

# LAURA T. MURPHY

Ithaca College  
Department of English  
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## EDUCATION

Harvard University Doctor of Philosophy  
African and African American Studies, June 2008  
Harvard University Master of Arts  
English and American Literature, June 2008  
Syracuse University Master of Arts  
English and Textual Studies, May 1998  
Louisiana State University Bachelor of Arts  
English, with honors, May 1996

Research Interests:     West African literature  
                                  theories of memory and memorialization  
                                  19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century African American literature  
                                  slave narrative traditions  
                                  human rights and literature  
                                  postcolonial literatures and theory

## PUBLICATIONS

“Narrating ‘White Slavery!’ in *The Wire*.” *24/7 Believe: Watching The Wire*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2009.

“The Curse of Constant Remembrance: The Belated Trauma of the Slave Trade in *Armah’s Fragments*.” *Studies in the Novel* 40:1 & 2 (Spring/Summer 2008). Special Issue on Postcolonial Literature and Trauma.

“Into the Bush of Ghosts: Spectres of the Slave Trade in West African Fiction.” *Research in African Literatures* 38:4 (November 2007).

“An African Code In His Own Image: Hemingway’s Search for Authenticity on Safari.” *Hemingway in Africa*. (Forthcoming, 2009).

“Generations in Creative Dialogue.” *Journal of the African Literature Association* 11:2 (Winter 2006).

“Olaudah Equiano.” *Encyclopedia of Blacks in European History and Culture*. Ed. Eric Martone. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2008.

Contributor, 17 entries. *African American National Biography*. Ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr, and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Contributor, 3 entries. *Encyclopedia of Modern Slavery*. Ed. Junius P. Rodriguez. ABC-CLIO. (Forthcoming March 2009).

“African Dispatches.” *Africana.com*. Online. May 2004.

“Monuments to Slavery: Renovating Memory at the Fort of the Metal Cross.” *Queen: A Journal of Rhetoric and Power* 1:2 (January 2002). <http://www.ars-rhetorica.net>.

“A Death in the Family: Coping with Student Death at School.” *Teaching with Joy: Educational Practices for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.

PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

“Childless Mothers and Impotent Husbands: The Failure of Intimacy in Representations of the Slave Trade”  
Tales of Slavery Conference, University of Toronto. May 2009.

“The Future of the Past: The Slave Trade and the West African Historical Novel”  
African Literature Association Conference. Burlington, VT. April 2009

“Can the Slave Trade Be Forgotten? West African Literature and the Suffering of Survival”  
African Studies Association. Chicago, IL. November 2008.

“In Fear of Albinos With Sacks: Metaphors of the Slave Trade in African Literature.”  
Unknown Slavery Workshop. Invited Presenter. University of Warwick. May 2008.

“We Shall Make Love With Words”: Ama Ata Aidoo’s Grammar of Memory and Intimacy.”  
African Literature Association. Macombe, IL. April 2008.

“Remembering the Slave Trade in West African Fiction.”  
Boston College. Invited Lecture. Chestnut Hill, MA. November 2007.

“Impotent Passages: Sexuality and the Slave Trade in Ama Ata Aidoo.”  
African Studies Association. New York, NY. October 2007.

“On Amnesia in West African Literature.”  
American Comparative Literature Association. Puebla, Mexico. April 2007.

“Remembering the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in Calabar, Nigeria and Elmina, Ghana.”  
Boston University. Guest Lecture. Invited by Linda Heywood. April 2007.

“Who is the Author of this Book: Representation or Exploitation of Sudanese Lost Boys in What is the What.”  
African Literature Association. Morgantown, WV. March 2007.

“Geographies of Memory: Mapping Slavery’s Recurrence in Okri’s *The Famished Road*.”  
African Literature Association. Accra, Ghana. May 2006.

“Magical Capture in a Landscape of Terror: Amos Tutuola’s *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts*.”  
Northeast Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, PA. March 2006.

“Purging the Body, Purging History: The Memory of the Slave Trade in Armah’s *Fragments*.”  
African Studies Association Conference. Washington DC. November 2005.

“Human Resources: Reconstructing the Life of the African Slave Trader in the Diary of Antera Duke.”  
American Comparative Literature Association Conference. University of Michigan. March 2004.

“I Am But A Griot: The Contradictory Roles of the Storyteller in ‘Guimba the Tyrant’.”  
Northeast Modern Language Association Conference. Pittsburgh, PA. February 2004.

“‘Son Acte Engage Tout Son Être’: History and Being in Armah’s *Fragments*.”  
Black Atlantic Conference. Purdue University. April 2002.

“‘All Of It Is Now’: Morrison’s *Beloved* and the Middle Passage.”  
National Council for Teachers of English Annual Convention. Baltimore, MD. November 2001.

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

Educational Grant Initiative, 2008

Funding to support course-related speaker visit for the course "Slave Narratives: Past and Present"

DuBois-Mandela-Rodney Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2008-2009 (declined)

University of Michigan Center for African American Studies

Aluka Innovative Teaching Award, Fall 2007

Award for use of interdisciplinary multimedia resources in the classroom

Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2007-2008

Award for final year of dissertation writing

Derek Bok Award For Teaching Excellence, Spring 2006

Awarded to Teaching Fellows who receive exceptional marks on student evaluations

Jennifer Oppenheimer African Studies Research Grant, 2006

Awarded by the Committee on African Studies, Harvard University, for research in Nigeria

Northeast Modern Language Association Travel Grant, 2006

Funding for dissertation research in Nigeria for Summer 2006

Harvard Fellowship, 2002-2007

Full tuition and stipend for graduate study and research

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar Fellow, 2002

Institute for research in Southern American literature (with Anne Goodwyn Jones)

Gilder-Lehrman Institute for American History Fellow, 2001

Grant for research in history of American slavery (with Ira Berlin)

National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Leadership Award, 2001

Grant for research in West Africa

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute Fellow, 2000

Institute for research in the African roots of American culture (with Joseph Miller)

## ACADEMIC SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Discussion Series Committee, Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity, 2008

Chair, Graduate Student Caucus, African Literature Association, 2007-2008

Lead Teaching Fellow, Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Fall 2006-Spring 2007

Teaching Fellow, African Language Program, Fall 2006-Spring 2007

Conference Organizer, "Senghor: The Ancestor," Symposium, Fall 2006

Reviewer, African Studies Association, Spring 2006

Literary Associate, American Anti-Slavery Group, Fall 2005-Spring 2006

Graduate Writing Fellow, Harvard University, Fall 2005

Grant Writer, Title VI Grant Proposal for African Studies Center, Fall 2005

Student Representative, Graduate Curriculum Committee, Fall 2003-Spring 2004

Department Representative, Graduate Student Council, Fall 2002-Spring 2004

Research Assistant for Abiola Irele, Fall 2002-Spring 2008

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Ithaca College, Assistant Professor, Fall 2008 - Present

Department of English

Introduction to American Literature

Studies in African American Literature: Slave Narratives, Past and Present

Boston College, Adjunct Lecturer, Spring 2007-Spring 2008

Department of African and African Diaspora Studies

African Literature and Memory

Africans in America, Americans in Africa

Images of Africa

Department of English

African American Literature

Harvard University, Teaching Fellow, Spring 2003-Spring 2007

Core Program/Foreign Cultures

The African Experience, Professor Abiola Irele

Department of African and African American Studies

Autobiography and the Literary Imagination, Professor Jamaica Kincaid

Contemporary African and African American Fiction

African American Autobiography

Representations of African American Women in Television and Film

African Educational Policy

Department of English

Cold War Literature and Culture, Professor Louis Menand

African Language Program

Responded to student work and created pedagogy-related materials for courses

Syracuse University Writing Instructor/Teaching Assistant, Fall 1996-Spring 1998

The Writing Program

Advanced Composition

Service Learning and Composition

Introduction to Composition

## LANGUAGES

Yoruba (2 years study at Harvard), Chinese (1 year study in China), French (reading and speaking)

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Consultant, Free the Slaves, Washington, DC, 2005-present.

Board Member and Intern Coordinator, Nivasa Foundation, Boston MA, 2006-2007.

Intern, American Anti-Slavery Group, Boston MA, 2005-2006.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

African Literature Association

African Studies Association

American Comparative Literature Association

Modern Language Association

Northeast Modern Language Association