

Amber Jamilla Musser
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Professional Appointments

- 2013-Present Washington University in St. Louis, Assistant Professor
Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
(courtesy appointment in Performing Arts Department)
- 2012-2013 Brown University, Nancy L. Buc Post-Doctoral Fellow
Pembroke Center for research and teaching on Women
- 2009-2012 New York University, Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow in Gender Politics
John W. Draper Interdisciplinary Master's Program in Humanities and Social Thought

Education

- Harvard University, PhD, History of Science 2009
Oxford University, M. St. Women's Studies, 2003
Harvard University, A.B. cum laude Biology and History and Science, 2002

Awards/Fellowships

- Ruth Landes Memorial Fellowship (Fall 2015)
Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship – alternate (2015)
Center for the Humanities grant for summer funding (2015)
Center for the Humanities seed grant for fellowship research (2014)
Grant to Support Teaching Innovation Washington University in St. Louis (2014)
Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship (2008-2009)
Derek Bok Award for Teaching Excellence (Fall 2007)
Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellowship (2003-2007)

Publications

Books

- Sensational Flesh: Race, Power, and Masochism* (2014) New York University Press
"Blood, Sweat, and Tears: Becoming Minor" manuscript in progress

Special Journal Issues

- "Queer Form," co-edited with Kadji Amin and Roy Perez *ASAP Journal* 2.2 (forthcoming, May 2017)

Articles

- "I'm Not There: The Intractability of Black Female Sexuality," *Signs* (forthcoming)
- "Black Hair and Textures of Defensiveness" *Palimpsest* (forthcoming)
- "Queering the Pin-Up: History, Femmes, and Brooklyn" *GLQ* (2016) 22(1): 55-80.
- "Specimen Days: Diversity, Labor, and the University," *Feminist Formations* (2015) 27(3): 1-20.

- "Fifty Shades of Grey, The Story of O, and the Possibilities of Critique," *Feminist Theory* (2015) 16(2): 121-136. DOI: 10.1177/1464700115585723
- "Lesbians, Tea, and the Vernacular of Fluids" *Women and Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory* (2015) 25(1): 1-18. DOI: 10.1080/0740770X.2014.994841
- "Object of Desire: Towards an Ethics of Sameness" *theory and event* (2013) 16(2). (online)
- "On the Orgasm of the Species: Female Sexuality, Science, and Sexual Difference" *Feminist Review* (2012) 102: 1–20.
- "Anti-Oedipus, Kinship, and the Subject of Affect" *Social Text* (2012) 30(3): 77-95.
- "Reading, Writing, Masochism: The Arts of Becoming" *differences* (2012) 23(1): 131-150.
- "Reading, Writing, and the Whip," *Literature and Medicine* (2009) 27(2): 204-222.
- "From Our Body to Your Selves: The Boston Women's Health Book Collective and Changing Notions of Subjectivity, 1969-1973," *WSQ* (2007) 35(1&2): 93-109.
- "Masochism, A Queer Subjectivity," *Rhizomes* 11, Fall 2005. (online)

Essays in Books

Invited—"Re-membering Lorde: Adding Lesbian Feminist Mother Poet to Black," *Black Queer Studies*, vol II (forthcoming)

Invited—"On the erotic" *Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks: Gender* (forthcoming)

Invited—"On Pins and Needles: Punks, Dandies and Spectacularity" *Oxford Handbook of History and Material Culture* (forthcoming)

Invited—"Thinking Precarity and Sexuality with Queer Theory," *A Companion to Critical and Cultural Theory* (forthcoming)

Review Essays, Short Essays, and Book Reviews

"Blood Sweat and Tears: Toward a Theory of Becoming-Minor" Roundtable on Black Sexualities, *Feminist Theory* (forthcoming)

Invited—"The Space of Indeterminacy—Theorizing Race, the Maternal, and Diaspora," *Society and Space* (forthcoming)

"Black Pornographies," Round Table Participant, *The Black Scholar* (forthcoming)

Habeas Viscus: Racializing Assemblages, Biopolitics, and Black Feminist Theories of the Human by Alex Wehilye reviewed in *philoSOPHIA* 6.1 (forthcoming)

"How to Be a Credit to Your Race," Review of Margo Jefferson's *Negroland*, *The Common Reader*, January 26, 2016. (online)

"The Short and Happy Life of Robert Peace" *The Common Reader*, June 1, 2015 (online)

"Sadomasochism, domination, and submission," *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies* (London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2015) (online)

"Breathing Race into the Machine: The Surprising Career of the Spirometer from Plantation to Genetics" *African American Review* (2014) 47(1): 201-204.

"Desire, Belonging Touch" review of *The Erotic Life of Racism*, *WSQ* (2014) 42(3-4): 312-3.
Invited—"Racial Camouflage: Thinking Race Apart from Sexuality," *Studies in Gender and Sexuality* (2012) 13(3): 231-5.

"The Politics and Erotics of Time" (review of E. Freeman *Time Binds: Queer Temporalities, Queer Histories*) *Reviews in Cultural Theory* (2011) 2(1). (online)

Invited Talks

- "Hydraulics of the Flesh and the Aesthetics of Crying," *Northwestern University*, April 23, 2016
- "Blood, Sweat, and Tears: Toward a Theory of Becoming-Minor" Theorizing Black Sexualities, George Washington University, April 5, 2016
- "Hydraulics of the Flesh" *The Flesh of the Matter*, Symposium on Hortense Spillers, Cornell University March 19-20, 2016
- Gender and Sexuality Studies Colloquium on Queer of Color Critique, Boston University, March 1, 2016
- Roundtable on Geographies of Intimacy, University of Pennsylvania, February 19, 2016
- "Race and Technologies of Misery," Critical Ethnic Studies Symposium, Northwestern University, April 21, 2016
- "Liquidity and Sexuality," Black Sexualities Symposium, George Washington University, April 5, 2016
- "The Hydraulics of Flesh" Hortense Spillers Symposium, Cornell University, March 18-19, 2016
- "Metaphor and Lesbian Sex," Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania, February 19, 2016
- "Queering Sugar: Kara Walker and Spectacular Female Sexuality," Northwestern University, November 29, 2015
- "Sexy Mother****: Queering Incest and the Mother" New York University, October 29, 2015
- "Is the Mother A Place?" Queer Worlding Conference, McGill University, May 1, 2015
- "Towards a Politics of Spectacular Vulvas," Queer/Arts/Poetics Conference, Wesleyan University, April 23, 2015
- "Sexuality, Blackness, and Masochism" Indiana University, April 10, 2015, "Sexuality and Radical Black Imaginary Panel"
- "Riddles of the Sphinx: Kara Walker, Black Female Sexuality, and Danger" SUNY-Stony Brook, March 12, 2015
- "Specters of Domination: Thinking Empathetic Reading" Haverford College, February 26th, 2015
- "Riddles of the Sphinx: Kara Walker and the Danger of Black Female Masochism" Washington University in St. Louis, February 10, 2015
- "Riddles of the Sphinx: Kara Walker and the Possibility of Black Female Masochism" New Directions in Black Feminist Thought, UCLA, January 28, 2015.
- "On *Sensational Flesh*" History of the book seminar, Princeton University, October 21, 2014
- "Blackness and Stagnation: Frantz Fanon, Glenn Ligon, and the Stickiness of Race," University of Southern California, October 13, 2014
- "Sensing Race: Affect, Embodiment, and Fanon," Feminist Critical Analysis Workshop, Inter University Center, Dubrovnik, Croatia, May 27, 2014
- "Theorizing Black Female Sexuality" University of Michigan, March 17, 2014

- "How to Feel Really Bad: Flesh and Negativity" Queer Theory Now, University of Wisconsin, Madison, March 2014
- "The Commons of Audre Lorde" Washington University in St. Louis, November 13, 2013
- "Sensations of Domination: What Critiques of Lesbian S&M Tell Us About Queer Theory" Duke University, November 7, 2013
- "Specters of Domination: Race, Gender and Thinking Through Lesbian S&M," Washington University in St. Louis, January 25, 2013.
- "The Stickiness of Race: Fanon, Masochism, and Atemporality," Emory University, December 3, 2012
- "Lacerated Breasts: Medicine, Autonomy, and Pain," Brown University November 29, 2012
- "Coldness, Race, and the Politics of Feminine Submission," Bucknell University, November 7, 2012
- "Reading Masochism, Gendering Sensation," Oxford University, February 16, 2012
- "Desire for the Other: Psychoanalysis and Critical Theory in Conversation" New York University, NY November 4, 2011
- "Race and Empathy: Embodying Blackness," Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA October 25, 2011
- "The Object of Desire", Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality at New York University, NY, NY March 1, 2010
- "Masochism, A Queer Practice of Suspension," Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA January 28, 2009

Conference Presentations

- The Lesbian in Queer Theory Roundtable *National Women's Studies Association Conference*, Milwaukee, WI November 14, 2015
- "Specimen Days" *National Women's Studies Association Conference*, Milwaukee, WI November 14, 2015
- "The Indeterminacy of Space" *Affect Theory "Worlding, Tensions, Futures"* October 2015
- "Out of Fashion: Lesbian Feminism and Anachronism" *American Studies Association*, Toronto, Canada October 8, 2105
- "Queerness, Anachronism, and Spectacularity" *Queer's Affective Histories, American Comparative Literature Association*, Seattle, WA March 26, 2015
- "Race in Queer of Color Critique" Key words in Queer Studies, *Modern Languages Association Annual Meeting*, Vancouver, CA, January 8, 2015
- Talkback on Jennifer Nash's *The Black Body in Ecstasy*, *National Women's Studies Organization* annual meeting, San Juan Puerto Rico, November 14, 2014
- "Queer's Affective Histories" *National Women's Studies Organization* annual meeting, San Juan Puerto Rico, November 16, 2014
- "My Body, All Over Your Body: Desire, Collaboration, and the Doing of Pleasure" Roundtable at *American Studies Association Annual Meeting*, Los Angeles, CA, November 8, 2014
- "Lesbianism and Queer of Color Critique" *Queer Theory Conference*, Ohio State University, May 2014
- "Embodying a Movement: Lesbianism and Queer of Color Critique," *Modern Languages Conference*, Chicago, IL January 2014
- "Kara Walker, Mollena, and the Possibilities of Black Female Masochism" *Black Sexual Economies Conference*, Washington University in St. Louis, September 2013

- "The Lacerated Breast: Audre Lorde, Gilles Deleuze and Disembodiment" Critical Ethnic Studies Conference, Chicago, IL September 20, 2013
- "Objects of Desire," National Women's Studies Association Conference, Oakland, CA, November 2012
- "The Structure of Sensation: Analyzing Radical Feminist Critiques of Sadomasochism," Cultural Studies Association Annual Conference, San Diego, California, March 29, 2012
- "To Love is to Suffer" American Studies Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD, October 23, 2011
- "Human Desire: The Impossible Robotic Dream" Film and History Conference in Milwaukee, WI, November 12, 2010.
- "Of Bodies and Dis-Pleasure: Deleuze and Pain," Cultural Studies Association Annual Meeting in Berkeley, CA, March 18, 2010.
- "Anti-Oedipus: Toward a Brotherhood of Negroes," presented at the Modern Languages Association Annual Convention in Philadelphia, PA, December 28, 2009.
- "Reading Foucault as a Masochist" presented at Sources of Controversy. Concordia University, Montreal QB, March 8, 2008.
- "Rousseau's First Folly: Masochism's Literary Origins" presented at Telling Desire. Princeton University, November 16, 2007.
- "Envisioning Pleasure" presented at SHOT (Society for the History of Technology) 2005 Conference. Minneapolis, MN, November 3, 2005.
- "The Literary Symptom: Krafft-Ebing and the Invention of Masochism" presented at Media(ted) Deviance. Plymouth State University, NH, April 23 2005
- "From Our Body to Yourselves: Changing Notions of Subjectivity in the Boston Women's Health Book Collective, 1969-1973" presented at 2005 UICU Women's and Gender History Symposium University of Illinois Champagne-Urbana, March 10-12 2005

Workshop Presentations

- Invited, Faculty Member, Summer Institute for Sexuality Studies at York University in Toronto, Ontario, Summer 2017
- Invited Participant, Lesbian History Workshop, University of Michigan, April 2016.
- Sexual Politics/Sexual Poetics Workshop at St. John's University, New York, NY, September 2015
- Feminist Critical Analysis Workshop, Inter University Center, Dubrovnik, Croatia, May 25-29, 2015
- Sexual Politics/Sexual Poetics Workshop at St. John's University, New York, NY, October 2014
- Feminist Critical Analysis Workshop, Inter University Center, Dubrovnik, Croatia, May 26-30, 2014
- Invited Participant in Oxford Handbook of History and Material Culture workshop/conference, Bard Graduate Center, New York, NY May 2014
- "Thinking through the Body" American Cultural Studies Speaker Series, Washington University in St. Louis, April 2014
- Invited Participant in Sexual Politics/ Sexual Poetics Workshop at University of Wisconsin, Madison, March 2014
- Invited Participant in "Rewriting Lesbian Lives Conference" Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, January 2014

- School for Criticism and Theory (2007) one of 25 participants in Ann Laura Stoler's seminar "The Logic and Pathos of Empire," which discussed histories of affect and postcoloniality as part of a 6-week intensive program held at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.

Teaching Experience

Graduate Level

- Politics of Pleasure Fall 2014
- Advanced Queer Theory Spring 2014
- Thinking Through the Body Fall 2011
- People, Populations, and Places: Sexuality and the State Spring 2010, 2011, 2012
- Me, Myself and I: Introduction to Identity Politics Fall 2010, 2011
- On Love and Intimacy Fall 2010

Undergraduate Level

- Feminist Theory Spring 2015
- Sexuality and the State Fall 2014
- On Love and Intimacy F 2012/S 2014/15
- Introduction to Sexuality Studies Fall 2013

Dissertations and Theses

Dissertations in Progress: Committee Member

Simone Pflieger Washington University in St. Louis, German

Beth Windle *Queer Nostalgia Across the Gay American Century*, Washington University in St. Louis, English (expected defense in August 2016)

Completed Dissertations: Examiner

Meg Dobbins *Queer Accounts: Victorian Literature and Economic Deviance*, Washington University in St. Louis, English (December 2015)

Courtney Andree *Disabling Modernity: Disability and Sexuality in British Literature, Film and Culture, 1880-1939* Washington University in St. Louis, English (August 2015)

Completed MA Theses: Examiner

Justin Reed [*per mutation*] Washington University in St. Louis, MFA in poetry, April 2015

Margaux Crump *Breaching*, Washington University in St. Louis, Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, MFA, April 2015

Undergraduate Theses: Examiner

Danielle Green, "Best Cock on the Block: An Analysis of Partnered Dildo Use" Washington University in St. Louis, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (March 2014)

Academic Service

Washington University in St. Louis (2013-present)

Department Service:

Executive Committee for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (2013-present)

Graduate Certificate Committee for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (2013-present)

Colloquium and Lecture Series Committee for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (2016-17)

Coordinator of Decentering the West lecture series (2016-17)

Committee for Dubrovnik Conference on Feminist Theory (2013-14)

Sexualities Studies subcommittee (2013-15)

Committee on Events and Colloquia (2014-15)

Committee on American Intimacies within American Cultural Studies (2014-15)

Committee to Revise Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (2013-14)

University Service:

Co-coordinator of Sexuality Studies Speaker series (2014-present) and Voice and Sexuality Series (2016-present) through the Center for the Humanities

Washington University in St Louis Benefits Committee (2014-15)

Service to the Profession:

Member of the editorial board of *WSQ* (2014-present)

External referee for *Studies of Gender and Sexuality*, *Feminist Theory*, *Feminist Studies*, *Hypatia*, and *Journal of Homosexuality*

External Reviewer for Oxford University Press and New York University Press

External reviewer for co-edited volume *Blowing Up the Brand: Critical Perspectives on Promotional Culture* (2009)

Other Service:

Member of the Sexual Politics/ Sexual Poetics Queer Studies Collective (2013-present)

Principal grant writer for NEH Collaborative Scholarship grant (2013, 2014)

collective conference/workshop at University of Wisconsin-Madison (March 2014) and St. John's University (October 2014; September 2015)

New York University (2009-2012)

Departmental Service:

Advised graduate students conducting independent studies on topics including the gaze, public sexuality, queer children, and uniforms.

Advised a total of 19 Master's theses on various topics related to cultural studies and gender studies

Served on an Admissions Committee and the Hirschhorn thesis prize committee.

Led workshops advising students on applying to PhD programs.

Harvard University (2003-2009)

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Graduate Seminar Coordinator (2005-2007)

Worked with the Committee on the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies to produce an ongoing seminar of events for graduate students in the hopes of launching a graduate certificate in the near future.

Mather House Resident Tutor (2005-2007)

Provided Academic advice in History of Science and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies for a range of 400 Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors at Harvard College.

Provided counseling on BGLT issues as the specialty tutor in Gender and Sexuality.

Managed and ran the Three Columns Gallery, which is located in the dormitory and puts on 7 shows a year.