

Shelby Roberts

University of Kentucky, Department of English
1215 Patterson Office Tower, Lexington, KY 40506
shelbyroberts@uky.edu

Education

Ph.D. in English | May 2024

University of Kentucky

- *Dissertation Title*: “Fatal Futures: Slow Violence, Utopia, and the Post-Human Pastoral in Contemporary American Literature”
- *Committee*: Michelle Sizemore (Chair), Regina Hamilton, Andrew Milward, Shauna Morgan, Anastasia Todd

M.A. in English | 2019

Virginia Tech

- *Thesis Title*: “‘The only light shot out as usual’: Defining an Appalachian Grotesque”
- *Committee*: Katrina M. Powell (Chair), Ashley Reed, Carolyn D. Commer

B.A. in English | 2017

The University of Virginia’s College at Wise

- *Thesis Title*: “‘Palaces for boys like me’: The Body of the Body in James Baldwin’s *Giovanni’s Room*”
- *Advisor*: Gretchen Martin

Teaching Experience

Writing, Rhetoric, & Digital Studies (WRD) Instructor of Record

University of Kentucky, 2019-2022

- Facilitated eleven sections of First-Year Writing at the university level, three of which were fully online (including completely asynchronous instruction).
- Planned and taught five digital literacy-intensive courses in collaboration with the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History focusing on cultivating transferrable research and writing skills for students.
- Planned and taught six research-intensive courses focusing on student engagement and activism as it intersects with social media. Students produced two podcast projects. Taught Spring 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic—successfully navigated Zoom instruction.

Composition Instructor of Record

Virginia Tech, 2017-2019

- Facilitated and designed five sections of First-Year Writing at the university level.
- Planned and taught a research-intensive course structured around critical reading, news, media, and the role of academic research.

- Planned and taught two writing-intensive courses focusing on developing voice in different genres through the exploration of social media and hip-hop as visual rhetoric.
- Planned and taught two research-intensive courses focusing on the role of code-switching in academic research in preparation for navigating academic environments.

Professional Experience

Central Kentucky Slavery Initiative Digitization Project Intern

Fayette County Clerk's Office, 2022-present

- Working in collaboration with the Central Kentucky Slavery Initiative, the Fayette County Clerk's office, University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences faculty, and the Bluegrass Foundation to restore, digitize, and make publicly available Fayette County records (deeds, mortgages, and marriages) from 1796-1865. Project seeks to illuminate the prevalence of slavery in Kentucky through future digital humanities projects.

First-Year Teaching Mentor

Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies Program, University of Kentucky, 2021-2022

- Mentored four new instructors across two semesters of teaching in the WRD program. Mentoring included providing complete course materials, three observations of each instructor, and conducting biweekly meetings discussing pedagogy practices and classroom management.

Indexing Intern

Louie B. Nunn Center, 2020

- Worked with oral history interview collections hosted by the University of Kentucky's Louie B. Nunn Center's special collections to index, edit, and make digitally available interviews previously unsearchable.

Writing Center Tutor

Virginia Tech, 2017

- Worked with students to strengthen writing and argumentation skills within multiple disciplines. Assisted students with grammar, argument structure, and the development of academic language in different research genres. Worked with ESL students to strengthen language acquisition skills at the university level.

The University of Virginia's College at Wise, 2016-2017

- Worked with students to strengthen writing and argumentation skills within multiple disciplines. Assisted students with grammar, testing reviews, and writing for a professional forum. Specialized in assisting and tutoring student athletes and students with low literacy levels.

Literary Journal Editor

The University of Virginia's College at Wise's Jimson Weed, 2014-2017

- *Chief Managing Editor:* Managed and edited UVA-Wise's literary journal, including overseeing the publishing process from beginning to end, as well as leading meetings,

helping to oversee budget costs, and communicating with the university and local communities. Publishes once a semester.

- *Graphic Editor*: Held Fall 2015 through Spring 2016. Managed art and photography editorial content.
- *Content Editor*: Held Fall 2014 through Spring 2015. Edited content for publication.

Research Experience

Master's Thesis

Virginia Tech, 2019

- Department of English: Worked with faculty to research and develop a critical framework for understanding and defining the grotesque in Appalachian literature through different mediums of visual, oral, and written narratives.

Senior Thesis

The University of Virginia's College at Wise, 2017

- Department of English: Worked with faculty to develop research on the performance of the body as an extension of race and sexuality in James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*.

Conference Experience

DOPE 2022 Conference

- Radical Imagining and EcoFutures in Appalachia Sessions I & II, session co-organizer. March 2022. *Virtual*.

Appalachian Studies Association Conference

- "One Week Clean: Recovery, Crip Time, and the 'Futures of illness'," presenter and session convener. Morgantown, WV, March 2022.

Cultural Studies Association Conference

- "Here to Get Well: Addiction, Crip Time, and the 'Futures of illness'," presenter. May 2021. *Virtual*.

Council On Undergraduate Research (CUR) Biennial Conference

- "A CURE for the First Year: Exploring the impact of a first-year humanities-based CURE on students," presenter. Parsons, J. R. M., M. Parsons, J. C.; Kohls, K.; Ridolfo, J.; Sewell, W.; Roberts, S., 2020. *Virtual*.

Appalachian Studies Association Conference

- "Why deprive myself of the last marvel?": Embracing Appalachian Fatalism," presenter. Lexington, KY, March 2020. *Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic*.

University of Kentucky's English Graduate Student Organization Symposium

- "No heroes, no oracles': Appalachian Fatalism and the American Grotesque," presenter. Lexington, KY, February 2020.

The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900

- "No heroes, no oracles': Appalachian Fatalism as Freedom Work," presenter. Louisville, KY, February 2020.

Midwest Popular & American Culture Association Conference

- “‘Gunpowder will spoil the perfume’: Tracking Disembodiment from Early Modern Theatre to True Crime Podcasts,” presenter. Pittsburgh, PA, November 2019.

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference

- “‘Fuck it’: *S-Town*, *Hillbilly Elegy*, and the Appalachian Grotesque,” presenter. Washington, D.C., April 2019.

The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS) Conference

- “Roots That Shatter: Science, Transfeminism, and the End of Passing,” presenter. Cincinnati, OH, March 2019.

The University of Kentucky’s Tenth Annual Appalachian Symposium

- “‘Miserable and brief’: *S-Town*, *Hillbilly Elegy*, and the Resistance of the Appalachian Grotesque,” presenter. Lexington, KY, March 2019.

Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture Association Conference

- “No Silent Spring: Science, Passing, and Me,” presenter. Baltimore, MD, 2018.

NEXUS Conference

- “A Family Dollar for Every Town: Deconstructing the Divide Between Poverty and Environmental Discourse,” University of Tennessee, presenter. Knoxville, TN, 2018.

South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference 89

- “‘Some rare, exhausted, nearly doomed bird’: The Formation of the Man in James Baldwin’s *Giovanni’s Room*,” presenter. Atlanta, GA, 2017.

Midwest Popular & American Culture Association Conference

- “‘Palaces for boys like me’: The Body of the Body in James Baldwin’s *Giovanni’s Room*,” presenter. St. Louis, MO, 2017.

National Conference for Undergraduate Research

- “With Thunder and Blood: Dismantling Elitism in Poverty-Related Environmental Discourse,” University of Memphis, presenter. Memphis, TN, 2017.

Undergraduate Research Symposium

- “With Thunder and Blood: Dismantling Elitism in Poverty-Related Environmental Discourse,” University of Virginia’s College at Wise, presenter. Wise, VA, 2016.

Honors and Service

University Honors

- University of Kentucky’s WRD Excellence in Teaching Award
- University of Kentucky Graduate Teaching Fellowship
- University of Kentucky 2022 Summer Fellowship
- Virginia Tech Graduate Teaching Assistantship

University Service

- University of Kentucky English Graduate Student Organization (EGSO). Vice President, 2022-present.

- University of Kentucky English Graduate Student Organization (EGSO). Treasurer, 2020-2022.

Service to the Discipline

- Kentucky Women Writers Conference 2019, volunteer.
- English Graduate Student Organization (EGSO)'s 2021 Symposium "In Conversation: Anti-Racist and Inclusive Scholarship," planning committee member.
- English Graduate Student Organization (EGSO)'s 2022 Symposium "Fighting for Humanity: Genres of Conflict," planning committee member.

Professional Memberships

- Cultural Studies Association
- Appalachian Studies Association
- Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Association
- Popular Culture Association
- Sigma Tau Delta
- South Atlantic Modern Language Association
- Midwest Popular Culture/American Popular Culture Association