

# Shelby Roberts

University of Kentucky, Department of English  
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## Education

### Ph.D. in English | Expected 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

## Publications

### 2022

- McConnell Parsons, Jannell C., Kathryn Kohls, **Shelby Roberts**, Joshua R. McConnell Parsons, Jim Ridolfo. “WRD 110-Composition and Communication I: Researching Oral Histories of the University of Kentucky.” *Composition Studies*, vol. 50, no. 3, 2022, p. 105-177.

## Teaching Experience

### ENG 130: Literary Encounters Instructor of Record

*University of Kentucky, Spring 2023*

- Facilitated two sections of an introductory literature survey course focusing on contemporary speculative literature alongside an introduction to a variety of literary theory texts
- Discussion-based courses covering a variety of topics including futurity, apocalypse literature, sf, Appalachian literature, and climate fiction
- Course IRB study conducted in collaboration with CELT’s SoTL Grad Lab Research Fellows

### 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**

### **Digital Access Project Intern**

*Fayette County Clerk's Office, 2022-present*

- Working in collaboration with the Central Kentucky Slavery Initiative, the Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative, the Fayette County Clerk's office, University of Kentucky's Commonwealth Institute of Black Studies, and the Bluegrass Foundation to restore, digitize, and make publicly available Fayette County records (deeds, mortgages, and marriages) from 1792-1865, encompassing approximately 60,000 pages of documents. 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**

### **SoTL Grad Lab Research Fellow**

*UK Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, 2022*

- Accepted into CELT's campus-wide scholarship of teaching and learning program for graduate students and postdocs
- Designed a pilot scholarship of teaching and learning IRB-approved study for two English Literature course sections (approximately 60 students)
- Collecting data on the course regarding the use of critical theory readings in conjunction with primary texts and its effects on how students perceive their own critical thinking skills for forthcoming research talks and publications

### **Louie B. Nunn Center Collaborative Course and IRB Study**

*University of Kentucky, 2020-21*

- Aided in developing and collecting data for a SoTL IRB project on WRD 110 courses
- Study assessed student's engagement with and perceptions of course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs) by utilizing the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History archives as research and teaching tools

- At scale, study covered 36 total sections of WRD 110 by 16 instructors to approximately 775 students before the project concluded in 2021

## Invited Talks, Presentations, and Workshops

### University of Kentucky's Slavery in Kentucky Symposium

- Brown, Shea, **Shelby Roberts**, Mason McIntyre, Kathy Newfont, and Emily D. Naser-Hall. "Digital Access Project (DAP): Preserving and Digitizing Fayette County's Rich African American History." Invited panelist, 2023.

### University of Kentucky's Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching

- Kathryn Kohls, **Shelby Roberts**, Jessica Van Gilder, Daria Goncharova, Shawna Felkins, Victoria Alvord, and Emily D. Naser-Hall. "Teaching and Writing Research Roundtable." Invited panelist, 2023.

### Minnesota State University Undergraduate Research Center Symposium

- McConnell Parsons, Jannell C., Kathryn Kohls, **Shelby Roberts**, Joshua R. McConnell Parsons, and Jim Ridolfo. "Beyond the Single Story: Freshmen Researchers Exploring Institutional Histories in the Archives." Invited panelist, 2021.

## Conference Presentations

### bell hooks symposium

- "'Everywhere we turn': Toxic Lands, Mutant People, and the Unfinished Utopia of Appalachia," presenter. Berea College, June 2023.

### Cultural Studies Association Conference

- "Not Here, Not Now: Toxicity, Appalachia, and Utopian Performativity," presenter. Fairfax, VA, June 2023.

### Appalachian Studies Association Conference

- "'Only plastic was forever': Toxic Lands, Mutant People, and the Unfinished Utopia of Appalachia," presenter and session convener. Athens, OH, March 2023.

### 2023 UK Appalachian Research Symposium and Arts Showcase

- "Not Here, Not Now: Toxicity, Appalachia, and Utopian Performativity," presenter. Lexington, KY, February 2023.

### 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

- SoTL Grad Lab Research Fellow, UK Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (2022-23)
- 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's Graduate Appalachian Research Community (GARC). Secretary, 2023-present.
- University of Kentucky English Graduate Student Organization (EGSO). Vice President, 2022-23.
- 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.
- DOPE 2022 Conference "Radical Imagining and EcoFutures in Appalachia" Sessions I & II panel co-organizer / convener.

## 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