

CURRICULUM VITAE

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

PERSONAL DETAILS

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CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

Sep 2023- present Tutor, Advanced Studies in England, Bath

Aug 2021- present Anti-Racism Consultant & Independent Scholar

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

Jun-Aug 2021 Summer Research Fellow, African American Policy Forum, Columbia Law School

May 2018- May 2021 Postdoctoral Research Associate & Honorary Fellow, AHRC 'Translating Cultures' Theme, Department of Modern Languages & Cultures, University of Liverpool

Jan 2019- Sep 2021 Associate Lecturer, Department of English & Creative Writing, Goldsmiths University of London

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 & 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

EDUCATION

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Postgraduate

Goldsmiths University of London

- 2020-2021 Interculturality, Text, Poetics, MA Black British Writing core course (Convenor)
- 2019-2020 Historicising the Field, MA Black British Writing core course (Convenor)
- 2019 Genre and Aesthetics, MA Black British Writing option module (Convenor)

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)
- 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)

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

Advanced Studies in England, Bath (for US 'study abroad' students)

- 2024 Language and Landscape: An Introduction to Literature in England, 1st Year core module (Convenor)
Tutorial (one-to-one) on Audre Lorde
Black Fantastika, 3rd Year option module (Convenor)
- 2023 Contemporary Black British Literature, 3rd year option module (Convenor)

Goldsmiths University of London

- 2020-2021 Caribbean Women Writers, 3rd Year option module (Convenor)
- 2016 Black British Literature, 2nd Year option module (module design)

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

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

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

- 2020 **Rhodes Trust, University of Oxford**
'A Conversation with Professor John Edgar Wideman'. In which I brought the great American author into dialogue with Rhodes House at the University of Oxford for the first time since the tenure of his Rhodes Scholarship in the 1960s. I conceived, planned and coordinated all aspects of this live event [online] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEmv2HnpJwE>
- UBS – Mosaic UK**
Black History Month – A Panel on Racism, Past, Present and Future, October 2020 (panellist)
- Mulberry UTC**
Anti-Racism Education Programme, November 2020
- 2018-2019 **Goldsmiths University of London**
'State Violence and the Poetic Response' Student-Writer Workshop and Public Event Programme. Funded by BAAS and AHRC.
www.stateviolence.com

- 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

INVITED KEYNOTE LECTURE

Keynote Lecture: 'John Edgar Wideman and the Neo-Slave Narrative'. Neo-slave Narratives Conference, University of Greenwich, London. 16th and 17th June 2022

INVITED LECTURES

Being a 'Mixed-Race' Brown Scholar of Black Writing: Learning Embodied Anti-Racism Through Scholarship and Praxis', *Borderlines: An Interdisciplinary Research Collective in Creative and Cultural Economies*, School of Business and Management, Queen Mary University of London, July 2024 [online]

'John Edgar Wideman and the Neo-Slave Narrative: Historicising from Above and Below', Core Lecture Series, Advanced Studies in England, March 2024

'Embodied Language and Anti-Black Violence in Examples from the Black Arts Movement and from Today', Lecture-Seminar delivered upon invitation, to Dr Juyoun Jang's undergraduate & incarcerated students, 'African American Poetry' module, Sewanee University, April 2023 [online]

'Decolonisation Practice in Heritage Spaces', English Heritage Trust, January 2023 [online]

'Citizenship in an Erotic Mode in the Work of Beyonce Knowles-Carter and Warsan Shire in *Lemonade*', English Department Research Seminar, Queen Mary University of London, October 2021 [online]

'The History of Racism in Britain', Lecture delivered as part of the 'Formations' programme, a partnership between Nottingham Trent University's Centre for Postcolonial Studies and the Bonington Gallery, October 2021 [online] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnxDR9A6uPI>

'The History of Racism in Britain', Lecture delivered as part of UBS Staff education programme, September 2021 [online]

'Contemporary Black British Culture and Politics', Lecture delivered upon invitation, to Professor Michelle M. Wright's undergraduate class 'Black British Literature from the Postwar to Today', at Emory University, Atlanta, November 2020 [online]

'John Edgar Wideman: African American History-Making and Uses of Visual Art', Lecture delivered as part of the 'Formations' programme, a partnership between Nottingham Trent University's Centre for Postcolonial Studies and the Bonington Gallery October 2020 [online]. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IL5NQaIHrU8>

'The History of Anti-Racism in Britain: Global Connections, Foundations, and Practising Anti-Racist Business', UBS British and European division, broadcast to all staff, July 2020 [online]

'Read This, It Will Change Your Life: The Arts and Anti-Racism', Invited Lecture for Jambo Dragon School, July 2020 [online]

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

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

'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

RESEARCH

Monographs

Places in My Mind: Mapping Community Space in the Writing of John Edgar Wideman (forthcoming)

Narrative and Black Political Activism: 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)

Co-Edited Book

Co-Editor with Ronald Cummings, Marl'Ene Edwin, Henderson Mullin, & Deirdre Osborne, *Routledge Companion to Black British Writing* (forthcoming)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

'Being a Brown Scholar of Black British Writing: Specific Dilemmas and Challenges', *Synthesis*. Special Issue: In the Shadow of Empire: Situating Black British Writing, ed. Joan Anim-Addo (forthcoming)

'Where Do You Go When You Go Quiet?: The Multiple Times of Blackness in Warsan Shire's Collaboration with Beyoncé on *Lemonade*', *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*. Special Issue: Undoing the Frontier(s): Women's and Queer Perspectives across Anglophone Literatures, eds. Mara Mattosco & Serena I. Volpi (forthcoming)

'Race, Prison, Nation: The Contingent Language of Freedom in Writings by John Edgar Wideman, Patience Agbabi and Warsan Shire', *Global South*. Special Issue: Incarceration and Resistance, eds. Juyoun Jang & Allison M. Serraes (forthcoming, 2025)

'Uncertainty, Discourse and Democracy in John Edgar Wideman's Writing, 1980s to Today', *Kalfou* 9.1 (Spring 2022): 10-33. Special Issue: In These Uncertain Times, Pittsburgh, eds. Deanna Fracul & Leon Ford

'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

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

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

Book Chapters

'Principles of Remembrance in the Gaze toward Africa in post-1970 African American and Black British Fiction', *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Cultural Heritage and Conflict*, eds. Ihab Saloul and Britt Baillie (forthcoming)

'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, 2021)

'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 Brenda Cooper, 'Helen Oyeyemi', *The Literary Encyclopaedia* (2023)

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

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 Report

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

Author Interviews

'Interview with Robert 'Faruq' Wideman'. *Kalfou* 10.1 (Spring 2023). Interview conducted May 2022.

'Frankstown was the World with a Big W: Pittsburgh and Beyond, an Interview with John Edgar Wideman', *Kalfou* 9.1 (Spring 2022): 115-137. Special Issue: In These Uncertain Times, Pittsburgh, eds. Deanna Fracul & Leon Ford

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

EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION COMPLETED

2020 National Endowment for the Humanities Media Project Production Grant bid submitted January 2020: **US\$1,000,000** for 'American Histories: Mapping the Writings of John Edgar Wideman' (as Co-I to PI Professor Ursula Payne, Slippery Rock University PA). Application unsuccessful, NEH feedback 'Very Good' and 'Good'.

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

PROFESSIONAL ROLES

2021 Peer reviewer for Manchester University Press
Peer reviewer for Palgrave
Reader for *Theory, Culture, Society*

2020 Peer reviewer for Palgrave

2019 Peer reviewer for 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- Advisory Board Member, *New Formations Journal*

- 2015-2017 Network Internationalization Officer and Working Group Chair,
Postcolonial Studies Association
- 2014 Reader for *Wasafiri*
Reader for AHRC Research Network *Behind the Looking-Glass: 'Other Cultures'
Within Translating Cultures*

SELECTED CONFERENCE AND RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

'Uncertainty, Discourse and Democracy in John Edgar Wideman's Writing, 1980s to Today',
Post45 UK Symposium, June 2021 [online]

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

'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

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

British Association for American Studies
Collegium for African American Research
Postcolonial Studies Association
American Studies Association