Laura Alexandra Harris
Professor Africana Studies and English and World Literature
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Literatures in English, 1997 Literature Department, University of California San Diego
C. Phil. and M.A. Literatures in English, University of California San Diego, 1994
B.A. Comparative Literature, San Diego State University, 1990
A.A. General Studies, Southwestern Community College, 1988

RESEARCH INTERESTS

20th century African American literature and culture, Feminist and Queer Studies, African Diaspora Studies, Performance Studies, Race and Nature Studies

PUBLICATIONS

"Who Is They? Black Queer/Trans Vernacular Grammars," authors Victor Ultra Omni and Laura Alexandra Harris, Transgender Studies Quarterly, vol. 10, no. 3-4, pgs 212-225, Duke University Press, November 2023

"Aliso Street Worship Corner," Calyx: A Journal of Art and Literature by Women, Volume 31:1, Winter/Spring 2019.

"What's in a name?" That which we call brilliance by any other name would read as Festus Claudius McKay" invited book review for *Radical History Review, "Re-Conceptualizing the African Diaspora," issue 103*. Editors Michelle Stephens, Melina Pappademos, and Erica Ball, Duke University Press, Winter 2009.

Hybrid Italians, Diasporic Africans: Who's/Whose *Meticcio*?" *Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts & Letters 31.2*. Editor Charles H. Rowell. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Press, Spring 2008.

"Confessions of the Pillow Queen: Sexual Receptivity & Queer Femininities." *Tribades, Tommies, and Transgressives: Histories of Sexualities: Volume I* Editors Mary McAuliffe and Sonja Tiernan. University College Dublin: Cambridge Scholars Press, Spring/Summer 2008.

"On Teaching A Black Queer Harlem Renaissance." *Teaching the Harlem Renaissance: Course Design and Classroom Strategies*. Editor Michael Soto. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, African American Literature and Culture Series: Expanding and Exploding the Boundaries, Vol.16, Spring 2008.

French translation and reprint of, "Queer Black Feminism: The Pleasure Principle," (Feminist Review #54 1996), in Black Feminism: Anthologie du féminisme africain-américain, 1975-2000, from the collections of *la Bibliothèque du Féminisme*, codirectrice

Hélène Rouch, Editions L'Hartmattan: Paris, Spring 2008.

"My Boy." *Voices Rising: Celebrating Twenty Years of Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Writing*. . Editor G. Winston James, Other Countries. Washington D.C.: RedBone Press. Spring 2007.

"Reflections on *Nobody Knows My Name* and An Interview With The Director Rachel Raimist: A Female Hip Hop Film Maker." co-authored essay with Dipannita Basu. *The Vinyl Ain't Final: The Local and Global in Hip-Hop*. Editors Dipannita Basu and Sidney Lemelle. London, Ann Arbor: Pluto Press, University of Michigan. Spring 2006.

"Harlem Renaissance." *Encyclopedia of American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History and Culture*. Editor-in-Chief Marc Stein. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 2004.

"Lorraine Hansberry." *Encyclopedia of American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History and Culture*. Editor-in-Chief Marc Stein New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 2004.

"Mae V. Cowdery (1909-1953)," *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance*. Editorial Director Paul E. Schellinger. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers. 2004.

"A'Lelia Walker (1885-1931)," *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance*. Editorial Director Paul E. Schellinger. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers. 2004.

"My Blackness," "American Heritage," "The Wastrel," and "Downtown Morning Hours." *Maryland Review*. Editor Nathaniel Staicer. Prince Anne, Maryland: University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Fall 2004.

Notes from a Welfare Queen in The Ivory Tower: poetry, fiction, letters, and essays. New York: Face to Face Press. Fall 2002.

"Notes from a Welfare Queen in the Ivory Tower." Published presentation. *This Bridge We Call Home: Radical Visions for Transformation.* Eds. Gloria Anzaldúa and AnaLouise Keating. New York: Routledge. Fall 2002.

"Femme/Butch Family Romances: A Queer Dyke Spin on Compulsory Heterosexuality," *Journal of Lesbian Studies*. Editors Deborah Meem and Michelle Gibson, The Haworth Press, Inc.. Summer 2002.

"Black Feminism and Queer Families: A Conversation with Thomas Allen Harris," *African American Review*. vol. 36, no. 2. Editor Joe Weixlmann. Indiana State University Press. Summer 2002.

"*L'Abbandono*: Who's Meticcio//Whose Meticcio in the Eritrea-Italy Diaspora?" (abridged version in English translation). *ItaliAfrica: Bridging Continents and Cultures.*

Editor Sante Matteo. Stony Brook, New York: Forum Italicum Press, FILibrary Series. Fall 2001.

"Gladys Bentley (1907-1960): Classic Lesbian Blues," *Encyclopedia of Homosexuality: Volume I Lesbian Histories and Cultures.* Editor Bonnie Zimmerman. New York: Garland Publishing. Fall 2000.

"*L'Abbandono*: chi e meticcio, e di chi, nella diaspora eritreo-italiana?" (abridged version in Italian translation). *Africa Italia: Due continenti si avvicinano*. Editor Sante Matteo. Milano, Italy: Fara Editore. Spring 2000.

Femme: Feminists, Lesbians, and Bad Girls. Edited and Introduced by Laura Harris and Liz Crocker. New York: Routledge. Summer 1997.

"Fish Tales: Revisiting A Study of a Public Lesbian Community." *Femme*. Essay by Harris and Crocker.

Mysteries, Mothers, and Cops: An Interview with Mabel Maney." *Femme*. Interview by Harris and Crocker.

"Bad Girls: Sex, Class, and Feminist Agency." *Femme.* Essay by Harris and Crocker.

"Gladys Bentley (1907-1960): Classic Blues Singer." *St. James Press Gay and Lesbian Biography*. Editor Michael Tyrkus. Detroit: St. James Press. Spring 1997.

"Queer Black Feminism: The Pleasure Principle." *Feminist Review 54*. Editor Merl Storr. London: Routledge. 1996.

"A Brief Introduction to African American Social and Cultural Dance Development." *dance: body & soul*. School of Dance: California Institute of the Arts. Spring 1996.

PRESENTATIONS

"Who Is They? Black Queer/Trans Vernacular Grammars," presenters Victor Ultra Omni and Laura Alexandra Harris, Black Trans Politics Panel, National Women's Studies Association Conference, Hilton Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2022

Invited Panelist, "Exorcising Dispossession: Black Womxn's Activism, Joy, (Re)possession," National Women's Studies Association 2019: Protest, Justice, and Transnational Organizing, Panel: *Unreading Dispossession Through Black Womxn's Activism*, November 14-17, 2019

Invited Workshop Organizer, "Birdwatching: Witnessing the Creative," Fire & Ink IV: Witness, Detroit, Michigan, October 2015.

Invited Member Archivo QueerItalia/Queer Archive Italy, Feminist and Queer Theory Online Platform, London, England, September 2015.

Invited Chair, “All the Way Live”: The Aesthetics of Pleasure in California Funk, American Studies Association, Los Angeles, Ca, November 2014

Invited Roundtable Panelist, "Academic Abolitionism: Native/Women of Color Feminist/Queer of Color Learning and Living Beyond the (Re)Production of Death," UC San Diego, LaJolla, California, May 2014.

Invited Guest Queer Faculty Symposium, “Faith & Birdwatching,” Faculty writing project reading and discussion. Queer Resource Center Pomona College, Ca. April 2012.

Invited Panelist, Femme Day of Action: “Instigating and Imagining Femme(inine) Community in Los Angeles,” *Human Resources Gallery* Los Angeles, Ca. January 2012.

Invited Chair and Panelist, "Reimagining Femme Subjectivity: A Roundtable Dialogue on Queer Political Currencies," American Studies Association, Maryland, Baltimore, October 2011.

Invited Keynote Address, “The Pleasures/Dangers of a Queer Black Fem/inist Nihilism: Un/knowing and Un/being in the Academy,” for The Third Annual Bodies of Knowledge Symposium, Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg, SC, March 2010.

Invited Panelist, “Amandititita’s “Metrosexual”: The Small is BIG Anarcumbia-ista, panel presentation for “Las Americas, Cuerpos y Sexualidades: Global Conversations/Local Politics,” Biblioteca Los Mangos, Puerto Vallarta, November 2009.

“On Theorizing a Black Queer Harlem Renaissance,” presentation for “The Harlem Renaissance Revisited: Politics, Arts, and Letters,” University of Connecticut, Hartford, March 2008.

Invited Plenary Speaker for “Feminisms in the Twentieth Century: Lessons for the Twenty-first Century,” The Huntington Library Women’s Studies Seminar Series, Huntington Library, San Marino, Ca., March 2008.

Selected Fiction Readings, invited reading for “Under the Radar a Speaker’s Series Celebrating Queer Issues and Diversity,” Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, October 2007.

“Provocative Communities, Provoking Critical Dialogues: a meditation on the radical potential of incompatability,” invited Keynote Address for Tongue to Tongue: Provoking Critical Dialogues Among Queer Women of Color, Gay and Lesbian Center’s The Village, Los Angeles, Ca, September 2007.

“The Memoirs of Alice B. Jones (aka Mrs. Rhinelander),” fiction writers panel for Caribbean Unbound III Conference, Franklin College, Switzerland, March 2007.

Interview Subject, "Pillow Queens," Sex City Radio-CIUT 89.5 FM Toronto, Canada interview by Chanelle Gallant, Fall 2006.

Interview Subject, "Are You Butch or Femme?" interview by Heather Cassel, Toyphoria Magazine, Fall 2006.

"A Brief Introduction to the Confessions of the Pillow Queen," panel presentation for Notes Towards a Femininity Studies: Critical Femininities and the Cosmologies of Queer Femme at the American Studies Association Annual Conference, October 2006

"Femme Sexual Receptivity at the Intersections of Race and Class," Femme 2006: Conversations & Explorations, San Francisco, Femme 2006 Collective, August 2006

"Pillow Queens, Race & Class: Queer Femininities & Sexual Practices," Body Language: Sexualities, Identities, and Time, Lewis & Clark College Gender Studies Symposium, March 2006

"Confessions of the Pillow Queen: Sexual Practices & Queer Fem-ininities," Lesbian Lives XIII: Historicizing the Lesbian, University College Dublin, February 2006

"Confessions of the Pillow Queen: Representing Queer Femininities & Sexuality," Invited Plenary Speaker for Queering Femininity Conference, Seattle, May 2005 (virtual presentation submitted)

Reading/Performance of "why i write version II: (reader/audience interactive)" and "critical karaoke: rosanna/marina," Ditch: a queer feminist collective, April 2005

Respondent/Moderator for Versus Desire/Identity a queer wo/men of color visual arts exhibit at ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Opening Reception Panel Featuring Artists: Laura Aguilar, Alma Lopez, and YK Hong, Fall 2004

Interview Subject, Queer Femmes of Color Video Project by Alma Lopez, Fall 2004

"Hybrid Italians, Diasporic Africans: Who's Metticcio/Whose Meticcio in the Eritrea-Italy Diaspora?" essay presentation by invitation from the Huntington Library Women's Studies Seminar, San Marino, May 2004

"Teaching A Queer Harlem Renaissance." essay presentation by invitation, American Literature Association 15th Annual Conference on American Literature, San Francisco, May 2004.

"Solutions." panel discussant, Making Change: Women's Experiences With Work Conference, Cal-State University Long Beach, April 2004.

"Notes from a Welfare Queen in the Ivory Tower." A reading at Making Change: Women's Experiences With Work Conference, Cal-State University Long Beach, April 2004.

"Notes from a Welfare Queen in the Ivory Tower." A reading at Smith College by invitation from the journal *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*. April 2004.

"Notes from a Welfare Queen in the Ivory Tower." A reading for Pitzer College Marching & Chowder Faculty Speakers Series. November 2003.

Los Angeles Readings from "*Notes from a Welfare Queen in the Ivory Tower*," Midnight Special Bookstore, November 2002 and Espresso Mi Cultura Café, February, 2003.

New York Readings from "*Notes from a Welfare Queen in the Ivory Tower*," Nuyorican Poets Café, Asian-American Writer's Workshop and Audre Lorde Project Center, October 2002.

"Hybrid Italians, Diasporic Africans: Who's Metticcio/Whose Meticcio in the Eritrea-Italy Diaspora?" essay presentation, The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas Conference, University of Padua, Italy June 2002.

This Bridge We Call Home: Radical Visions for Transformation, Keynote Panel Roundtable Discussant for The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas Conference, University of Padua, Italy June 2002.

"Everyday Outlaws," Invited Keynote Speaker, Cal Poly Pomona Lavender Graduation Celebration, Kellogg House, June 2001.

"Troubling Borders: Queer Culture in the Harlem Renaissance," essay presentation, Homoeroticism and the Harlem Renaissance, the official panel of the Lesbian and Gay Caucus for the Northeastern Modern Language Association, Buffalo, New York, April 2000.

"Notes from a Welfare Queen in the Ivory Tower," Invited Keynote Panelist for Re-Centering the Margins: Queer Women of Color Building Coalition in the Millennium, California State University Long Beach, April 2000.

"Notes on Africa-Italy Hybridity, Immigration and Displacement," Invited essay presentation, Cultural Studies Department Lecture Series, Claremont Graduate University, November 1999.

Featured Speaker, African American Women's Summit: Lifting As We Grow, Your Public Image Workshop, Claremont McKenna College, March 1999.

"*L'Abbandono*: Who's Metticcio/Whose Meticcio in the Eritrea-Italy Diaspora?" essay presentation, Africa/Italy: An Interdisciplinary International Symposium, University of Miami, November 1998.

"Black Radical Media: Authenticity and Context," a discussion panel presentation, Black Radical Congress, University of Illinois, Spring 1998.

"Consuming Villainous Mulattas: It's Just a Sweet, Sweet Fantasy Baby," essay presentation, Narratives of Resistance: Literature and Ethnicity in the United States and the Caribbean, Universidad de Castilla, Fall 1997.

"The Harlem Renaissance: Gender, Canons, and Class Conflicts," essay presentation, The Diversity Education Program for Black History Month, University of California Santa Cruz, Spring 1997.

"Women Writers and the Harlem Renaissance Canon," essay presentation by invitation from Ann duCille for the Graduate Colloquium in the Literature Department at University of California San Diego, Fall 1996.

"Lesbian Studies in the 21st Century," a discussion panel organized by Bonnie Zimmerman, 25th Anniversary Symposium of Women's Studies, San Diego State University, Winter 1995.

"Rich, Rule, and Lorde: Disrupting Compulsory Heterosexuality," a paper delivered at the National Women's Studies Association Conference, Women's Movements: Cultural, Intellectual, Political (R)evolutions, University of Oklahoma, Spring 1995.

"Femme Image, Femme Identity," a paper delivered at the Fifth Annual National Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Graduate Student Conference, Queer Frontiers, University of Southern California, Fall 1995.

"Nella Larsen's Passing: (E)Racing the Family," a paper delivered at the Second Annual San Diego State University English Graduate Student Conference, The Crisis Carnival. Spring 1994.

"Feminist Encounters of the First Kind, " a paper delivered at the Ninth National Graduate Women's Studies Conference, Emerging Theories/Merging Practices in Gender Studies, University of California San Diego, Spring 1994.

Current Editorial Activities

Editorial collective member with Julie Enszer, Silas Heying, Amanda Jean Mixon, Taylor Marie Doherty, Journal of Lesbian Studies, Special Issue: Minni Bruce Pratt, 2023-2026

Professional Honors

Multi-genre Workshop Member, with Professor Naomi Shihab Nye, Macondo Writers: A Homeland for Writers, July 2024

Office of Black Student Affairs, Agnes Moreland Jackson Award, Spring 2018

Honor award for Faculty Contributions to 5 Colleges' Queer Community, Lavender Graduation, Queer Resource Center, Pomona College, Spring 2012

Honor award for Faculty Contributions to 5 Colleges' Queer Community, Lavender Graduation, Queer Resource Center, Pomona College, Spring 2007

Notes From A Welfare Queen In The Ivory Tower: poetry, fiction, letters, and essays. Nominated for the American Library Association Stonewall Book Award, 2002.

Peer Reviewer

Melus: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, Oxford University Press

Criticism: A Quarterly for Literature and the Arts, Wayne State University

Feminist Formations, Johns Hopkins University Press

Meridians feminism race transnationalism, Smith College

The Journal of Homosexuality, Taylor & Francis, Routledge Press

Journal of Lesbian Studies, Taylor & Francis, Routledge Press

Journal of Lesbian Studies Special Issue of Black Lesbian Studies, Taylor & Francis,

Routledge Press