



Internal Grant Cover Sheet

READING IN THE POSTGENOMIC AGE

A proposal submitted to:
NMU Faculty Grants Committee

By

LESLEY LARKIN
English
College of Arts and Sciences
Northern Michigan University

14 March 2016

Total Project Length: 6 months (January 2017 – June 2017)

Total Requested Funds: \$17,500

Potential external funds: up to \$45,000

Total Project Budget: \$17,500 - \$62,500

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lesley Larkin".

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Domina".

Lynn Domina, Department Head
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ABSTRACT

The Human Genome Project officially completed its task of mapping a human genome in 2003, ushering in a “postgenomic age” characterized by the rapid development of technologies for genome sequencing and analysis, a progressively complex understanding of how genes work, the commodification of genome sequencing for medical consumers, and (paradoxically) the popular entrenchment of genetic determinisms. The rise of genomics, coincident with the rise of biomedicine, has the potential to challenge and to abet regimes of biopower. *Reading in the Postgenomic Age*, a literary studies monograph, takes the postgenomic turn as an occasion for rethinking the ethical stakes of reading, especially as they pertain to changing racial formations. This focus is prompted by the literary metaphors used in molecular genetics, by ethical questions that overlap literature and medicine, and by contemporary literary works that engage genomics formally, thematically, theoretically, and performatively. Building on Larkin’s previous research into how African American writers engage reading as a racializing practice, this book asks: What is ethical reading in the postgenomic age? And how do contemporary writers train readers to read postgenomic discourses of race and power? *Reading in the Postgenomic Age*, which contributes a much-needed literary perspective to interdisciplinary discussions of genomics and race, has been offered an advance contract by Indiana University Press with a deadline of June 2017. The Peter White Scholar Award will enable the timely publication of this study and will allow its author to pursue cutting-edge research that will be incorporated into courses and extracurricular initiatives at NMU.

NARRATIVE

1) Objectives

The primary goal of *Reading in the Postgenomic Age* is to make a significant contribution, in the form of a literary studies monograph, to the interdisciplinary study of genomics and contemporary racial discourse.

The Human Genome Project (HGP), officially completed in 2003, ushered in a “postgenomic age” characterized by the rapid development and commodification of genome sequencing technologies and a progressively complex understanding of how genes work (Hallam and Stevens). Although the HGP promised to do away with the specious notion of biological race by demonstrating that human beings share the vast majority of their genetic data, the postgenomic era is decidedly not postracial, as pre-existing racial formations have adopted the language of molecular genetics and influenced its undertakings (Roberts). Postgenomic redefinitions of race, distributed through textbooks, newspaper and on-line articles, and medical marketing, herald an unprecedented return to racial thinking (Morning, Phelan). And “genomic fetishism,” the idea that simple genomic explanations exist for complex medical and social phenomena, has gained traction against the objections of geneticists (Rajan 144-145). For example, science journalist Nicholas Wade’s controversial book, *A Troublesome Inheritance: Genes, Race, and Human History* (2014), has been criticized by numerous scientists for misusing genomic research to argue that political inequalities result from inherited biological differences among national groups. Such thinking has real-life ramifications in a society structured by the (de)valuation, classification, and disciplining of bodies according to race.

These complex developments have been addressed not only by critical race theorists, social scientists, and scientists, but also by contemporary writers, whose works engage genomics

as a turning-point in the ongoing story of race in America. Writers like Margaret Atwood, Octavia Butler, Ruth Ozeki, Richard Powers, Rebecca Skloot, Alina Troyano, and Gerald Vizenor have demonstrated that genomics (as scientific practice, commercial enterprise, and popular discourse) is a premier terrain upon which race is being reinscribed and reimagined. In their construction of alternate genealogies (past and future), their invention of hybrids and “mixedbloods” (Vizenor), their citation of the linguistic metaphors with which genomic discourse is replete, and—most notably—their investigation of narrative and medical ethics, these authors train readers to read critically postgenomic discourses of race and power. The goal of my project is to describe how contemporary writers address the ethics of reading race in the postgenomic era and to rethink the endeavor of literary criticism within the ethical matrix outlined by these authors.

To date, the (relatively minimal) participation of literary scholars in the interdisciplinary study of genomics and race has focused on analyzing genomic discourse and diagnosing cultural and ethical trends thereby (Wald and Clayton). In other words, the object of humanist intervention has been genomics itself, expanded to include material, ideological, discursive, and cultural effects and texts. Building on these contributions, I argue that literary scholarship should also ask how genomics influences the reception, interpretation, and circulation of literary texts. Many literary works that take the life sciences as a key object of interest are equally concerned with the politics and practices of reading, generally, and reading race, specifically. Their interventions are not only in the field of representation (how genomic discourse constructs and circulates race) but also in the field of reception (how readers participate in those constructions and circulations). In other words, I argue, not only does literary criticism prompt a re-reading of postgenomics, but postgenomics also prompts a re-reading of reading itself. This argument has

special significance in an era when humanities disciplines are strikingly vulnerable to the economic imperatives that structure higher education. A secondary goal, then, is to demonstrate the relevance of the humanities, and literary study in particular, to the most crucial scientific and political questions of our day without *reducing* these fields to what they can offer more prominent and lucrative STEM disciplines. Furthermore, I hope to cultivate a conversation about the intersection of science and culture at NMU through revised academic courses and the development of an interdisciplinary working group.

2) Scholarly Significance

Reading in the Postgenomic Age contributes to cutting-edge interdisciplinary efforts to understand the social and political implications of genomic research. These efforts are crucial as scientists question how or whether to incorporate “race” into their research and how to procure and sort biological materials ethically; as policymakers consider tissue rights, gene patents, seed patents, genetically modified foods, and the use of genetic information in the distribution of health insurance and the application of criminal justice; and as individuals make decisions about genetic testing and therapeutic interventions. By focusing on ethical questions of interest to authors and their audiences, my project makes a unique contribution to the interdisciplinary study of genomics and culture, one that is relevant to students of literature, literary theory, critical race theory, biomedical ethics, literature and medicine, and the medical humanities. My book’s focus on critically acclaimed contemporary writers from a range of intellectual and cultural backgrounds, as well as subjects of enormous popular interest (genomics, tissue rights, animal rights, environmental justice, genetically modified foods, and so on) may appeal to non-academic, non-specialist readers as well. As one of the reviewers for Indiana University Press

wrote of my project, “it has the potential to reach audiences beyond the usual readership for literary criticism. It would not be surprising for the work to be reviewed in medical and scientific journals It should also enter an existing dialogue with the field of literature and medicine or medical humanities. Finally, it is likely to be noticed by the bioethics community.”

3) Relationship to Current Work in the Discipline

That social scientists and humanists offer important insight into the political, social, and ethical implications of genomic research is today widely acknowledged. Anthropologists and sociologists have embedded themselves in research labs and genealogical communities and have developed rich descriptions of how the scientific and social valences of “race” are coproduced (Fullwiley, Bliss), how genomics is imbricated in the processes of biocapital (Rajan), and how genetic ancestry testing is contributing to the development of new modes of kinship and political affiliation (Nelson). Scholars in the fields of legal studies, science studies, and the medical humanities have offered detailed analyses of the historical and ideological development of genomics and postgenomics (and related fields) and their influence on the broader culture (Haraway, Kay, Keller, Landecker, Reardon, Richardson, Roberts, Stevens). And literary scholars have made an eloquent case for the contributions humanists can make to the interdisciplinary study of genes and genomes by analyzing proliferating genomic narratives (literary and otherwise) (Clayton, Wald). That scholars of language and literature are especially well suited to this project is supported by the prominence of literary narratives in interdisciplinary discussion of postgenomics, by the linguistic metaphors with which postgenomic discourse is itself replete (i.e., “translation,” “transcription,” “vocabulary,” “code,” “punctuation,” “editing,” and “reading,” “the Book of Life,” “the Code of Codes,” etc.), and by

historical exchanges among scholars in molecular genetics, informatics, and linguistics (Keller, Kay).

Reading in the Postgenomic Age thus builds on work about genomics by scholars in a variety of fields by offering a discussion of contemporary literary approaches to genomic-era social transformations. This book also extends the study of literary and reader ethics that I began in *Race and the Literary Encounter: Black Literature from James Weldon Johnson to Percival Everett* (Indiana UP, 2015). In so doing, it responds to the work of literary scholars and philosophers, such as Derek Attridge, John Beverley, Elizabeth Flynn, Paula Moya, Martha Nussbaum, Adam Zachary Newton, Patrocinio Schweickart, and Doris Sommer, who explore the ethical demands made by literary works or obtaining at scenes of reading. My book is also in dialogue with the field of narrative medicine, whose practitioners, including Rita Charon and Ann Folwell Stanford, study the role storytelling plays in the ethical treatment of patients. And it contributes to contemporary studies of speculative fiction and race, including an edited collection, tentatively titled *Race and American Apocalypse*, which I will co-edit with Professor Paula Moya of Stanford University. However, despite these important intersections with existing research, there is currently no book-length study relating medical and narrative ethics in the context of postgenomics. *Reading in the Postgenomic Age* addresses this significant scholarly gap.

4) Methods

Overall, my project is conducted through detailed close readings of primary texts in dialogue with scholarship on these texts and relevant theoretical works. For example, in the case of my newly conceived fifth chapter, I will read closely Alice Wexler's *Mapping Fate: A*

Memoir of Family, Risk, and Genetic Research (1996) and Susanne Antonetta's *Body Toxic: An Environmental Memoir* (2002), with an eye for how each book employs formal and thematic elements to address risk in relation to genomics and race. I will develop a conjoined analysis of these memoirs in relation to critical scholarship on Wexler and Antonetta as well as ecocritical, social scientific, and philosophical texts that inform my understanding of risk in the postgenomic age (including works by sociologist Ulrich Beck, literary theorist Stacy Alaimo, and philosopher Giorgio Agamben). I will then draft, revise, and edit the new chapter. This process is indicative of the process used for the book as a whole.

5) Timetable [Items in italics are outside the scope of the PWSA timeline]

September 2015 - June 2016: Research and draft four chapters (in progress)

March 2016: Present research at Stanford Humanities Center and at Society for the Study of the Multiethnic Literatures of the United States (MELUS) Annual Conference

April 2016: Apply for National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship

May 2016: Present research at American Literature Association (ALA) Annual Conference

September 2016: Apply for American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship

September 2016 - December 2016: Draft final chapter

January 2017 – June 2017: Draft introduction and undertake global revisions

January 2017: Present research at Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention (contingent upon acceptance and funding)

April 2017: Present research at MELUS Annual Conference (contingent upon acceptance and funding)

June 2017: Submit complete manuscript to Indiana University Press (per advance contract)

Summer 2017 / Fall 2017: Revise manuscript in response to reader reports and deliver final manuscript; develop interdisciplinary science and culture scholarly working group at NMU

October 2017: Present research at American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) Annual Meeting (contingent upon acceptance and funding)

2018: *Publish monograph (projected)*

Note: I began this project during my (ongoing) 2015-2016 sabbatical, at the end of which I will have drafted four of five book chapters. These chapters will focus on the intersection of medical and narrative ethics in works by Richard Powers and Rebecca Skloot, the vampire as a figure for Indigenous and African American critiques of genomics in works by Gerald Vizenor and Octavia Butler, human-animal hybrids in Margaret Atwood's *Maddaddam* trilogy, and the post-atomic visions of Shelley Jackson and Alina Troyano. In addition to researching and drafting these chapters, I have used my sabbatical to secure an advance contract with Indiana University Press (due June 2017) and to develop an outline for a new chapter on the concept of "risk." This fifth chapter was not part of my sabbatical proposal; however, as my research has developed, it has become clear that risk is a key motif in postgenomic discourse. Risk calculations influence the decision to undergo or refuse genetic testing, the development of human research protocols, and the computation of insurance premiums. Its uneven distribution throughout society also intersects with and complicates racism. This new chapter will center on memoirs by Alice Wexler and Susanne Antonetta, both of which address knowledge of risk as a tenuous ethical state and prompt a focused discussion of whiteness as a racial category constructed in part through the unequal dissemination of risk.

6) Projected Project Outcome

The primary outcome of this project is a scholarly monograph of approximately 90,000 words entitled *Reading in the Postgenomic Age* to be published by Indiana University Press (advance contract secured). Secondary outcomes include:

- 4-6 scholarly presentations
- The development of an interdisciplinary science and culture scholarly working group at NMU
- The revision of courses in American Literature, African American Literature, and Gender Studies to incorporate this new line of research

7) Plans for Seeking External Funding

I plan to apply for two sources of external funding: a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) (due April 30, 2016) and a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) (due September 2016, exact date to be announced). The NEH summer stipend program provides \$6,000 to support two months of full-time research, which I will perform in June and July of 2016. The ACLS fellowship offers up to \$45,000 for up to 12 months of full-time research for scholars at the associate professor level. My plan is to apply for 6 months of funding (\$22,500) to be used from July 1 to December 31, 2017, for the final stages of my book project. My PWSA budget proposal supports adjunct pay for Winter 2017 and travel costs from January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017.

BUDGET

1) Budget Narrative / Justification

The successful and prompt completion of my book depends upon time, more than any other resource. Therefore, the majority of my funding will be directed toward adjunct pay (approximately \$13,167), so that I can finish drafting and revising my manuscript before the initial draft is due to the press in June 2017. The PWSA will cover 12 credits of reassigned time during the Winter 2017 semester. The remainder of the PWSA funding will be used to support travel to academic conferences where I will develop and disseminate my research (approximately \$4284). Should I be awarded an NEH summer stipend, I will use that money to support research in June and July of 2016. Should I be awarded an ACLS fellowship, I will use that money to support research from July 1 to December 31, 2017, including writing, revising, and editing my manuscript (as requested by the press following reader reports) and disseminating my research at academic conferences.

2) Itemized Budget

1. Faculty Salary and Fringe Benefits

- Adjunct Instructor Salary: $\$1080 / \text{credit hour} \times 12 \text{ credit hours} = \$13,167$

2. Student Assistant Salary and Benefits – N/A

3. Supplies – N/A

4. Contractual Services – N/A

5. Travel: $\$1478 / 3 \text{ conferences} = \4284

- Conference Fees: $\$150 / \text{conference} \times 3 = \450
 - Airfare: $\$600 / \text{roundtrip} \times 3 = \1800

- Meals: $\$32 / \text{day} \times 12 \text{ days} = \384
- Lodging: $\$150 / \text{night} \times 9 \text{ nights} = \1350
- Ground Transportation: $\$50 / \text{airport shuttle} \times 6 \text{ rides} = \300

TOTAL = \$17,451

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: List of Works Cited

Agamben, Giorgio. *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. Stanford, California: Stanford UP, 1998. Print.

Alaimo, Stacy. *Bodily Natures: Science, Environment, and the Material Self*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2010. Print.

Antonetta, Susanne. *Body Toxic: An Environmental Memoir*. 2001. Washington, D. C.: Counterpoint, 2002. Print.

Attridge, Derek. *The Singularity of Literature*. New York: Routledge, 2004. Print.

Atwood, Margaret. *Maddaddam*. New York: Knopf, 2013. Print.

---. *Oryx and Crake*. New York: Knopf, 2003. Print.

---. *The Year of the Flood*. New York: Knopf, 2009. Print.

Beck, Ulrich. *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*. London: Sage, 1992.

Beverley, John. *Testimonio: On the Politics of Truth*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2004. Print.

Bliss, Catherine. "Racial Taxonomy in Genomics." *Social Science and Medicine* 73.7 (2011): 1019-1027. Print.

Butler, Octavia. *Fledgling*. New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2005. Print.

Charon, Rita. *Narrative Medicine: Honoring the Stories of Illness*. New York: Oxford UP, 2008. Print.

Clayton, Jay. "Genome Time." *Critical Quarterly* 55.1 (2013): 57-74. Print.

Flynn, Elizabeth A. and Patrocínio Schweickart, eds. *Gender and Reading: Essays on Readers, Texts, and Contexts*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986. Print.

Fullwiley, Duana. "The Molecularization of Race: U.S. Health Institutions, Pharmacogenetics Practice, and Public Science after the Genome." In Koenig et al., 149-171.

Haraway, Donna J.

Modest_Witness@Second_Millennium.FemaleMan_Meets_OncoMouse: Feminism and Technoscience. New York: Routledge, 1997. Print.

Jackson, Shelly. *Half Life*. New York: Harper, 2007. Print.

Kay, Lily. *Who Wrote the Book of Life? A History of the Genetic Code*. Stanford, CA: Stanford UP, 2000. Print.

Keller, Evelyn Fox. *Refiguring Life: Metaphors of Twentieth-Century Biology*. New York: Columbia UP, 1996. Print.

Koenig, Barbara A., Sandra Soo-Jin Lee, and Sarah S. Richardson, eds. *Revisiting Race in a Genomic Age*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers UP, 2008. Print.

Landecker, Hannah. *Culturing Life: How Cells Became Technologies*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2010. Print.

Moya, Paula. *The Social Imperative: Race, Close Reading, and Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Stanford, California: Stanford UP, 2015. Print.

Nelson, Alondra. *The Social Life of DNA: Race, Reparations, and Reconciliation after the Genome*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2016. Print.

Newton, Adam Zachary. *Narrative Ethics*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard UP, 1997. Print.

Nussbaum, Martha. *Poetic Justice: The Literary Imagination and Public Life*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1997. Print.

Ozeki, Ruth. *All Over Creation*. New York: Penguin, 2003. Print.

Powers, Richard. *Generosity: An Enhancement*. New York: Picador, 2010. Print.

- Rajan, Kaushik. *Biocapital: The Constitution of Postgenomic Life*. Durham: Duke UP, 2006. Print.
- Reardon, Jenny. "On the Emergence of Science and Justice." *Science, Technology, and Human Values* 38.2 (2013): 176-200. Print.
- . *Race to the Finish: Identity and Governance in an Age of Genomics*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton UP, 2004. Print.
- Richardson, Sarah S. and Hallam Stevens, eds. *Postgenomics: Perspectives on Biology after the Genome*. Durham: Duke UP, 2015. Print.
- Roberts, Dorothy. *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-Create Race in the Twenty-First Century*. New York: The New Press, 2011. Print.
- Schweickart, Patrocínio and Elizabeth A. Flynn, eds. *Reading Sites: Social Difference and Reader Response*. New York: Modern Language Association, 2004. Print.
- Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. New York: Random House, 2010. Print.
- Stanford, Ann Folwell. *Bodies in a Broken World: Women Novelists of Color and the Politics of Medicine*. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 2003. Print.
- Stevens, Hallam. "Networks." In Richardson and Stevens. 103-125.
- Sommer, Doris. *Proceed With Caution When Engaged by Minority Writing in the Americas*. Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1999. Print.
- Troyano, Alina. *I, Carmelita Tropicana*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2000. Print.
- Vizenor, Gerald. *The Heirs of Columbus*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan UP, 1991. Print.
- . "Genome Survivance." In Berthier-Foglar, et. al. 221-232. Print.
- Wade, Nicholas. *A Troublesome Inheritance: Genes, Race, and Human History*. New York: Penguin, 2014. Print.

Wald, Priscilla. "American Studies and the Politics of Life." *American Quarterly* 64.2 (2012):
185-204. Print.

---. *Contagious: Cultures, Carriers, and the Outbreak Narrative*. Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2008.
Print.

Wexler, Alice. *Mapping Fate: A Memoir of Family, Risk, and Genetic Research*. Berkeley: U of
California P, 1996. Print.

Appendix 2: Curriculum Vitae

Lesley Larkin
 Associate Professor of English
 Northern Michigan University
 1401 Presque Isle Avenue Marquette, Michigan 49855
 906-227-1794 (office) 906-226-4024 (home) 989-493-7836 (mobile)
 llarkin@nmu.edu

Education

Ph.D., with distinction, English, University of Washington, Seattle (December 2007)
 Dissertation: *“And in this task we create the self”*: Reading Race and Twentieth-Century American Literature. Director: Alys Eve Weinbaum
 M.A., English, University of Washington, Seattle (June 2002)
 B.A., *summa cum laude*, English, Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon (June 1997)

Publications

In Print

Race and the Literary Encounter: Black Literature from James Weldon Johnson to Percival Everett. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2015.

“Reading as Responsible Dialogue in Ana Castillo’s *The Mixquiahuala Letters*.” *MELUS: Multiethnic Literature of the United States* 37.3 (2012): 141-165.
 [2012 Inaugural MELUS Best Essay Award Winner.]

“Reading and Being Read: Jamaica Kincaid’s *A Small Place* as Literary Agent.” *Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters* 35.1 (2012): 193-211.

“Postwar Liberalism, Close Reading, and ‘You’: Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*.” *LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory* 19.3 (2008): 268-304.

“Authentic Mothers, Authentic Daughters and Sons: Ultrasound Imaging and the Construction of Fetal Sex and Gender.” *Canadian Review of American Studies* 36.3 (2006): 273-291.

In Progress

“AIDS.” *American Literature in Transition: 1990-2000*. Ed. Stephen Burn. Forthcoming from Cambridge University Press.

Reading in the Postgenomic Age: U.S. and Canadian Literature, 1990-2015. Advance contract from Indiana University Press.

Race and American Apocalypse: Speculative Fiction at the Turn of the 21st Century. Prospectus in progress, in collaboration with Paula M. L. Moya (Stanford University).

Grants and Awards

MELUS Best Essay Award (2012)
 Sabbatical, Northern Michigan University (2015-2016)
 Faculty Research Grant, Northern Michigan University (2013)
 Reassigned Time Award, Northern Michigan University (Winter 2011)
 Reassigned Time Award, Northern Michigan University (Fall 2010)
 Reassigned Time Award, Northern Michigan University (Winter 2010)
 McNair Scholarship Program Research Grant, Northern Michigan University (2010)

Selected Presentations

“Reading Race in the Postgenomic Age: Speculative Fiction at the Turn of the Millennium.”
 American Literature Association. San Francisco, California. May 2016. *Forthcoming*.

“Reading Race in the Postgenomic Age.” Interdisciplinary Working Group in Critical Theory.
 Stanford Humanities Center. Stanford University. March 2016. *By invitation*.

“I, Genome: Alina Troyano on Cloning and Contagion.” Society for the Study of the Multiethnic
 Literatures of the United States (MELUS) Annual Conference. The College of
 Charleston. Charleston, South Carolina. March 2016.

“Genomic Vampirism in Octavia Butler’s *Fledgling*.” MELUS Annual Conference. University
 of Georgia. Athens, Georgia. April 2015.

“I Want to Suck Your DNA: Genomic Vampirism in the Work of Octavia Butler and Richard
 Powers.” Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention. Vancouver,
 Canada. January 2015.

“Race and the Common Reader.” Race and Pedagogy National Conference. University of Puget
 Sound. Tacoma, Washington. September 2014.

“From Eugenics to Genomics: Medical Exploitation in Toni Morrison’s *Home*.” MELUS Annual
 Conference. Oklahoma City University. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. March 2014.

“‘Oh my god, I did this to her’: Reader Ethics in *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.”
 Reception Study Society (RSS) Biennial Conference. Marquette University. Milwaukee,
 Wisconsin. September 2013.

Academic Appointments

Northern Michigan University Marquette, Michigan

Associate Professor of English (2014-present)
 Acting Provost (January 2015-June 2015)
 Assistant Professor of English (2008-2014)

Seattle Pacific University Seattle, Washington

Lilly SERVE Fellow, English (2005-2006)
 Adjunct Instructor, English (Winter 2005)

University of Washington Seattle, Washington

Pre-doctoral Associate, English (2005)
 Teaching Assistant, English (2001-2005)

Courses Taught

Northern Michigan University

English 570: Seminar in American Literature (*American Literature in the Genomic Age*)

English 570: Seminar in American Literature (*Race, Reproduction, and Maternity*)

English 570/490: Seminar in American Literature (*Multiethnic Feminist Literature and Theory*)

English 530/430: Major Authors (*Toni Morrison*)

English 504: Principles of Critical Investigation (*Reading and Responsibility*)

English 379: Modern African American Literature

English 376: American Literature V: 1970-present

English 373: American Literature IV: 1930-1970

English 372: American Literature III: 1865-1930

English 282: Introduction to Literature

English 250: Images of Women in Literature

English 211A: Writing and Literature

English 111: College Composition I

English 110: Good Books

Honors 112: Modern Art: African American Sources

Appendix 3: Supporting Documents

3a. First page of advance contract from Indiana University Press for *Reading in the Postgenomic Age*

3b. Email from Indiana University Press offering advance contract.

3c. Speaking invitation from the Stanford Humanities Center Interdisciplinary Working Group in Critical Theory

3d. Advertisement for my speaking engagement at the Stanford Humanities Center

3e. Emails accepting my proposals to speak at the recent MELUS Annual Conference (March 2016) and the upcoming American Literature Association Annual Conference (May 2016)

PUBLISHING AGREEMENT

made at Bloomington, Indiana

this **25th** day of **January**, 2016

between

Lesley Larkin

Name (the "Author")

18602 70th Ave. W., Lynnwood, WA 98037

Domicile Address

Citizenship: **USA**

Date of Birth: **4/17/1976**

and the Trustees of Indiana University on behalf of Indiana University Press, Office of Scholarly Publishing, Herman B Wells Library 350, 1320 East 10th Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47405-3907 (the "Press"), relating to a work tentatively entitled:

Reading in the Postgenomic Age

(the "Work").

Grants of Rights

[1] The Author hereby grants and assigns to the Press the full and exclusive worldwide right, during the term of copyright in the U.S. and elsewhere, to publish or cause others to publish the Work in all languages and in all formats and media now known or to be invented, in its entirety or separate chapters. The foregoing rights include, but are not limited to, the right to publish the Work in all physical book or other formats, including electronic forms of content delivery. The Author hereby appoints the Press his/her representative and attorney-in-fact for the purpose of exercising all rights in the Work granted by this Agreement.

[2] The Press has the further right to arrange for the sale or licensing of the subsidiary rights relating to the Work in the following formats: first and second serial, serialization, foreign, translation, selection, abridgment, condensation, digest, anthology, adaptation, syndication, omnibus volumes, book clubs, hardback or paperback reprints, mass market paperback editions, lecture use, slides, public readings, audiobooks and any and all other recordings and sound reproductions, microfilms, reproduction by xerography or other photocopying and related processes, braille, dramatization, radio, television, motion pictures (sight and sound), and in any other format not yet conceived.

[3] The Author agrees to permit publication of short selections from the Work in any format for publicity and scholarly purposes, without payment to the Press or the Author, as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Press.

[4] If the Work is incomplete or requires substantial revision at the time of this contract, then publication is contingent upon the complete or revised manuscript receiving supportive outside peer review and being approved by the press's Faculty Board.

Press GD Author LL

Advance Contract for "Reading in the Postgenomic Age" - Message (HTML)

FILE MESSAGE

Mon 1/25/2016 7:55 AM
Frisch, Janice <frischj@indiana.edu>
Advance Contract for "Reading in the Postgenomic Age"

To: Larkin, Lesley; Dunham, Gary
You replied to this message on 1/28/2016 9:10 AM.

Message Larkin_CONTRACT_LitGenomicAge.pdf (39 KB)

Dear Lesley,

Thank you very much for sending us your response. Gary has reviewed it and we would like to offer you and advance contract for your manuscript. Please keep in mind that works under advance contract will need to undergo successful peer review and be approved by the Press's Editorial Board before they can be published.

I am attaching here a draft of your contract. Please review it and if everything is in order: (1) confirm your domicile address, citizenship and birth date information at the top of page 1, (2) initial each page, (3) sign the last page, and (4) scan the contract and email it back to me your earliest convenience. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any further questions or concerns.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Best wishes,
Janice

Frisch, Janice | UP Contract Update & Important Documents

3:27 PM 3/10/2016

Stanford University

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305-2022

September 28, 2015

Lesley Larkin
Associate Professor, Department of English
Northern Michigan University
1401 Presque Isle Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855

Dear Lesley Larkin:

We are writing to invite you to present your work to the Interdisciplinary Working Group in Critical Theory at Stanford University. The participants in our workshop are eager to hear from you and to discuss work from your current research. If you are able to accept this invitation, we would be happy to discuss further the format of the presentation and pin down the logistical details of your visit. Our workshop meets regularly on Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. At present we have reserved a date on our winter quarter calendar pending your interest and availability: March 3rd, 2016. We hope this date works for you since it is optimal for us; however, if it does not, we may be able to work out another date.

A description of the workshop follows to give you more information about the group of people you would be addressing:

The Stanford Humanities Center Interdisciplinary Working Group in Critical Theory brings together faculty and graduate students from across the humanities and qualitative social sciences to address current theoretical debates by reading and discussing texts that both define and disrupt disciplinary thinking. With the goal of facilitating ongoing interdisciplinary inquiry, we have chosen thematic foci that tie together the disciplinary concerns and latent research agendas of workshop participants: materialisms, affect, speculations, and transitions. By providing a sustained platform for cross-disciplinary dialogue over the academic year, the workshop aims to provoke discussions that would be difficult to replicate in a one-quarter graduate course, allowing participants to test disciplinary assumptions within a sympathetic yet serious scholarly environment.

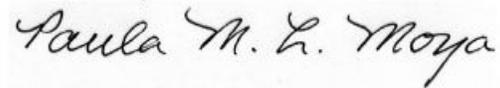
We find that most visitors prefer to make their own travel arrangements and receive reimbursement within a few weeks after traveling (Stanford policy requires coach-class airfare). We will cover airfare costs up to \$700 and ground transportation costs up to \$150 for your round trip travel to Stanford. We will also arrange two nights lodging accommodations in the Palo Alto area during your stay. The Interdisciplinary Working Group in Critical Theory is able to offer a modest honorarium of \$300. In order to process your reimbursements and honorarium, we will need you to complete some paperwork; we will be in touch about this.

The Geballe Research Workshops at Stanford are unique spaces where scholars from a variety of disciplines and professional cohorts meet to discuss work in progress in their fields of interest. We think you will enjoy a lively exchange of ideas with a diverse audience of

faculty and graduate students in your workshop. We will most certainly enjoy the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with you in this informal, collegial atmosphere.

We look forward to hearing your response to our invitation as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Paula at pmoya@stanford.edu or Cameron at cawkward@stanford.edu. The Stanford Humanities Center, the research center on campus that manages the Geballe Research Workshop Program, may also contact you to coordinate paperwork.

Best wishes,



Paula M. L. Moya
Professor, Department of English
Faculty Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Working Group in Critical Theory

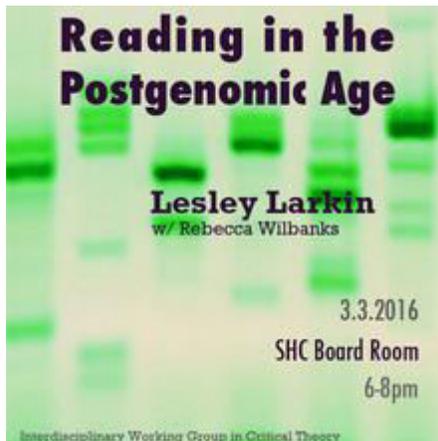


Vaughn Rasberry
Assistant Professor, Department of English
Faculty Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Working Group in Critical Theory



Cameron Awkward-Rich
PhD Candidate, Modern Thought and Literature
Graduate Student Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Working Group in Critical Theory

Reading in the Post-Genomic Age



Date and Time:

Thursday, March 3, 2016. 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM

Meeting Location:

Stanford Humanities Center Board Room

Workshop:

Interdisciplinary Working Group in Critical Theory

Meeting Description:

Speaker:

Lesley Larkin is Associate Professor of English at Northern Michigan University. Her 2015 book, *Race and the Literary Encounter: Black Literature from James Weldon Johnson to Percival Everett* (Indiana University Press), outlines the strategies developed by modern and contemporary black writers to theorize and intervene in dominant modes of reading race. She is currently working on a study of contemporary U.S. and Canadian narratives that engage postgenomic discourse, with special attention to ethical questions that overlap the fields of science, medicine, and literature.

The respondent, Rebecca Wilbanks, is a PhD Candidate in Modern Thought & Literature.

The Human Genome Project officially completed its task of mapping a human genome in 2003, ushering in a “postgenomic age” characterized by the rapid development of technologies for genome sequencing and analysis, a progressively complex understanding of how genes work, the commodification of genome sequencing for medical consumers, and the popular entrenchment of genetic determinisms. The rise of genomics, coincident with the rise of biomedicine, has the potential both to challenge and to abet disciplinary regimes of biopower. This presentation will focus on the postgenomic turn as an occasion for rethinking the ethical stakes of reading, especially as they pertain to changing racial formations. This focus is prompted by the literary metaphors used in molecular genetics, by ethical questions that overlap literature and medicine, and by contemporary literary works that engage genomics formally, thematically, theoretically, and performatively. Building on Larkin’s previous research into how African American writers engage reading as a racializing practice, this presentation asks: What is ethical reading in the postgenomic age? And how do contemporary writers train readers in dominant or contrapuntal ways of reading postgenomic discourses of race and power? (Writers to be addressed may

include Rebecca Skloot, Toni Morrison, Octavia Butler, Richard Powers, Alina Troyano, Margaret Atwood, and Ruth Ozeki.)

<http://shc.stanford.edu/workshop/meetings/reading-post-genomic-age>

MELUS panel at ALA - Message (HTML)

FILE MESSAGE

Sun 2/11/2016 8:57 AM
Christopher Gonzalez <Chris.Gonzalez@tamuc.edu>
MELUS panel at ALA

To: larkin@hmu.edu
You replied to this message on 2/11/2016 11:21 AM.

Suggested Meetings + Get more apps

Dear Lesley,

Congratulations! Your paper, "Reading Race in the Postgenomic Age: Speculative Fiction at the Turn of the Millennium" has been accepted for the "Ethnofuturism in American Literature" panel for the American Literature Association conference in San Francisco, CA, May 26-29, 2016. We received many excellent proposals, and we think yours will make an excellent contribution to the scholarly exchanges in the field. As you know, MELUS is one of the most respected scholarly organizations in multi-ethnic literatures and cultures. The selection committee is pleased to have you present your work and ideas on the MELUS-sponsored ALA panel.

Here are a few important reminders and deadlines concerning pre-registration, hotel reservation, and MELUS 2016 membership:

1. The 27th Annual ALA Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency on the Embarcadero in San Francisco, which is offering a conference rate of \$169 for a single or double room (triples are \$194). Visit the conference website at www.alaconf.org for more details concerning the conference, reservations, and conference fees.
2. All presenters for MELUS-sponsored panels at the ALA must be members of the MELUS society. Please visit www.melus.org for information on how to become a member.
3. I will contact you with any updates or information the ALA sends me. They only contact the panel organizers now in order to streamline their process. If you have any questions concerning the conference, please email me and not the ALA conference.
4. I have requested that the MELUS-sponsored panels be scheduled on the Friday or the Saturday of the ALA conference. This does not guarantee that we get those days, but it gives us a better chance.
5. As soon as the ALA circulates the conference program, I will send it along to you.

Again, thank you for your submission. I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco in May!

All my best,

Chris
MELUS Program Chair

Dr. Christopher González | Assistant Professor of English
Department of Literature and Languages
Chris.Gonzalez@tamuc.edu

Christopher Gonzalez RE: ethnofuturism in american literature abstract

Re: paper abstract - Message (HTML)

FILE MESSAGE

Tue 1/5/2016 1:21 PM
Valerie Frazier <2016melus@gmail.com>
Re: paper abstract

To: Larkin, Lesley
You forwarded this message on 1/11/2016 9:30 AM.
Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

Message [revisedMELUS2016ConferencePreRegistrationFormforRegularMembers \(1\).pdf \(181 KB\)](#)

January 5, 2016

Dear Dr. Larkin,

Congratulations! Your paper abstract *1_Genome: Alina Troyano on Cloning and Contagion* has been accepted to be presented at the 30th Annual Conference of the Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS), which will occur March 3-6, 2016 at the Charleston Marriott Hotel (170 Lockwood Blvd., Charleston S.C.). As you know, MELUS is one of the pre-eminent organizations of scholarship in multi-ethnic literature and culture, and produces the nationally acclaimed, peer reviewed *MELUS Journal*. The theme for the conference is "Doing the Charleston: Performing Racial, Gender, Sexual, and Class Identities in Ethnic American Literatures and Culture." The conference will bring approximately two hundred scholars (200) from diverse backgrounds to Charleston. We believe that the College of Charleston itself, with its exceptionally strong ties to ethnic American history and culture, will be the perfect host institution for this event. We believe that your paper will make a wonderful contribution to the scholarly exchanges in our field. Thank you very much for your submission. Please start applying for travel funding from your institution.

Here are a few important reminders and deadlines for MELUS 2016 regarding conference pre-registration, hotel reservation, and MELUS 2016 membership:

1. MELUS 2016 Pre-Registration Deadline: Feb. 1, 2016.
Please fill out the attached registration form and fax it to [843-953-3180](tel:843-953-3180), or email it to 2016melus@gmail.com, or mail it to Dr. Valerie Frazier, Department of English, 66 George Street, College of Charleston, Charleston SC 29424.
You may click <http://www.melus.org/conference-registration> to pay for pre-registration by using a credit card or alternately mail checks to MELUS Treasurer Dr. Kim Long, Dean of Business and Humanities, Professor of English, 700 E. Butler Avenue, Lasker 113, Delaware Valley University, Doylestown PA 18901.

Valerie Frazier Shuttle Transportation options for MELUS, March 3-6 2016