

Michael Odom

Associate Professor of English
Borough of Manhattan Community College
The City University of New York
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. English, University of South Carolina, 2014.

Dissertation: “Southern Strategies: Narrative Negotiation in the Evangelical South”

Committee Robert Brinkmeyer (Director, Southern Studies)
 Qiana Whitted (African-American Studies)
 Catherine Keyser (American Literature and Gender Studies)
 Kevin Lewis (Religious Studies)

Summary My dissertation explores the narrative strategies employed by southern writers to resist, satirize, and creatively negotiate evangelical religious communities.

M.A. Theology, Southwestern Seminary, 2005.

B.A. English, Auburn University Montgomery, 2000.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of English, Borough of Manhattan Community College, The City University of New York, 2019-present.

Assistant Professor of English, Borough of Manhattan Community College, The City University of New York, 2014-2019.

Courses Taught:

English Composition I
Intensive Writing
World Literature II: From Early Modern Era to the Present

English Instructor, Department of English, University of South Carolina, 2010-2013.

Courses Taught:

English 101: Critical Reading and Writing.
English 102: Rhetoric and Composition.

Research Associate, Digital Humanities, The Simms Initiatives, University of South Carolina, 2012-2013. Consists of meta-data entry, research bibliography, and composing introductory headnotes for the complete works of William Gilmore Simms. <http://simms.library.sc.edu/>

Research Assistant, African-American Studies, University of South Carolina, 2012. Research, bibliography, and editing scholarship on race, comics, and postwar culture.

English Instructor, Tuscaloosa Academy (College Preparatory), 2006-2010.

Courses Taught:

AP English Literature and Composition

Introduction to Philosophy

Journalism

English Writing and ESL Reading Teacher, Morningside Middle School (Title One), 2005-2006.

PUBLICATIONS

Book:

Southern Strategies: Narrative Negotiation in an Evangelical Region, University of South Carolina Press (2024).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

“Religious Satire and Narrative Ambiguity in *The Known World*,” *South Atlantic Review* (Spring 2019): 91-104.

“Dennis Covington's *Salvation on Sand Mountain*: Descent and Vision in the Southern Memoir,” *The Southern Literary Journal* (Fall 2013): 96-109.

“How to Win Friends and Convert People: Onnie Jay Holy and the Sales Culture of American Evangelicalism,” *Flannery O'Connor Review* Vol. 11 (August 2013): 123-135.

“*The Power of Cotton*: A Putative Simms Title Disproved,” *The Simms Review* 20.1-2 (Summer/Winter 2012): 89-104.

Book Introduction:

“Critical Introduction” to *The Damsel of Darien* by William Gilmore Simms, University of South Carolina Press (2017).

Collected Essays:

“The Damsel of Darien,” *Reading William Gilmore Simms: Essays of Introduction to the Author's Canon*, Ed. Todd Hagstette, University of South Carolina Press (2017): 83-96.

“Evangelical Satire and Bodily Redemption in Flannery O'Connor's ‘A Temple of the Holy Spirit’ and ‘Parker's Back,’” *Critical Insights: Short Fiction of Flannery O'Connor*, Ed. Robert C. Evans, Salem Press (2016): 174-189.

AWARDS

PSC-CUNY Research Grant, Cycle 52, The City University of New York, 2021-2022.

PSC-CUNY Research Grant, Cycle 46, The City University of New York, 2015-2016.

Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Dissertation Fellowship, 2013-2014. Awarded by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Carolina.

Joel Myerson Fellowship in American Letters, University of South Carolina, 2010-2013. Highest specialist fellowship offered to American Literature Ph.D. students in the English department.

Sarah Gordon Award, *Flannery O'Connor Review*, 2012. Awarded the best article written by a graduate student on Flannery O'Connor and/or southern studies.

William Nolte Award, University of South Carolina, 2012. Scholarship awarded for outstanding performance in the Ph.D. program.

James Dickey Award, University of South Carolina, Graduate English Association, 2012. Awarded the top honor for scholarly writing in the department by faculty referees.

Irene D. Elliot Award, University of South Carolina, 2010-2011. Award given annually for outstanding teaching in the First-Year English Program based upon peer and faculty nominations and general teaching record. This honor is granted to two of approximately ninety instructor staff.

Flannery O'Connor Collections Fellowship, Georgia College & State University, 2010. Awarded by the *Flannery O'Connor Review* with a stipend and provided access to O'Connor's collections at the GCSU for 2009-2010 to work with early unpublished manuscripts of O'Connor's first novel, *Wise Blood*.

Walter Thomas Conner Memorial Award, Southwestern Seminary, 2005. Theology division's most prestigious award granted annually to student who best displays excellence in research.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Panel Chair, "Teaching Morrison: A Toni Morrison Tribute," South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 15-17, 2019.

"Property Rights, Patriotic Songs, and Private Schools: Religious Satire in Walker Percy's Fiction," South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 15-17, 2019.

Panel Chair, "Metafictional Forms and Narrative Ruptures," Society for the Study of Southern Literature, Austin, TX, February 15-18, 2018.

"Southern Criticism and Self Destruction in *S-Town*," Society for the Study of Southern Literature, Austin, TX, February 15-18, 2018.

"The Holy Plot: Evangelical Conflict and Resistance in Richard Wright's *Black Boy*," South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 3-5, 2017.

"W.J. Cash: Public Intellectual in the Authoritarian South," Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, January 5-8, 2017.

"Deconversion Narratives in Southern Memoirs," Sacred Literature, Secular Religion: A Conference on Cultural Practices, Syracuse, NY, October 1-3, 2015.

“Reading Lillian Smith’s *Killers of the Dream* as Deconversion Narrative,” Religious Patterns in Southern Literature, AUM Southern Studies Conference 2015, Auburn University, Montgomery, AL, February 6-7, 2015.

“Turning Down the Volume: Lutheran Whispers in Doris Betts’s *The Sharp Teeth of Love*,” Contemporary Theologies in Southern Literature, Society for the Study of Southern Literature Session, American Literature Association 24th Annual Conference, Boston, MA, May 23-26, 2013.

“Religious Satire and Narrative Ambiguity in Edward P. Jones’s *The Known World*,” Remembering / Rememories of the Middle Passage in Contemporary African American Literature, South Atlantic Modern Language Association 84th Annual Conference, Research Triangle, North Carolina, November 9-11, 2012.

“Evangelical Authoritarianism in W.J. Cash’s *The Mind of the South*,” The Society for the Study of Southern Literature Biannual Conference, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, March 29-31, 2012.

“Happy, Victorious Christianity: Religious Satire in Walker Percy’s Fiction,” The Moviegoer at Fifty: Inaugural Conference of the Walker Percy Center for Writing and Publishing, Loyola University New Orleans, LA, October 14-16, 2011.

“Dennis Covington’s *Salvation on Sand Mountain: Descent and Vision in the Southern Memoir*,” Southern Writers / Southern Writing Conference, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, July 14-16, 2011.

“Onnie Jay Holy and the Sales Culture of American Evangelicalism,” Startling Figures: A Celebration of the Legacy of Flannery O’Connor, Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA, April 13-16, 2011.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Faculty Advisor, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Borough of Manhattan Community College, 2014-present.

Library and Technology Committee, English Department, Borough of Manhattan Community College, 2014-present.

Chair, American Literature Colloquium, University of South Carolina, 2011-2012.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Modern Language Association (MLA)
South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA)
Society for the Study of Southern Literature (SSSL)

REFERENCES

Professor Robert Brinkmeyer
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Professor Qiana Whitted
African-American Studies
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