

CLAIRE OBERON GARCIA

750 E. Boulder Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719.502.1794 mobile
cgarcia@coloradocollege.edu
claireoberon@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English and American Literature, University of Denver, 1991
B.A., Philosophy and Literature, Bennington College, 1978
Certificate, Council of Europe French Level C1 Classroom Experience, 2023
Certificate, Black Europe Summer School, Summer 2014
Council of Europe French Level B2 Certificate, Institut de Touraine 2014, 2013, 2012

EMPLOYMENT (Most recent)

Professor, English Department, Colorado College, 2009-present
Acting Provost, Colorado College 2020-2021
Dean of the Faculty, Colorado College 2019-2021
Director, Race Ethnicity and Migration Studies Program, 2013-2016
Director, American Ethnic Studies/American Cultural Studies Program, 1999-2006

RESEARCH INTERESTS Gender and the Black Atlantic; Race, Gender and Modernism;
African American Literature and Culture; Slavery Museums and Commemorations; Black European Women's
Literature; Black Europe; U.S. Literature 1860-1940; Black Western American History

COURSES TAUGHT: Literature of the New Negro Era 1900-1940; Contemporary African American Women
Writers; 19th Century African American Women Writers; Black Writers in Paris 1900-1960 (on-site in Paris,
France); Contemporary Afropean Women Writers; Sexual Diversity in Francophone African Literature and
Film; The Harlem Renaissance; Literary Allusion in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*; Gender and Modernism; The
Politics of the African Diaspora in Literature and Film 1884-1960; Narratives of Identity: Caribbean Writers;
Willa Cather's West; Passing Narratives; Introduction to the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity;
Theories of Race and Ethnicity; Feminist Methodologies; Race, Class, Gender; Introduction to Literary Theory;
Literature of the New Woman Era; American Realism; 19th Century American Women Writers; Virginia Woolf:
Gender and Violence; Henry James; Edith Wharton; 19th Century British Novel; Introduction to Literature;
Senior Seminar on Wharton and James

GRANTS (most recent)

Principal Investigator, Mellon Foundation Grant, "Humanities for OUR Times: From Epistemologies and
Methodologies to Liberatory Creative Practices." January 2022- present. \$1.2 million for a two-year grant period.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP (selected)

Appointed by Colorado Governor Jared Polis to serve on the Steering Committee overseeing implementation of
SB24-053 Justice for Black Coloradans Racial Equity Study. September 2023-present
History Colorado State Historian's Council 2022-present

Organizer and Panel Moderator, "Can Multicultural Democracies Survive?". Colorado Chautauqua, April 2023

History Colorado State Historian's Advisory Council, 2022-present

Executive Board Member, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora 2023-present

Colorado State Historian 2023-2024

Presenter, "Wars of Reckoning and The Great Reconciliation." Colorado Chautauqua, April 2022

Scholar Consultant, History Colorado. Digitalized Colorado Ku Klux Klan Membership Records. 2021
Byers-Evans Women's History Center, History Colorado, 2017-present

PUBLICATIONS (selected)

Books and Book Chapters

"Making the Transition from Faculty to Dean of Faculty during Major Institutional Change." *Academic Trajectories* (So you want to become a dean?). Kate Conley and Shaily Menon, eds. Vernon Press. 2022

"Black Women Writers in Early Twentieth Century Paris," *Routledge Companion to Black Women's Cultural Histories*. Janell Hobson, ed. Routledge Press. 2021

"Remapping the Metropolis: Theorizing Black Women's Subjectivities in Interwar Paris" in *Black French Women and the Struggle for Equality 1848-2016*. Félix Germain and Silyane Larcher, editors. University of Nebraska Press Series France Overseas: Studies in Empire and Decolonization, 2018

"African American Women Artists' Magical Truths" in the exhibit catalogue for *Beyond Mammy, Jezebel, and Sapphire*. 2016

From *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to *The Help*: Critical Perspectives on White-Authored Narratives of Black Life, Lead Editor with Vershawn Young and Charise Pimentel. Palgrave-Macmillan, 2014

"No one, I am sure, is ever homesick in Paris": Jessie Fauset's French Imaginary," book chapter in *Paris, Capital of the Black Atlantic: Literature, Modernity, and Diaspora*, Jonathan Eburne and Jeremy Braddock, editors. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013

ARTICLES (selected)

Hindsight 2020: "American Studies 102: Survey of 21st Century US "Race" Relations with Professor Iqbal Penelope-Nkotto." *The Colorado Magazine*. January 2021 and <https://www.historycolorado.org/story/hindsight-2020/2021/01/11/american-studies-102-survey-21st-century-us-race-relations>

"Fighting for the Right to Remember: More museums and sites dedicated to the memory of slavery are being created, but they're igniting debate," co-authored with Alecia McKenzie, *New African Magazine*, March 2016

UNDER CONTRACT

'For they have seen the relativity of all things': Black Women Writers in Paris 1900-1960. Under contract with the University of Georgia Press.

"The Nardal Sisters and the Clamart Salon," book chapter in *Radical Refuge: Black Women's Claims to Home, Safe Space, and Community Building*, Janell Hobson, ed. as been accepted for publication in the Routledge book series on "Subversive Histories, Feminist Futures."

IN PROGRESS (selected)

Book project, with Alecia McKenzie, novelist and journalist, *Black Atlantic Slavery Museums and Commemorations*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selected)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Making the Transition from Faculty to Dean of Faculty during a Time of Major Institutional Change." *Modern Language Association Annual Meeting*. January 2020

"Gwendolyn Bennett's Discovery of her 'Strange New Patriotism' in Paris." *Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Conference*. November 2019

"Paulette Nardal's Black Catholic Feminism and the Duties of Citizenship." *Caribbean Studies Association*

Conference. June 2018

“Encounters on the Seine’: Black Meets Black 2018.” Invited presentation for the seminar, Blackness in 21st Century France. American Comparative Literature Association Conference, March 2018

“Fighting for the Right to Remember: Curating the Story of Enslavement Across the Black Atlantic.” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Conference. November 2017

“The State of Black Studies in Europe.” Panel Organizer and Moderator for panel featuring Kahinde Andrews (Founder and Director of Black Studies, University of Birmingham University, UK), Kwame Nimako (Founder and Director of the Summer School on Black Europe), and Justine Talley (Co-founder of the Collegium for African American Research). Collegium for African American Research Conference, Malaga, June 2017

“From *Negroland* to #blacklivesmatter: Memoirs, Markets, and Class”, The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies, Europe and America, Warsaw, June 2016

“Hiring and Mentoring in Today’s Job Market”, invited presentation at the American Literature Association Annual Conference, June 2016

“Black Tourists and Paris”, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, Charleston, November 2015

“A New Negro Woman in Algiers: Jessie Fauset’s 1926 Sojourn in Algeria”, Collegium for African American Research, Liverpool, June 2015

Roundtable Participant, Topographies of Black Desire and Intersectionality, Collegium for African American Studies, Liverpool, June 2015

“Belles Armes/Beautiful Weapons’: Roberte Horth and the Nardal Sisters’ Paris”, Capitals: Black Paris. American Association of Comparative Literature Annual Conference, March 2014

“On Being Young—a Woman—and Colored” --in Paris and Tangiers: A Geocritical Approach to Mapping Anita Thompson’s Modernism”. Panel organizer for “Vagabonds, Vedettes, and Doudous” for Afromodernisms 2, International Conference, June 2011

“On Being Young--a Woman, --and Coloured’ in Paris and Tangiers: Anita Thompson Dickinson’s Vagabond Modernism.” Collegium for African American Research International Conference, April, 2011

“The French Imaginaries of Jessie Fauset and Paulette Nardal.” Panel organizer and presenter, *Afromodernist Feminisms: “Puisque tout est relatif”/“They have understood the relativity of all things.”* Afromodernisms: An International Conference presented by The Tate Modern/Liverpool and the University of Liverpool, April, 2010

“Jessie Redmon Fauset and Paulette Nardal: A Tale of Two ‘Midwives.’” The Francophone Caribbean and North America International Conference, The Winthrop-King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies, February, 2010

“Citizens of Babylon: Henry James’s Parisian Women in *The American*, *The Ambassadors*, and *The Tragic Muse*.” European Society of Jamesian Studies. April 2009

“Jessie Redmon Fauset and Modernism.” Society for the Study of American Women Writers. October 2009

“Jessie Fauset: Transnational Writer, Black Cosmopolitan” National Council for Black Studies. March 2008

“ ‘The value of a translation lies in its adequacy’: Translation, Representation, and Mutilation in Jessie Redmon Fauset’s Early Work.” The Harlem Renaissance Revisited Symposium, March 2008

“For a few days we were dwellers in Africa’: Jessie Fauset’s *Dark Algiers the White*”, National Association for Ethnic Studies First International Conference, November 2006

“Citizens of Babylon: The Metropolitan Women of Henry James’s *The Ambassadors*” Society for the Study of Narrative Literature, April 2006

“Is Lily Bart Black?” Edith Wharton Conference, London. June 2005

“‘Dangerously Free’ or ‘Steady and Secured’: The Black Father in Toni Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye* and Gwendolyn Parker’s *These Same Long Bones*”, The Nordic Association for American Studies Conference, May 2005

“‘Slavery’s Shadows Fall Even There’: Black Surrogacy in Edith Wharton’s *The House of Mirth*,” American Literary Association Conference, October 2004

Panel Moderator, “Edith Wharton and Politics.” Edith Wharton Society International Conference, July 2003

“‘Dangerously Free’ or ‘Steadied and Secured’: Gwendolyn Parker Talks Back.” Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference, February 2001

“‘Dangerously Free’: Toni Morrison’s Construction of Black Masculinity in *The Bluest Eye*.” African American Literature and Culture Conference, 2000

“Eye and Bones: Reconfiguring African American Male Sexuality in Toni Morrison and Gwendolyn Parker.” American Women Writers of Color Conference, October, 1999

“Reading Black Middle-Class Ideology in Black Women’s Novels.” American Studies Association, October 1996

"The Contemporary Mulatta: The Black Middle-Class Heroine in the Post-Civil Rights Era" to the Western Social Science Association, Women's Studies Division, April 1994

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP (selected)

Colorado State Historian 2023-2024

Organizer and Panel Moderator, “Can Multicultural Democracies Survive?”. Colorado Chautauqua, April 2023

History Colorado State Historian’s Advisory Council, 2022-present

Consultant, Boulder Museum, Black Colorado History

Presenter, "Wars of Reckoning and The Great Reconciliation." Colorado Chautauqua, April 2022

Scholar Consultant, History Colorado. Digitalized Colorado Ku Klux Klan Membership Records. 2021

Program Committee Member, Resource Contributor and Writer, Colorado Humanities' Changing the Legacy of Race Program. 2018-present.

Invited Panelist, Colorado College Committee on Class and Social Inequality, March 2017

Guest Teacher, "Understanding Ferguson," Buena Vista Montessori School, February 2016

Keynote Speaker, World Affairs Council, Colorado Springs, "Feminism, Citizenship, and Globalization," March 2015

Keynote Speaker, Black History Month Celebration, Western State Colorado University, February 2015

Keynote Speaker, Martin Luther King Day Celebration and Luncheon, El Pueblo Museum, Pueblo, CO, January 2015

Guest Lecturer, The Center for the Study of the American West, University of Colorado-Boulder, September 2015

Panelist, "Cosmopolitanism," Jaipur Literary Festival, September 2015

2016

Keynote, Denver Public Schools Parent Institute, "Avoiding the Summer Slide" April, 2014

Panelist, "*The Butler*" and *Civil Rights*, Pikes Peak Community College, February 2014

Panelist, "The N**** Word," Colorado College Black Student Union, February 2014

Commencement Speaker, Colorado Springs School District 11 Adult Literacy Program, May 2013

Panelist, *Women of Color and Leadership: Then and Now*, El Pueblo History Museum, March 2013

Keynote Speaker, Coloradoans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, February 2013

Guest Speaker, "Controversies Surrounding *The Help*," El Pueblo History Museum, Pueblo, Colorado, October 2013

Guest Speaker, Women's Studies Fair, Colorado State University-Pueblo: "Black Feminist Scholarship in the Age of Michelle Obama, Nicki Minaj, and *The Help*," April 2012

Panelist, *From Trayvon to Tulsa*, NAACP Colorado Springs Branch, April 2012

Panelist, *The Help: A panel discussion about race, gender, class and friendship in the pre-Civil Rights South*, Pikes Peak Community College, March 2012

Keynote Speaker, Colorado Black Women for Political Action, "Empowering Black Women in the Age of Michelle Obama and *The Help*", October 2011

Guest Speaker, "Black Modernist Women Writers", Colorado State University-Pueblo, March 2010

Guest Speaker, “New Views of the Harlem Renaissance”, Pikes Peak Community College, February 2010

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

Executive Board Member, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora 2023-
Board Secretary, Collegium for African American Research, 2017-2022
Board Member, Collegium for African American Research, 2015-2022

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION (most recent)

Peer Reviewer, *MELUS: Journal of the Multi-Ethnic Literature Society* 2025
Peer Reviewer, *MELUS: Journal of the Multi-Ethnic Literature Society* 2022
External Review Team Member, College of the Holy Cross English Department, October 2021
External Review Team Member, University of Wyoming English Department May 2021
Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship February 2021
Peer Reviewer, Routledge Press, 2017
Editorial Reviewer, *Quarterly Horse*, 2015-2020
Peer Reviewer, book manuscript for Palgrave-MacMillan, April 2016
Peer Reviewer, *MELUS: Journal of the Multi-Ethnic Literature Society*, 2016
Peer Reviewer, *African American Literature*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014
Peer Reviewer, *MELUS: Journal of the Multi-Ethnic Literature Society*, 2014
I have served as an external reviewer on several tenure files from other colleges and universities.

COLLEGE SERVICE (selected)

English Department External Review Committee, 2024-present
Co-chair HUMANITIES@CC, 2019-2021
External Review of Racism at CC Advisory Committee, 2018-2019
Faculty Co-Chair, Chaplain Search, 2016-2017
Chair, Humanities Executive Committee, 2015-201
Humanities Executive Committee representative, 2013-2016
Founder and Member, CC Faculty of Color Caucus 2007-2014

NONPROFIT BOARD SERVICE (last 10 years)

Board Member, Colorado Humanities, 2015-2022
Advisory Committee, Byers-Evans Center for Women’s History in Denver, Colorado 2017-2020
Board of Directors, Colorado Partnership for Child Development, 2014-2016
President’s Advisory Council, Girl Scouts of Southern Colorado, 2012-2016
Board of Directors, Rocky Mountain Women’s Film Festival, 2005-2014. President of the Board, 2011-2013
Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame, Board Member 2009- 2012

PREVIOUS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES (Selected)

County Coordinator, Ken Salazar Campaign for Senate, 2004
Founding Member, Alliance for Quality Public Schools, 2004-2007
Board of Directors, Colorado Springs Dance Theatre, 2003-2007
Board Member, Old Colorado City Branch Library Foundation, 2003- 2009
Multicultural Sounding Board for D-11, 2000-2007
Guest Speaker, National Honor Society at Wasson High School, 2003 and 2004
Board of Directors, Center for Christian-Jewish Dialogue, 1998-2003
County Coordinator for the Campaign to Re-Elect Ken Salazar, 2002
Board of Directors, Urban League of the Pike’s Peak Region, 1999-2002

Board of Advisors, Pikes Peak Y/USO, 1989-1999. Chair, Programming and Volunteer Committee, 1996-1999;
Chair, Religious Emphasis Committee, 1995
Hispanic Chamber Foundation Scholarship Committee, 1999-2001
Urban League Scholarship Committee, 2000-2002
Mentor for District 11 high school students interested in literary studies, 1993-present
Partner in Reading at West Middle School 1998-2003
Board of Directors, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 1990-1995

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Comparative Literature Association
American Studies Association
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
Caribbean Studies Association
Modern Language Association

“Making the Transition from Faculty to Dean of Faculty during a Time of Major Institutional Change.” Modern Language Association Annual Meeting. January 2020

“Gwendolyn Bennett’s Discovery of her ‘Strange New Patriotism’ in Paris.” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Conference. November 2019

“Paulette Nardal’s Black Catholic Feminism and the Duties of Citizenship.” Caribbean Studies Association Conference. June 2018

“‘Encounters on the Seine’: Black Meets Black 2018.” Invited presentation for the seminar, Blackness in 21st Century France. American Comparative Literature Association Conference, March 2018

“Fighting for the Right to Remember: Curating the Story of Enslavement Across the Black Atlantic.” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Conference. November 2017

“The State of Black Studies in Europe.” Panel Organizer and Moderator for panel featuring Kahinde Andrews (Founder and Director of Black Studies, University of Birmingham University, UK), Kwame Nimako (Founder and Director of the Summer School on Black Europe), and Justine Talley (Co-founder of the Collegium for African American Research). Collegium for African American Research Conference, Malaga, June 2017