

# JESS TRAVERS

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## EDUCATION

### *Ph.D. Candidate, English*

- Michigan State University, expected graduation 2019
- Dissertation: “Queer Subject Lessons: A Dialogue Between AIDS Past & Feminist Present”
- Committee: Ellen McCallum (Chair), Zarena Aslami, Scott Michaelsen, and Robin Silbergleid
- Graduate Specialization: Interdisciplinary Graduate Specialization in Women's and Gender Studies

### *Master of Arts, English*

- Oregon State University, 2012
- Thesis: “Caution: Ideological Mechanisms at Work—Interpellation and the Melancholic Turn in Jack Kerouac’s *On the Road* and Ernest Hemingway’s *The Garden of Eden*”
- Committee: Evan Gottlieb (Chair), Kerry Ahearn, and Tara Williams
- Summa Cum Laude

### *Bachelor of Arts, English Major, Peace Studies Minor*

- Loyola University Chicago, 2008
- Cum Laude

### *Associate of Arts, University Studies*

- College of the Redwoods, 2006
- Summa Cum Laude

## RESEARCH AREAS

- American literature; feminisms; queer theory; women’s & gender studies; subject formation; AIDS narrative; cultural studies; visual media studies

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & HONORS

- *Graduate Teaching Assistantship Stipend Award*, Department of English, MSU, 2014-2019
- *Special College Research Abroad Moneys Fellowship*, College of Arts & Letters, MSU, 2017
- *Research Enhancement Funds Grant*, College of Arts and Letters, MSU, 2017
- *Travel Research Fellowship Grant*, College of Arts and Letters, MSU, 2017
- *Summer Support Fellowship*, College of Arts and Letters, MSU, 2016
- *Graduate Teaching Assistantship Stipend Award*, OSU, 2010-2012
- *Conference Travel Grant*, School of Writing, Literature, and Film, OSU, 2012
- *McNeill-Donohue Scholarship*, Department of English, Loyola University Chicago, 2008-2009
- *Robert Joyce Scholarship*, Loyola University Chicago, 2007-2008

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Articles*

- “Looking at David Wojnarowicz: Queer Methods & Interpellating a Dis-institutionalized Subject.” *The New Centennial Review*, forthcoming.
- “Race Included: Identity Formation in Toni Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye*.” *Loyola Literati: Commemorative Edition*. (2008-2009): 73-81.

### *Book Reviews*

- Book Review: “Realizing Queer Kinship: A Review of *Scissors, Paper, Stone* by Martha K. Davis.” Gertrude Press, 2018.

## CONFERENCES

### *Invited Talks*

- “Zora Neal Hurston & David Wojnarowicz—Recording Cultures: More than Just Preservation.” Critical Institutions Conference, Michigan State University, 2018
- “Integrating Eli Review into the Online Class Environment.” Eli Review Faculty Workshop, Michigan State University, 2016

### *Conference Presentations*

- “Queer Politics in Neoliberalism: The U.S. Versus Russia.” 20th Annual Fraker Conference—What Do Social Movements Do?, University of Michigan, 2015
- “Doing Sex & Violence: Subject Undoing in Slasher & BDSM Films.” Gender, Sexuality, & Violence Graduate Student Conference, University of Michigan, 2015

### *Conferences Organized*

- Symposium Chair & Organizer: English Graduate Student Symposium, Oregon State University, 2012

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **English**

*Michigan State University, Department of English, 2017-2019*

- ENG 210: Foundations in Literary Study (2 sections)
  - Course Description: Writing-intensive course in close reading, with substantial attention to poetry, drama, and narrative prose, drawing broadly on texts taken from more than one century and more than one national literature.
- ENG 153: Introduction to Women Authors (2 sections)

- Course Description: Writings by women from various racial, socio-economic, and historical backgrounds. Women's choices of subject matter and style. Women's redefinition of literary genres. Thematic emphasis on feminism and the intersections between gender, race, and sexuality. Course is interdepartmental and cross-listed with WS 153 in the Center for Gender in a Global Context.
- ENG 130: Film & Society (Program Assistant, Amsterdam Study Abroad)
  - Course Description: Students learn ways of viewing film in its cultural, social, and historical context. Basic critical approaches to film introduced. Focus on LGBT+ and queer Dutch cinema.

## **Women's & Genders Studies**

*Michigan State University, The Department of English, 2017-2018*

- WS 153: Introduction to Women Authors (2 sections)
  - Course Description: Writings by women from various racial, socio-economic, and historical backgrounds. Women's choices of subject matter and style. Women's redefinition of literary genres. Thematic emphasis on feminism and the intersections between gender, race, and sexuality. Course is interdepartmental and cross-listed with ENG 153 in the Center for Gender in a Global Context.
- Study Abroad: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, & Sexual Politics in Amsterdam (Program Assistant)
  - Course Description: Students learn about sex and gender politics, policy, and history in the Netherlands. Students enroll in 8-12 credits from the following courses: WS 201, WS 202, WS 153, WS 355, WS 400, WS 490, WS 492.

## **Composition & Rhetoric**

*Michigan State University, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures, 2016-2017*

- WRA 101: Writing as Inquiry (2 sections)
  - Course Description: The study and practice of invention, arrangement, revision, style, and delivery to help students make successful transitions to writing, reading, and researching in higher education. Writing as process and focus on learning via inquiry and discovery. Thematic emphasis on identity and ideology.

*Humboldt State University, Department of English, 2013-2014*

- ENG 102: Composition and Rhetoric A (adjunct faculty, 2 sections)
  - Course Description: Focus on analytical, claim-driven writing. A strong emphasis is placed on writing as process, critical thinking development, and written communication skills. Thematic focus on personhood and community. Two semester long course.
- ENG 103: Composition and Rhetoric B (adjunct faculty, 1 section)
  - Course Description: Condensed one semester version of above

*Oregon State University, School of Writing, Literature, and Film, 2010-2012*

- WR 121: First Year Writing Composition and Rhetoric (7 sections)
  - Course Description: Introduction to critical thinking, the writing process, and various forms of expository writing; intensive writing practice, with an emphasis on revision.

## **Integrative Arts & Humanities**

*Michigan State University, Center for Integrative Studies in the Arts & Humanities, 2014-2018*

- IAH 201: United States and the World-The American Experience at Home and in the World (online, 3 sections)
  - Course Description: Major issues in development of US society and culture, presented in international and comparative context. Influences from native Americans, Europeans, Africans, and Asians. Organized historically, with thematic emphasis on race and gender in US history.
- IAH 201: United States and the World-Popular Culture & Globalization (TA, 6 sections)
  - Course Description: Global Flows of literature, music, art and popular culture from a U.S. perspective.
- IAH 202: Europe & the World: Culture of Empire, North Africa & the Middle East (TA, 3 sections)
  - Course Description: Cultural encounters and political relationships between Europeans and people(s) from other regions of the world since 1500 as shown through study of written texts, literature, the visual arts, music, and other forms of expression.
- IAH 207: Literatures, Cultures, and Identities - Gothic Literature (TA, 3 sections)
  - Course Description: Explorations in how literature reflects, creates, and challenges cultural and individual identities. Approaches and materials from literature, philosophy, the arts, religion, and history.

## **Business & Professional Writing**

*Oregon State University, School of Writing, Literature, and Film, 2012*

- WR 214: Writing in Business - hybrid course (hybrid, 2 sections)
  - Course Description: Introduction to business communication, various professional formats and documents, effective web and technical skills, and workplace ethics.

## **ELL & ESL**

*Michigan State University, The Graduate School, 2016*

- International Buddy Program staff leader

*Loyola University Chicago Community Literacy Center, 2008-2009*

- English language learning instruction for adult learners and administrative duties.

## **DEPARTMENT SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- *Queer Inclusive Learning & Leadership (QuILL) Training and Certification*, MSU, 2018
- *Graduate Student Coordinator: Feminisms, Genders, Sexualities Research Workshop Series*, MSU, 2017-18
- *Guest Reader & Book Reviewer for Gertie: A Quarterly Queer Book Club*, Gertrude Press, 2017-18
- *Department of Writing, Rhetoric, & American Cultures Pedagogy Workshop Series*, MSU, 2016
- *International Teaching Assistant Buddy Program Staff Member*, MSU, 2016
- *Writing and Technology Workshop: Social Media and Your Academic Network*, MSU, 2016

- *Critical Incident Management Seminar, Office of International Health & Safety, MSU, 2016-18*
- *E-board Member: Association of English Graduate Students (AEGS), MSU, 2015-2016*
- *Steward for the Graduate Employee Union (GEU), MSU, 2015-2016*
- *Eli Review Faculty Workshop, MSU, 2015*
- *Incoming Graduate Student Volunteer Mentor, MSU, 2015*
- *Teaching Close Reading Pedagogy Workshop, MSU, 2015*
- *Discussions of Equality Pedagogy Workshop, MSU, 2015*
- *Department of English & Composition Grading Committee Member, HSU, 2013-2014*
- *Composition & Rhetoric Faculty Pedagogy Workshops, HSU, 2013-2014*
- *Humboldt Pride Fund Raising & Grant Writing Volunteer, LGBTQ Non-Profit Organization, 2013*
- *Global Film Hiring Committee Graduate Representative, OSU, 2012*
- *Textbook Revision Committee Member, OSU, 2012*
- *Course-Waiver Grading Committee Member, OSU, 2012*
- *English Tutor & Administrative Staff Member, Loyola Community Literacy Center, 2007-2009*

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- Modern Language Association

## **LANGUAGES**

- Spanish (speaking and reading), French (reading)