

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr Leila Kamali
B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

ALL ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- May 2019-present Honorary Fellow, University of Liverpool
- Jan 2019-Jan 2020 Associate Lecturer, Department for Theatre Arts & Performance, Goldsmiths University of London
- May 2018-May 2019 Postdoctoral Research Associate, AHRC 'Translating Cultures' Theme, Department of Modern Languages, University of Liverpool
- Sep 2016-Sep 2017 Lecturer in American & English Literature, Department of English, King's College London (research leave cover, Professor Paul Gilroy)
- May 2015-Sep 2016 Postdoctoral Research Fellow (0.2fte) / Associate Lecturer, Centre for Caribbean and Diaspora Studies, English and Comparative Literature, Goldsmiths University of London
- Sep 2014-Mar 2015 Associate Lecturer, Department of Arts & Humanities, Brunel University London
- Mar-Aug 2014 Associate Lecturer, Department of English, Royal Holloway University of London
- 2013-2014 Career Break (parental responsibilities)
- 2009-2013 Part-Time Lecturer in English, Department of English and Humanities, Birkbeck, University of London
- 2007-2009 Part-Time Lecturer in English, Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies, University of Warwick
- 2003-2004 Graduate Fellow, Department of English & Department of Afro-American Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Advisors Professor Nellie Y. McKay & Professor Rob Nixon

ACADEMIC HISTORY

- 2007 Ph.D. in English & Comparative Literary Studies, University of Warwick

Thesis entitled *Spectres of the Shore: The Memory of Africa in Contemporary African American and Black British Fiction*

Supervised by Professor Benita Parry & Professor Neil Lazarus

External examiner Professor Mark Stein

2000 M.A. in National and International Literatures in English, Institute of English Studies, University of London
Distinction

1997 B.A. in English, Goldsmiths, University of London
Upper Second Class

RESEARCH

Monographs

Narrative, Activism, and the Inner Life of Blackness (under review, Palgrave Macmillan)

The Cultural Memory of Africa in African American and Black British Fiction, 1970-2000: Specters of the Shore (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016; Palgrave Series in Cultural Heritage and Conflict)

Research Projects

American Histories: Mapping the Writings of John Edgar Wideman (research period 2017-2022)

State Violence and the Poetic Response (research period 2022-2025)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

'The Voice, The Body and 'Letting it All Fly': Neo-Slave Narratives and the Discursive Framing of Urban America', *Callaloo* 40.4 (Fall 2017): 137-154 [Appeared in print Spring 2019]. Special Issue on The Power of the Neo-Slave Narrative Genre, eds. Joan Anim-Addo & Maria-Helena Lima

'He Looked Like A Man': Narrating Child Identities in the Fiction and Nonfiction of John Edgar Wideman', *Obsidian: Literature in the African Diaspora* 13.2 (2012): 28-47 [Appeared in print Fall 2014]

'The sweet part and the sad part: Black Power and the memory of Africa in African American and black British literature', *Atlantic Studies*, Special Issue on Tracing black America in black British culture, ed. Dave Gunning & Abigail Ward. 6.2 (August 2009): 207-21

'Circular Talk': The Social City and Atlantic Slave Routes in S.I. Martin's *Incomparable World*', *New Formations*, 55 (Spring 2005): 142-58

Edited Sections and Online Outputs

Podcast with Paul Leworthy, 'On Memory and African American Literature',

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/2uXKnfWgrH9STpvFDXlAyK?si=jWlG0oQsRPO5kPJdk4mbsA> (posted May 2020)

Editor, AHRC 'Translating Cultures' Theme Glossary and Exhibition,
www.translatingcultures.org.uk (forthcoming)

Special Section on S.I. Martin, *New Formations*, 55 (Spring 2005): 130-71

Book Chapters

'BAM Legacies and the 'Inner Life' in the Contemporary Poetry of Rickey Laurentiis and Danez Smith: Discovering A 21st-Century Dialogic Sublime', *With Fists Raised: Radical Art, Contemporary Activism, and the Iconoclasm of the Black Arts Movement*, ed. Tru Leverette (University of Liverpool Press, 2020)

'Diaspora', *Routledge Companion to Twenty-First Century Literary Fiction*, ed. Robert Eaglestone & Daniel O'Gorman (Routledge, 2019)

'S.I. Martin, April 24, 1961- ', *Contemporary 'Black' British Writers*, ed. R. Victoria Arana (Brucoli Clark Layman, Inc., 2009): 198-202

Book Reviews

'Precarious Passages: The Diasporic Imagination in Contemporary Black Anglophone Fiction', *Review of English Studies* (October 2017)

'Transcultural Women of Late-Twentieth-Century U.S. American Literature: First-Generation Migrants from Islands and Peninsulas and Cultural Sites of Critical Insight: Philosophy, Aesthetics, and African American and Native American Women's Writings', *Contemporary Women's Writing*, 2 (2008): 80-83

'Brown Eyes: A Selection of Creative Expressions by Black and Mixed-Race Women', *Wasafiri*, 22.1 (March 2007): 85-87

Encyclopedia and Glossary Entries

With Anders Ingram, 'The Life of Joseph Johnson', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (October 2019)

'Cultural Appropriation' and 'Creativity', AHRC 'Translating Cultures' Theme Glossary,
www.translatingcultures.org.uk (forthcoming)

Commissioned entries on Adelaide Hall, Francis Hargrave, Baruch Hirson, John and Mary Hylas, Frank Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Edward Jordan, and Massa Kendrick, *Oxford Companion to Black British History*, ed. David Dabydeen, John Gilmore & Cecily Jones (Oxford University Press, 2007)

Professional Reports

'AHRC Translating Cultures Theme Final Report' (Summer 2019)

'AHRC Translating Cultures: Lessons, Legacies and Future Directions' pamphlet (March 2019)

Report on Postcolonial Studies Association Grant-Writing Workshop, *PSA Newsletter* (Spring/Summer 2015)

Student Guides

'Postcolonialism', *The Literature Reader* (English and Media Centre, 2019)

'Incomparable World, S.I. Martin', *Contemporary Black British Literature: An Introduction for Students* (Pearson, 2017), 9

Author Interviews

With Emma Alaquiva, 'Interview with John Edgar Wideman', conducted and filmed October 2019 (forthcoming)

With Christopher Campbell, 'Interview with S.I. Martin', *New Formations*, 55 (Spring 2005): 130-41

Blog Entry

British Association for American Studies Founders' Award Recipient – Report (forthcoming)

EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANT IN PROCESS

2020 Media Project Production Grant bid submitted: US\$1,000,000 for 'American Histories: Mapping the Writings of John Edgar Wideman' (PI Professor Ursula Payne, Slippery Rock University PA)

EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS WON

2019 British Association for American Studies Founders' Award for 'John Edgar Wideman as Black Flâneur', £1,000

2019 British Association for American Studies Targeted Panel 'Definitions Towards Solidarity: BAME Americanists in the UK and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies' (collaboration with Dr Christine Yao and others), £5,000

2018 British Association for American Studies Small Grant for 'State Violence and the Poetic Response', £1,250

INTERNAL RESEARCH AND TEACHING GRANTS WON

2018 AHRC 'Translating Cultures' Standard Event Grant, £1,000

2017 King's College London Arts & Humanities Faculty Seed Grant, £3,000

2016 Goldsmiths Departmental Widening Access & Student Opportunity Funding, 'Black British Writing: The Summer School' (collaboration with Professor Joan Anim-Addo), £4,000

2003-2004 University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate Fellowship, US\$14,000

2003 University of Warwick American Study and Student Exchange Committee Travel Scholarship, £650

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

2018-2019 **Goldsmiths, University of London**
Convenor, 'State Violence and the Poetic Response' Student-Writer Workshop and Public Event Programme, funded by BAAS and Translating Cultures

2017 **King's College London**
Participant, BAAS US Studies Online #Bookhour Twitter discussion on Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me*

2016 **Goldsmiths, University of London**
Convenor of 'Black British Poetry' Outreach Programme, in partnership with Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich

2015 Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Oral Historian and Schools Outreach Co-ordinator for '60 Untold Stories of Black Britain'

2007 **HMP Brixton**
'S.I. Martin's *Incomparable World* and Black History Today', Series of Workshops, Prison Literacy Programme, 'Black History Month'-Themed

PROFESSIONAL ROLES

2020 Peer reviewer for *Tensions and Reconciliation in Alice Walker's Novels* by Iman Hani (Palgrave)

2019 Peer reviewer for *Reading Race and Gender: The Theory and Practice of Reception Study* by Philip Goldstein (Routledge)
Reader for *African and Black Diaspora Journal*

2018 Reader for *Journal of Global Slavery*
Reader for *Dutch Journal of Gender Studies*
Reader for *FORECAAST*

2017 Reader for *Radical History Review*

2015-2017 Advisory Board Member, *New Formations Journal*

2015-2017 Network Internationalization Officer and Working Group Chair, Postcolonial Studies Association

2014-15 Speaker and student mentor, 'What To Do After Your English Degree', Goldsmiths University of London

2014 Reader for *Wasafiri*
Reader for AHRC Research Network *Behind the Looking-Glass: 'Other Cultures' Within Translating Cultures*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Postgraduate

Goldsmiths University of London

2019-2020 Historicising the Field, MA Black British Writing core course (Convenor)

2019 Genre and Aesthetics, MA Black British Writing option module (Convenor)

Literature of the Caribbean and its Diasporas, MA Black British Writing option module (marking)

King's College London

2016-2017 African American Literature and the Problem of Music: Criticism, Aesthetics and Culture, MA option module (Convenor)
The Transatlantic in Literature: From Caliban to Cosmopolitanism, MA option module (Convenor)
Cultures of Secrecy: America and Beyond, MA option module (marking)
Supervisor of 2 MA Dissertations in African American and Postcolonial Writing

Goldsmiths University of London

2016 Black British Writing: The Summer School (for MA and prospective MA students) (Convenor)
Genre and Aesthetics, MA Black British Writing option (marking)
Historicising the Field, MA Black British Writing core course (marking)
Interculturality, Text, Poetics, MA Black British Writing core course (marking)

Brunel University London

2014 Reading Cultures: Reading Others, MA core course

Royal Holloway University of London

2014 Postcolonial Modernism: Crises and Experiments in the African Novel, MA core course

Birkbeck, University of London

2011-2012 Reading the Contemporary, MA core course
Academic Skills Workshops: 'Essay Writing' and 'Using Library and Research Resources'
2011 Supervisor of 5 MA Dissertations in Contemporary American Fiction
2010-2011 Social Studies of Childhood: Concepts and Issues and their Literary Mediation, MA core course
2009-2010 Postcolonial Discourse and the Postcolonial Novel, MA option (Convenor)
2007-2008 Key Concepts in Cultural and Critical Studies, MA core course

Undergraduate

King's College London

2016-2017 US Slavery and the Literary Imagination, 2nd Year option module (Convenor)
Intellectuals of the Black Atlantic World: Literature, Culture and the Nation, 3rd Year option module (Convenor)
Reading Poetry, 1st Year core course (Seminar Tutor + 1 Lecture: 'Poetry Is ... Necessary')
Postcolonial Perspectives, 3rd Year option module (marking)
Literature, Solidarity and the Humanitarian Turn, 3rd Year option module (marking)

Supervisor of 7 Undergraduate Dissertations in African American,
Postcolonial and Black British Writing

Goldsmiths University of London

2016 Black British Literature, 2nd Year option module (module design)

Royal Holloway University of London

2014 The Postcolonial Novel, 3rd Year option module (marking)

Birkbeck, University of London

2007-2008 Postcolonial Fiction, 2nd Year option module

2007-2008 Detective Fiction, 2nd Year option module

2005-2006 Black British Writing, 2nd Year option module

University of Warwick

2007-2008 Modes of Reading, 1st Year core course

PASTORAL CARE

2016-2017 King's College London

Personal Tutor to 16 Undergraduate and 8 Postgraduate students

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

British Association for American Studies

Collegium for African American Research

Postcolonial Studies Association

American Studies Association

INVITED LECTURES

'The Silence of the Name: Witnessing in John Edgar Wideman's Writing', American Literature Association Conference, San Diego, May 2020 [postponed due to COVID-19]

'Octavia Butler', Future Narratives Now, Sheffield Hallam University, November 2019

'60 Untold Stories of Black Britain: Naming A Reality at the Heart of British Education', *Caribbean* and Diasporic *Dialogues* in the University Conference, Goldsmiths University of London, June 2016

'No Paths in Water': Rethinking cosmopolitanism through Caryl Phillips's *Crossing the River*', What Postcolonial Theory Doesn't Say Conference, University of York, July 2010

'The Mothers and the Fathers': John Edgar Wideman's Reconstruction of Community through Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*', Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart: A One-Day Symposium*, Birkbeck, University of London, March 2008

'Black History Month', KCL Literary Society, October 2016

CONFERENCE AND RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

'Mapping the Writings of John Edgar Wideman' Workshop Panel, American Studies Association Conference, Baltimore, November 2020

'Africa as Cultural Memory in Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*, from the 1970s to Today', Paul Valéry University, Montpellier, September 2020

'Not Even Truth is Close to Truth': The Narrative Labour of History-Making in John Edgar Wideman's *Writing to Save a Life*, Centre for Caribbean and Diaspora Studies (CCDS) 'Diasporic Dialogues' Conference, London, July 2019

'John Edgar Wideman's *Two Cities*: Trauma and Healing in the Time of the Streets', American Literature Association Conference, Boston, May 2019

'"It's Time!": Kinetic Praxis as Site of Black History in John Edgar Wideman's Writing', British Association for American Studies Conference, Brighton, April 2019

'Keyword refusal/resource', Targeted Panel on 'Definitions Towards Solidarity: BAME Americanists in the UK and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies', British Association for American Studies Conference, Brighton, April 2019

'If There Was A Becky': Unfathomable Blackness in Beyoncé's *Lemonade* and Jean Toomer's *Cane*', Collegium for African American Research, Orlando Florida, January 2019

'Audre Lorde and the Legacies of Black Feminism in Queer Poetry Today', Seamed by its own bitter juice: Voice, Visibility, Literacies, British Library, June 2018

'Dialogic Sublimes and the Black Arts Movement Legacy in the Contemporary Poetry of Warsan Shire, Rickey Laurentiis and Danez Smith', Intersections in the Americas: 4th Annual Conference, University College London, May 2018

'Growing To and From One Another': Transnational Black Womanhood as 21st Century Revolutionary Aesthetic in Beyoncé and Warsan Shire's *Lemonade*. On Whose Terms?: 10 Years On, Goldsmiths University of London, March 2018

'The Necessity of Poetry in the Face of 21st-Century Racialised Violence: An Enquiry', AfroEuropeans Conference: Black Cultures and Identities in Europe, University of Tampere, Finland, July 2017

'Poetics and the Voice of Protest in Black Lives Matter Literature', American Literature Association Conference, Boston USA, May 2017

'Cultural Appropriation and the Cycles of History', Teaching Postcolonial/Transnational Literature in the Age of Trump/Brexit, King's English Department Research Cluster, March 2017

'Tradition, Protest, and the Era of Black Lives Matter', King's English Department Research Hour, November 2016

'Tracing A Trickster: Reading Caribbean Practice in African American and Black British Fiction', Caribbean Forum, Goldsmiths University of London, March 2016

'*Différance*, Narrative Play, and the Cultural Memory of Africa in Late 20th Century African American and Black British Fiction', "The Black Special Relationship': African American Scholarship and Its Impact on Black Intellectual Life in Britain', Birmingham City University, October 2015

'Diaspora in Contemporary Fiction: The Limits of Theory?', PSA (Postcolonial Studies Association) Convention, University of Leicester, September 2015

"A Story To Birth Me': Multiculturalism and Narrative Play in African American and Black British Writing', "American Multiculturalism in Context" Conference, Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse, France, March 2015

'The Callaloo Conference at Oxford University (November 2013): Implications for Teaching African American Literature in the UK', "Teaching African American Literature and Culture" Event, University of Durham, January 2014

"Ships in Motion': Locating the Past in Contemporary African Diaspora Aesthetics', "Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging" Conference, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany, September 2013

"Africa', Trauma and Memory in the Fiction of John Edgar Wideman and David Dabydeen', "Diasporic Subjectivity, Intimacy and Memory" Conference, University of Oxford, July 2013

"The Mothers and the Fathers': John Edgar Wideman's Reconstruction of Community through Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*', *Things Fall Apart at 50*, SOAS, October 2008

"The Sweet Part and the Sad Part': From 'Black Power' to 'Black Atlantic' (and Beyond) in African American and Black British Literature and Culture', *On Whose Terms? Critical Negotiations in Black British Literature and the Arts*, Goldsmiths, University of London, March 2008

'Awakening to the Singing: The Memory of Africa in Bernardine Evaristo's *Lara*', at *Transcultural Modernities: Narrating Africa in Europe*, University of Frankfurt, June 2006

'Words Without Sound: The Return to Africa in Caryl Phillips's *Crossing the River*', at New Directions in Travel Writing Studies, Centre for Travel Writing Studies, Nottingham Trent University, January 2006

'Many Places At Once': Memorial and the Mediated City in John Edgar Wideman's *Philadelphia Fire*', The City and Literature, Workshop Four: Urban Futures, AHRB Centre for Asian & African Literatures at SOAS & UCL, May 2005

'I Want To Do Something About The Silence': Narrative Practice as Memorial in John Edgar Wideman's *Philadelphia Fire*', at 14th Annual American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco, May 2004

'Circular Talk': The Social City and Atlantic Slave Routes in S.I. Martin's *Incomparable World*', at Literary London Conference, Goldsmiths College, University of London, July 2003

'According to the story...He flew': The Return to Africa in Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*', at English Department Graduate Conference, University of Warwick, February 2002

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

2006 Administrator, MA in Literature & Medicine, King's College London
2005 Administrator, Refugee Doctors' Course, St George's University of London
2005 Administrator, Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies
2000-2003 Research Assistant, Economic Policy Programme, Department of International Relations, London School of Economics

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP ORGANISER

2006 "Health, Illness & Representation", Association for Medical Humanities 4th Annual Conference, King's College London
2003 Economic Policy Roundtable hosting the Palestinian Authority's Minister of Economy and Trade, London School of Economics