teaching Assistant Orientation. UCONN, 2012.

AETNA Graduate Teaching Award Committee. UCONN, 2012.

Freshman English New Teaching Assistant Orientation Seminar on Classroom Activities (Panelist). UCONN, 2011.

AETNA Graduate Teaching Award Committee. UCONN, 2011.

Outside Speaker Coordinator, English Graduate Student Association. UCONN, 2010-2011.

Freshman English New Teaching Assistant Orientation Seminar on Classroom Activities (Panelist). UCONN, 2010.

Program Developer and Discussion Group Leader, Literature Enrichment Program. Perception House Recovery Center, 2011-2012.

Awards and Honors

Denise R. Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award, Palmetto College Campuses, 2023.

Chris Plyler Excellence in Service Award Nominee. USCL, 2022.

Horizon Education Grant. Arras Foundation, 2018. Project title: "Creating Lasting Partnerships through Collaboration." Award amount: \$350.

Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellowship. Georgia Institute of Technology, 2015 (declined).

Aetna Graduate Teaching Award Nominee. UCONN, 2014.

Summer Predoctoral Fellowship. UCONN, 2014.

Aetna Graduate Teaching Award Nominee. UCONN, 2013.

CLAS Dean's Summer Research Award. UCONN, 2012.

Aetna Graduate Teaching Award Nominee. UCONN, 2010.

Hirschorn Thesis Award Nominee. NYU, 2006.

Welch Award for Outstanding Major in Comparative Literature. USC, 2004.

Membership in Professional Organizations

Modern Language Association

American Studies Association

Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States