

**Rolland D. Murray**  
Brown University  
Department of English  
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401-863-9174

## **EDUCATION**

PhD, English, University of Chicago, 2000

MA, English, University of Chicago, 1995

BA, English, San Jose State University, 1992 (Graduated with Distinction and Departmental Honors)

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Associate Professor, Department of English and Africana Studies, Brown University, 2007-

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Brown University, 2004-2007

Assistant Professor, Department of English, The Ohio State University, 2000-2004

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

2018-2019 Faculty Fellowship Award, Cogut Institute for the Humanities, Brown University

2009 Joe Weixlmann Award from the journal *African American Review* (for best essay on 20th- and 21st- century literature)

Bronson Fellowship, Brown University, 2006-07

Predocorial Fellowship, The Carter G. Woodson Institute for Afro-American and African Studies, University of Virginia, 1998-2000

Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago, 1998-1999 (Declined)

Trustee Fellowship, University of Chicago, 1992-1993, 1994-1998

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

*Blackness Incorporated: Market Culture, Institutionalization, and African American Literature*  
(Book Manuscript)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books:**

*Our Living Manhood: Literature, Black Power, and Masculine Ideology*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007.

**Journal Articles (Peer Reviewed):**

“Not Being and Blackness: Percival Everett and the Uncanny Forms of Racial Incorporation,” *American Literary History* 29.4 (2017): 726-752

“The Time of Breach: Class Division and the Contemporary African American Novel,” *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 43.1 (2010): 11-17.

“Black Crisis Shuffle: Fiction, Race, and Simulation,” *African American Review* 42.2: (2008): 1-19 (Winner of the 2009 Joe Weixlmann Award for best essay on 20th- and 21st- century literature).

“How the Conjure-Man Gets Busy: Cultural Nationalism, Masculinity, and Performativity.” *The Yale Journal of Criticism* 18.2 (2005): 299-321.

“Diaspora by Bus: Reginald McKnight, Postmodernism, and Transatlantic Subjectivity.” *Contemporary Literature* 46.1 (2005): 46-77.

“The Long Strut: *Song of Solomon* and the Emancipatory Limits of Black Patriarchy.” *Callaloo* 22.1 (1999): 121-33.

**Edited Volumes:**

“The Politics of Class.” *Cambridge Companion to Contemporary African American Literature* (Forthcoming Fall 2022).

**Reviews:**

"African-American Literary Studies and the Legacies of Black Nationalism." Review of *Betrayal: How Black Intellectuals Have Abandoned the Ideals of the Civil Rights Era* and *Once You Go Black: Choice, Desire, and the Black American Intellectual* by Robert Reid-Pharr. *American Literary History* 21.4 (2009): 923-37.

Review of *The Death-Bound-Subject: Richard Wright's Archaeology of Death* by Abdul R. JanMohamed. *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 39.2 (2006): 299-302.

Review of *Psychoanalysis and Black Novels: Desire and the Protocols of Race* by Claudia Tate. *Modernism/Modernity* 6.3 (1999): 161-63.

Review of *Finding Makeba* by Alexis Pate. *The Midwesterner*. Feb. 1997: 63.

**INVITED LECTURES**

“Dead Minstrels: Race, Negativity, and Institutional Black Culture.” Joseph Warren Beach Lecture. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota. Apr. 2018.

"Voices of the Dead: Rethinking the Negativity of Blackness." State College: The Pennsylvania State University. Oct. 2010.

"The Negativity of Blackness Reconsidered." Urbana-Champaign: University of Illinois. *ALH* Symposium: 21st-Century American Fiction. April 23, 2010.

"Black Crisis Shuffle: Fiction, Race, and Simulation." Columbia: University of Missouri-Columbia. Nov. 2007.

"The Clumsy Trap of Manhood: Revolutionary Nationalism and John Edgar Wideman's Philadelphia." New Orleans: Tulane University. Apr. 2007.

"Black Crisis Shuffle: Fiction, Race, and Simulation." The Future of African American Studies Colloquium. Ithaca: Cornell University. Mar. 2007.

"Black Crisis Shuffle: Fiction, Race, and Simulation." Young Americanists Lecture Series. Madison: University of Wisconsin. Oct. 2006.

"Revolutionary Bodies: Black Nationalism, John Edgar Wideman, and Masculine Ideology," The Seventh Annual John Roche Memorial Lecture. Providence: Rhode Island College. Apr. 2005.

"The 'Clumsy Trap' of Manhood: Revolutionary Nationalism, John Edgar Wideman, and the Problem of Masculine Ideology." Lecture Series 2003-04: New Work in African American Studies. Providence: Brown University. Oct. 2003.

#### **PAPERS PRESENTED**

"Not Being and Blackness: Percival Everett and the Uncanny Forms of Racial Incorporation." Celebrating African American Literature Conference. State College: Penn State University. Oct. 2016.

"Monuments and Memorialization: Race, Color, Class, and Identity in Contemporary Brazil." *Callaloo Annual Conference*. Providence: Brown University. June 2015.

"The Meanings of Splat, the End of Return." Chicago: Modern Language Association Conference. Jan. 2014.

"Black Death and the Institution of African American Letters." Seattle: Modern Language Association Conference. Jan. 2012.

"Black Power Internationalism Revisited: Angela Davis and the Abashment of Utopia." Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora. Pittsburgh: U of Pittsburgh. Nov. 2011.

"The Meanings of Splat, the End of Return." American Comparative Literature Conference. Vancouver, British Columbia. Apr. 2011.

"An Aptitude for Loss: Black Gay Writing and the Rise of Negativity." Post45 Conference. Providence: Brown University. Nov. 2010.

"Contemporary Black Writing and the Critical Lag." Celebrating African American Literature: The Novel Since 1988. University Park: Penn State University. Oct. 2009.

“Phantom Union: Contemporary African American Fiction and Class Division.” Post-45 Conference. New Haven: Yale University. Nov. 2008.

“Black Death: Reconsidering the Negativity of Race.” Post45 Conference. Cambridge: Harvard University. Oct. 2007.

“The Time of Breach: Class Division and the Contemporary African American Novel.” Theories of the Novel Now Conference. Providence. Nov. 2007.

“From Dissertation to Book.” Washington, D.C.: Modern Language Association Conference. Dec. 2005.

“African American Fiction and the End of Belonging.” Milwaukee: Midwest Modern Language Association. Nov. 2005.

“Diaspora by Bus: Reginald McKnight, Postmodernism, and the Suspension of Transatlantic Subjectivity.” Ann Arbor: American Comparative Literature Association, Apr. 2004.

“Sympathy for the Rodent: Segregation, Interior Lives, and Protest Literature.” Race and Place Conference Series. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama. Apr. 2004.

“Diaspora by Bus: Reginald McKnight and American Constructions of the African Homeland” Minneapolis: Midwest Modern Language Association. Nov. 2002.

“‘All of the Prisons: The Stockyards of the Self’: Clarence Major, and the Masculine Ideology of Black Power.” Minneapolis: Midwest Modern Language Association. Nov. 2002.

“‘Let the Conjure-Man Get Busy’: Masculine Performatives, Satire, and Cultural Nationalism in *The Cotillion*.” Washington, D.C.: Modern Language Association Conference. Dec. 2000.

“True Fictions: A Panel Discussion on the Fiction of John Edgar Wideman.” John Edgar Wideman: A *Callaloo* Celebration. Charlottesville: University of Virginia. Mar. 2000.

“Black Ark: *Sent for You Yesterday* and the Limits of Vernacular Culture.” Baltimore: American Language Association Conference. May 1999.

“The ‘Clumsy Trap’ of Manhood: *The Lynchers*, the Black Panthers, and the Black Male Subject.” Modern Language Association Conference. San Francisco: Dec. 1998.

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

After Blackness (Graduate Seminar, Advanced Undergraduate Seminar)

Black Internationalism and Its Discontents (Graduate Seminar)

African American Literature after 1975

American Literature and the Legacy of Segregation

Harlem Renaissance: The Politics of Culture  
 Contemporary African American Literature and the End(s) of Identity (Graduate Seminar)  
 Reading the Black Masses in Literature and Critical Practice (Graduate Seminar)  
 African American Literature and the Legacy of Slavery  
 The Literature and Culture of Black Power Reconsidered  
 American Fiction and Mass Culture  
 Literature and the Problem of Poverty  
 Race and Nation in American Literature  
 Radical Pasts, Radical Futures: Literature and the Left

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

### **Brown University:**

2022-2023 Graduate Admissions Committee  
 2022-2023 English Department Curriculum Committee  
 2022-2023 English Concentration Advisor  
 2019-2021 Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of English  
 2019-2021 English Department Curriculum Committee  
 2014, 2018 Second Year Academic Advisor  
 2015-2016 First-Year Academic Advisor  
 2013-2014 Third World Center Strategic Planning Committee  
 2012-2013 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Board Member  
 2011-2012 Chair, Search Committee, African-American Literature and Culture, Department of English  
 2011-2012 Search Committee Member, Associate Provost for Institutional Diversity  
 2011-2012 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Board Member  
  
 2009-2010 Concentration Advisor, Department of English  
 Fall 2009 Judge for the Preston Gurney Prize in Literary Criticism of Fiction, Department of English  
 2008-2009 Chair, Search Committee, African American Literature and Culture  
 2007-2008 Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of English  
 2007-2008 First-Year Academic Advisor  
 2006-2009 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Board Member  
 2005-2006 Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of English  
 2005-2006 Independent Concentrations Committee, a sub-committee of the College Curriculum Council  
 Spring 2005 Judge for the Preston Gurney Prize in Literary Criticism of Fiction, Department of English  
 Spring 2004 Judge for the Preston Gurney Prize in Literary Criticism of Fiction, Department of English  
 2004-2006 Advisor ALANA (African, Latino, Asian, and Native American) Mentoring Program

### **Profession:**

2020 Tenure Letter Writer, Princeton University, Department of English  
 2016 Judge for the 1921 Prize in American Literature, Modern Language Association  
 2015 Tenure Letter Writer for the Department of English at University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
 2014 Peer Reviewer, *Post45*

- 2013 Peer Reviewer, *Callaloo, A Journal of African American Letters*
- 2012 Manuscript Peer Reviewer, Oxford University Press
- 2012 Manuscript Peer Reviewer, Cambridge University Press
- 2016-2018 Peer Reviewer, *Post45*
- 2012 Peer Reviewer, *Callaloo, A Journal of African American Letters*
- 2010 Tenure Letter Writer, Department of English, Pennsylvania State University
- 2009 Manuscript Peer Reviewer, Routledge
- 2009 Manuscript Reviewer, Routledge
- 2008-2009 Peer Reviewer, *Novel*
- 2008 Tenure Letter Writer, Department of Africana Studies, Cornell University
- 2007-2008 Peer Reviewer, MELUS Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literatures in the United States)
- 2005-2006 Peer Reviewer, *Callaloo: A Journal of African American and African Arts and Letters*
- 2003-2004 Peer Reviewer, MELUS (Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literatures in the United States)