

WANDEKA GAYLE
350 Spelman Lane SW, Box 745,
Atlanta GA 30314-4399
wandeika.gayle@spelman.edu

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in English/Creative Writing—University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2018
Dissertation: *Motherland and Other Stories* (Fiction) and a critical essay “Dreams, Displacement, and Disillusionment – The Afro-Caribbean Immigrant Experience in England and America.” - Dissertation Chair - Dr. John McNally

Master of Arts in English (Writing Emphasis), Andrews University, English - 2011
Thesis: *Separation, Alienation, and Solitude in Virginia Woolf's The Waves* – Thesis Adviser, Dr. Beverley Matiko

Bachelor of Arts in English, Northern Caribbean University, 2003 (& 2006)

Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication, Northern Caribbean University, 2003

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Creative Writing **Spelman College** **Fall 2019 – present**
Introduction to Creative Writing,
Creative Nonfiction Workshop,
The Craft of Fiction,
Journalism Workshop,
Arts Journalism,
First Year Composition

Visiting Assistant Professor of Fiction **Southern Utah University** **Fall 2018 – Spring 2019**
Advanced Fiction;
Intermediate Fiction;
Contemporary Literature;
Introduction to Academic Writing;
Intensive Writing: Writing About Home

Graduate Teaching Assistant **University of Louisiana at Lafayette** **Fall 2014 - Spring 2018**
Introduction to Creative Writing;
Introduction to Academic Writing;
Research, and Writing Culture;
British Literature 1;
American Literature 1 & 2;
Thematic Approaches to Literature – The American Immigrant Experience;
Literature and Other Media – Forbidden Love Stories and the Paintings that Inspired them

Adjunct Instructor University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Introduction to Academic Writing

Fall 2013

Lecturer of English Northern Caribbean University Fall 2006 – Summer 2012

News Writing,
Feature Writing,
Introduction to Journalism,
Voice and Diction,
Oral Communication,
Introduction to Composition,
Freshman Composition 1 & 2,
English Syntax,
Advanced Writing,
Literary Criticism,
Major Author: Shakespeare (Online),
English as a Second Language (ESL)

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

- *Motherland: and Other Stories*. Peepal Tree Press, 2020

FICTION

- "Solomon and the Shed"-an excerpt of novel in progress – *My Name is Sweet Thing* – *Solstice Literary Magazine*, Summer 2023— ****WINNER of the Solstice Literary Prize for Fiction.**
- "The Sacrifice" *Black Ecologies Zine* (August 2023)
- "The Last Time" *midnight & indigo* Issue 5 (August 10, 2021)
- "The Blackout" *Transition*, No. 129 (Fall 2020)
- "Walker Woman" *Prairie Schooner* - vol. 94 no.2 (Summer 2020)
- "The Wish" *Blood Orange Review* vol. 11 no. 2 (Spring 2020)
- Novel Excerpt - *My Name Is Sweet Thing* - Part 2 "The River" - *Solstice Literary Magazine* (Fall 2019)
- "Prodigal" - *Kweli Journal* (Fall 2019) *Nominated for an O Henry Prize
- "Help Wanted" - *Pleiades* - vol. 39 no.2 (Summer 2019) *Nominated for a Pushcart Prize
- Novel Excerpt - *My Name is Sweet Thing* - Part 1 "Whose Little Girl Am I?" - *Solstice Literary Magazine* - (Spring 2019)
- "Cecile" *Interviewing the Caribbean* (Winter 2018)
- "Finding Joy" *midnight & indigo* (Winter 2018)
- "Birdie." *Moko*, Issue 14 (November 2018)
- "The Encounter." *aaduna*, vol 7. no. 2 (Summer 2017)
- "Melba." *Susumba* Issue 8, (July 2016).
- "Market Bus Ride." *Southwestern Review*, (Spring 2013).
- "Goodbye, Marjorie – Part 1." *The Sunday Gleaner*, (August 2, 2009).

- “Goodbye, Marjorie – Part 2.” *The Sunday Gleaner*, (August 9, 2009).

CREATIVE NON-FICTION

- "The First Story" *Ink Anthology, Hippocampus Magazine*, (November 2021)
- "The Longest Hour" *Tupelo Quarterly*, (August 14, 2021) ***Runner-up TQ24 Prose Open Prize**
- "Jamaican Bus Rides" *Aunt Chloe* (Fall 2020)
- "The Choice" *The Rumpus - Enough Series* - (March 31, 2020)
- "The Year in Red Mountain Country" - *Teacher Voice Anthology* (December 2019)
- "On Nudity." *Southwestern Review*, (Spring 2018)
- “July 12, 2007.” *Past-Ten*, (July 12, 2017).
- “Land of Peaches.” *Rigorous*, vol 1. no. 2. (April 2017).
- “Into the Cold.” *Life-info*, vol. 10 no. 1 (2011).

POETRY

- Two Poems: "Muse" & "And When Did It Begin?" - *Smitten* – (Fall 2019)
- "Taboo" *Duende* (Spring 2019)
- “Go Beyond The Silence” *Feminessay* (May 2019)
- Three Poems: “Homesick”, “Restoration”, and “In Remembrance” *Moko*, Issue 13 (May 2018)
- “In My Country.” *Spectrum*, vol. 39 no. 3 (Summer 2011) - adapted into a folk song for choral performance by composer, Dr. Andrew Marshall.

CONFERENCES, READINGS, AND INTERVIEWS:

Panelist – “Conjuring Thisness in Fiction: The Palpable Art of the Particular” – Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) Conference – March 8-11, 2023.

Panelist – "A Bountiful Harvest: Black Literature Meets Music and the Visual Arts."
Gwendolyn Brooks Black Writers' Conference – Theme: “We Are Each Other’s Harvest” – Chicago State University – October 26-28, 2022.

Presenter – Reading of “Sacrifice” - Making Livable Worlds Panel – Arizona State University – April 20, 2022.

Invited Writer – Deep South Reading Series, University of Louisiana at Lafayette – March 10-11, 2022.

Panelist & Moderator – Lit Con Festival, New York, “State of the Art: How Home and Belonging Are Vital to Current Trends in Literary Fiction” March 4-6, 2022.

Invited Writer – Theodore Dreiser Visiting Writer Series, Indiana State University, February 17, 2022.

Interview Guest, "Diaspora-Check In" *Smile Jamaica It's Morning Time*, TVJ, November 1, 2021

Panelist: "Women of Resistance: Lesley-Ann Brown, Shani Mootoo, Wandeka Gayle, and Cherie Jones" - *Brooklyn Caribbean Literary Festival 2021* - A Tapestry of Words and Worlds - September 12, 2021

Podcast Interview Guest: "Wandeka Gayle on 'Let's DeConstruct a Story" *Kelly Fordon*, July 1, 2021

Panelist: "Caribbean Writing: A Conversation with Jamaican writers, Gillian Lee Fong and Wandeka Gayle" Spelman College Lit Week 2021, March 24, 2021.

Panelist: "Family Ties: Wandeka Gayle and Alecia McKenzie, moderated by Sharon Leach" *Bocas Literary Festival 2021*, April 23, 2021

Podcast Interview Guest: "Wandeka Gayle: Longing for Home," *Black & Published Broadcast on Audible*, March 16, 2021

Profile - "Wandeka Gayle: On Calling Back To The Caribbean", *Aunt Chloe*, Fall 2020

Profile - "New Short Story Collection from Kimbilio Fellow, Wandeka Gayle - Five Questions With The Author" *Kimbilio Fiction*

Panelist – “Affirming Black Female Voices Through Creative Writing Pedagogy” – National Black Studies Conference, March 17-20, 2020.

Panelist – “Afro-Creole Spiritism and Folklore – Caribbean Immigrants Creating Signs of Home and Belonging in The South - MLA Conference – January 9-12, 2020.

Presenter - “Sophia, Lucy, and Nkem – Hybrid Female Identities” – CAPA/Spelman College Symposium, October 31, 2019

Presenter - Black History Month Presentation, Migrations in African-American and Afro-Caribbean Literature, Southern Utah University - February 19, 2019

Panelist, Presented an excerpt of *My Name Is Sweet Thing* – novel-in-progress - Creative Sessions – Fiction, PCAS Conference, New Orleans, LA, October 4, 2018

Panelist, The Edwidge Danticat Society at American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco, CA. Presented paper: “The Price of Being ‘Good’ – The Black Female Body and the Stigma of Sexual Freedom in *Breath, Eyes, Memory* - May 24-27, 2018

Panelist, University of Louisiana at Lafayette: Presenting paper: “Transnational Caribbean Identities in Nunez and Danticat,” Deep South in the Global South – March 22-24 2018

Presenter, University of Louisiana at Lafayette reading in conjunction with Gigantic Sequins and Yellow Flag Press, AWP Conference –March 8-10, 2018

Presenter, Thursday Night Reading Series (TNRS) – University of Louisiana at Lafayette, September 7, 2017, November 2016, November 2015 and November 2014

Panelist - Deep South in the Global South Conference – University of Louisiana at Lafayette – April 6-8, 2017. *Presented the critical essay, “Afro-Creole Spiritism in Caribbean and Southern American Literature”*

Reader, Kimbilio Fellows Reading, Southern Methodist University, Taos campus – July 26, 2017 and July 22, 2016

Presenter, Closing Program, Callaloo Create Writing Workshop, June 18, 2015.

Presenter, along with then-Writer-in-Residence Michael Jeffrey Lee – University of Louisiana at Lafayette, English Department Reading Series, April 3, 2015

Presenter, Public Reading organized by the Poetry Association of Jamaica, Half Way Tree, Jamaica – May 2012

Invited Guest, *Smile Jamaica Morning Time* show – Television Jamaica – Interview on upcoming art exhibition and poetry reading, May 14, 2012

CREATIVE WRITING FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS:

- Winner of the Solstice Literary Prize for Fiction – August 2023
- Hedgebrook Fellowship – July 13- August 1, 2023
- Voices Rising Fellowship - Vermont Studio Center – October 2-29, 2022
- “The Longest Hour” was the runner up for the TQ24 Prose Open – August 14, 2021
- "Help Wanted" was nominated for a 2019 Pushcart Prize by *Pleiades*.
- Poetry Writing Fellowship (The Watering Hole), McCormick, NC – December 26-30, 2019
- Hurston/Wright Writers Week Fellowship – Hurston/Wright Foundation – Howard University – August 3 – 9, 2019
- Author Fellowship - Martha’s Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing – June 9-15, 2019
- Kimbilio Fiction Workshop/Fellowship – Southern Methodist University, Taos Campus – July 2016, 2017 & 2018.
- Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop/Fellowship – Oxford University, July 12-18, 2015
- Second Place Poetry Winner – Northern Caribbean University – Spring 2006
- Second Place Winner - National Essay Contest – JAMPACT – Summer 2001

TEACHING, RESEARCH & ACADEMIC AWARDS:

- Bernice and Robert Webb Award for Excellence in Graduate Level Teaching - Department of English, University of Louisiana at Lafayette – April 2018
- Edwidge Danticat Society – Graduate Student Research Award - April 2018
- Most Outstanding Female Graduate Student – Black Staff and Faculty Association, University of Louisiana at Lafayette – March 2018
- Academic Excellence Award from the Black Faculty and Staff Association - 2016, 2017, 2018
- Dean's List (graduate) – 2013-2018
- Dean's List (undergraduate) – 2001-2003

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS:

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| • Phi Beta Delta Honor Society | 2020 – current |
| • National Council of Black Studies | 2020 – 2021 |
| • Edwidge Danticat Society Lifetime member | 2018 – current |
| • Association of Writers and Writing Programs member (AWP) | 2017 – current |
| • Phi Kappa Phi member (AU Chapter) | 2011 – 2021 |
| • Modern Language Association member (MLA) | 2019 – 2021 |

SERVICE:

- Collaboration with University of Iowa Writing Workshop representatives along with other AUC creative writing faculty regarding a literary conference – March 16 & 17, 2022
- Participated in the Faculty Showcase and the CAPA/Spelman Symposium – October 2019.
- First Year Writing Committee member – met monthly to discuss process, requirements, programs and improvements to First Year Composition and the First Year Experience portfolio in general.
- Advised English majors and writing minors.
- Participated in the nomination process for seniors eligible for Phi Beta Kappa; completed nomination form for one of the seniors.
- Assisted in evaluation of Senior Assessment Exams.
- Evaluated candidates at the campus visit stage during the new-hire search period.
- Wrote letters of recommendations for students regarding research and internship possibilities
- Named a member of the advisory council of current fellows at Kimbilio Fiction
- Manuscript review for PhD Creative Writing student, Patrick Joseph Caoile, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

EDITORIAL/ JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE:

- Assistant Editor – *Southwestern Review* – University of Louisiana at Lafayette – 2017-2018
- Freelance Writer – *Jamaica Business Journal* – 2007-2009
- Freelance Writer – *The Gleaner Company* – 2005-2009
- Staff Reporter – *The Gleaner Company* – 2003-2005

***References Available Upon Request*