

Stefanie K. Dunning
Pen Name: Zeffie Gaines
 538 Lattimore Hall
 University of Rochester
 Stefanie.Dunning@Rochester.edu

EMPLOYMENT

University of Rochester

- Director, Susan B. Anthony Institute, 2024-Present
- Professor of Black Studies and English, 2024-Present

Miami University

- Professor of English, 2022-2024
- Associate Professor of English, 2008-2022
 Affiliate, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, 2008-Present
 Affiliate, Black World Studies, 2001-2024
- Assistant Professor of English, 2001-08

EDUCATION

The University of California, Riverside

Ph.D., English, 2001

With distinction

M.A., English, 1997

With distinction

Spelman College

B.A., English, 1995

magna cum laude

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Altman Faculty Scholar for the Race and Racism program, 2021-2022
- Upcoming feature in the *Black Agenda Report Book Forum*, 2021
- Faculty/Staff Teaching Commendation, 2001-2020 (honored many times since 2001)
- Modern Language Association (MLA) award for best essay of the year on twentieth-century literature in *African American Review*, 2005
- Assigned Research Appointment (Leave), Miami University, 2003
- Summer Research Grant, Miami University, 2002
- Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow, 1997-2001

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Other/World(ly): A Black Ecology of Outer Space (Work-in-Progress)

Black to Nature: Pastoral Return and African American Culture. Jackson: The University Press of Mississippi, April 2021.

Queer in Black and White: Interraciality, Same Sex Desire, and African American Culture. Terre Haute: Indiana University Press, 2009. Reviewed in *MELUS*, *Black Camera*, *Feminist Review*, and *American Literature*.

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“Other/World(ly): A Black Ecology of Outer Space,” *Space and Literary Studies*, edited by Elizabeth Evans, Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, Forthcoming 2024.

“What is the Future? Weirdness and Black Time in *Sorry to Bother You*.” *Studies in the Fantastic*, vol. 9, Summer 2020, pp. 44-62. **(Peer-reviewed)**

“Learn or Die”: Survival and Anarchy in Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower*.” *Human Contradictions in Octavia E. Butler's Work*, edited by Martin Japtok and Jerry Rafiki Jenkins, Palgrave-MacMillan, 2020, pp. 179-194.

“A Black Girl’s Song Misogynoir, Love, and Beyoncé’s Lemonade.” *Taboo: The Journal of Culture and Education*, vol. 16, no. 2, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.31390/taboo.16.2.09> (Published under pen name Zeffie Gaines.) **(Peer-reviewed)**

“Introducing Multiple Readings of Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man* in the Classroom.” *Teaching (Con)Texts: Frameworks for Engaging Culture and Craft in American Literatures*, edited by Helene Androne, McFarland, 2014, pp. 15-28.

“The Wounded City: Ambiguous Subjectivities and the Riotous Metropolis in Samuel Delany’s *Dhalgren*.” *The Idea of the City: Early-Modern and Post-Modern Locations and Communities*, edited by Joan Fitzpatrick, Cambridge Scholars, 2009, pp. 193–202.

“Ironic Soil: Recuperative Rhythms and Negotiated Nationalism.” *African American Review*, vol. 39, nos. 1-2, Spring/Summer 2005, pp. 231-243. **(Peer-reviewed)**
Won the journal's award for best 20th century literature essay of the year at 2005 MLA.

“Brown Like Me: An Essay of Shifting Ideology.” *Mixing It Up*, edited by SanSan Kwan and Kenneth Spears, University of Texas Press, 2004, pp. 123-141.

“Parallel Perversions: Interracial and Same Sexuality in James Baldwin’s *Another Country*.” *MELUS*, vol. 26, no. 2, Winter 2001, pp. 95-115. **(Peer-reviewed)**

“Vegetarianism without Self-righteousness: The Politics of ‘Consciousness’ and Cultural Identity.” *Black Renaissance/Renaissance Noire*, vol. 2, no. 3, Winter 1999, pp. 144-152. **(Editorial review)**

“Demystifying the Tragic Mulatta: The Biracial Woman as Spectacle.” *Stanford Black Arts Quarterly* vol. 2, no. 3, Summer/Spring 1997, pp. 12-14. **(Editorial review)**

PUBLIC INTELLECTUAL AND CREATIVE WORK

Black to Nature (the podcast), Fall 2020-Present.

Featured Guest, *Center Her Power* Podcast, November 2021.

Guest speaker, “Taking it Outside: Reclaiming Our Space, Restoring Our Place,” *Black Voice News*, June 18th, 2021. https://www.conservationlands.org/building_community_by_taking_it_outside

“How Reading Shaped Me.” Guest column on the *Narrative Encounters* blog, Spring 2021 (forthcoming). <https://narrativeencounters.aau.at/interviews/how-reading-shapes-us/>

Guest speaker, *World Philosophy Podcast*, edited and produced by Jonathan McKinney, University of Cincinnati, March 2021.

“Falling Apart: A Meditation on Love and the Work of Baldwin, Winterson, and Morrison.” *Electric Literature*, 21 April 2016. <https://electricliterature.com/falling-apart-a-meditation-on-love-and-the-work-of-baldwin-winterson-and-morrison-e54ee9e50167#.nclw4pjmo>

“Fear and Loathing, USA.” *DailyKos*, 18 March 2016. *Shared over 16,000 times on Facebook and Twitter.* <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2016/3/18/1503523/-Fear-and-Loathing-USA>

“The Unripened Heart.” *Best Lesbian Love Stories of 2005*, edited by Angela Brown, Alyson Books, 2005, pp. 34-51.

BOOK AND FILM REVIEWS

God is Change: Religious Practices and Ideologies in the Works of Octavia Butler, edited by Aparajita Nanda and Shelby L. Crosby. *American Literary History* (forthcoming in 2022).

Work! A Queer History of Modeling, by Elspeth H. Brown. *The Journal of African American History*, vol. 106, no. 4 (Fall 2021).

A Taste for Brown Bodies: Gay Modernity and Cosmopolitan Desire, by Hiram Perez, and *Not Straight, Not White: Black Gay Men from the March on Washington to the AIDS Crisis*, by Kevin J. Mumford. *American Literature*, vol. 90, no. 3, 2018, pp. 654-656.

Black Nation/Queer Nations?, dir. Shari Frilot; *Marriage Equality: Byron Rushing and the Fight for Fairness*, dir. Thomas Allen Harris; and *M.I.A.: A Different Kind of Girl*, dir. Leslie Cunningham. *Films for the Feminist Classroom*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2018.

http://ffc.twu.edu/issue_6-2/rev_Dunning_6-2.html

Transcending Blackness: From the New Millennial Mulatta to the Exceptional Multiracial, by Ralina L. Joseph; *Tragic No More: Mixed Race Women and the Nexus of Celebrity*, by Caroline A. Streeter; *Body as Evidence: Mediating Race, Globalizing Gender*, by Janell Hobson; *Sounding Like a No-No: Queer Sounds and Eccentric Acts*, by Francesca T. Royer. *Signs*, vol. 39, no. 4, Summer 2014, pp. 1023-1027.

Island of a Thousand Mirrors, by Nayomi Munaweera. *South Asian Review*, vol. 33, no. 3, 2012, pp. 365-367.

Mixed Race, edited by Jonathan Brennan. *Modern Fiction Studies*, vol. 49, no. 4, 2003, pp. 853-854.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

“Alice Walker.” *Oxford African American Studies Center*. Print, December 01, 2006. Oxford University Press. Accessed online March 17, 2021.

<https://oxfordaasc.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780195301731.001.0001/acref-9780195301731-e-51201>

“Hanif Kureishi.” *The Scribner’s British Literature Supplement*, ed. Jay Parini, Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2005, pp. 153-164.

“Maya Angelou.” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature*. Print, 2004. Published online July 26, 2017. Oxford University Press.

<https://oxfordre.com/literature/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190201098.001.0001/acrefore-9780190201098-e-625>

“Octavia Butler.” *The Scribner’s American Literature Supplement XIII*, edited by Jay Parini, Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2003, pp. 59-73.

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

“Eco-Monsters and Somatic Takeovers,” University of Michigan, September 2021

“Temporality and Blackness,” American Studies Association Conference, October 2021 (Virtual)

“Black Time in *The Watchmen*,” College Language Association Conference, April 2021 (Virtual).

Commentator, “Commemorating and (Re)Constructing the African American Canon,”

American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2019.

Roundtable participant, "On Martin Shuster's *New Television*," Modern Language Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, 2019.

"Cosmopolitan Crisis and Pastoral Longing in *Queen Sugar*," American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, 2018.

"Learn or Die: Survivalism in *Parable of the Sower*," American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, 2017.

Presenter, "When A House Is Not A Home: Black Women and the Limits of Belonging," American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, 2016.

"*Tropic Thunder*," Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, 2013.

Presenter, "Queer Economies," Midwest Modern Language Association Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, November 2012.

"Social Change in the Intersectional Classroom and American Ethnic Studies," panel on "Intersectionality and Pedagogy." American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 2010.

Diversity Roundtable, Miami University, 2008.

"Samuel Delany and the Riotous Metropolis," The Idea of the City Conference. Manchester University, Manchester, England, 2007.

"Our Sister Kills Joy: Africa, the Nation, and Homosexuality," EACLALS, Malta, March 21-26, 2005.

"Miscegenation," Roundtable on Race and Sexuality Intersection, Miami University, November 2004.

"Travel Narrative as Middle Passage in *Praisesong for the Widow*," MMLA, Chicago, November 2003.

"Soap as Civilization: Race, Cleanliness and Counter-discourse," British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference, Savannah, Georgia, March 1, 2003.

"No Tender Mercy: Miscegenation, Homosexuality and the Black Nation," Hair, Color, Bone: The Persistence of Race into the 21st Century Conference. Bucknell University, September 26-29, 2002.

"Destiny or Disease? Representations of Homosexuality in *Dakan* and *Our Sister Killjoy*," Race, Class and Gender Symposium. Miami University, February 2002.

“Postcoloniality and Lesbian Erotics in the Works of Michelle Cliff,” PAMLA Annual Meeting, Pomona College, November 2000.

“Ethnographic and Pornographic Spectacle: Representing the Body of the Other in Trinh Minh-Ha’s *Reassemblage*,” Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, England, June 2000.

“Race and Hybridity in Michelle Cliff’s *Abeng*,” The International Conference on Caribbean Literature, Nassau, Bahamas, October 1998.

“Biraciality, Spectacle and Caribbean Literature,” PAMLA Annual Meeting, Pomona College, November 1998.

“Exile as Castration in *Mississippi Masala*,” South Asian Studies Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison, November 1998.

“Race, Sexuality and the Specter of Otherness in Charlotte Dacre’s *Zofloya, or the Moor*,” Institute on American Studies, Dartmouth University, June 1998.

“Zora Neale Hurston and Maxine Hong Kingston: Beyond Feminism?” Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, March 1995.

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Black to Nature book talk, Forthcoming, Rohiwa Books and Earthseed Land Collective, Durham, NC, April 2022.

“The Flesh of the Earth,” University of Rochester, Forthcoming, April 2022

“The Dogon, Sun-Ra, and Black Ecologies of Outer Space,” University of Kentucky, Forthcoming, March 2022

“Other/World(ly): A Black Ecology of Outer Space,” Technische Universität Dresden, November, 2021

“Abolition, Apocalypse, and *Parable of the Sower*,” University of Massachusetts, Amherst, November 2021

“Engaging Refusal,” Roundtable Participant, Michigan State University/Labor Tech, October 2021

“Plant Life: Notes on the End of the World,” Kenyon College, Spring 2021.

“Racism and Climate Justice,” Albany State University, Spring 2021.

“Botanical Modalities and Apocalypse in the work of Octavia Butler,” Humboldt State

University, Spring 2021.

“Black to Nature: *Lemonade* and *Daughters of the Dust*,” Purdue University, 2018.

“The Importance of Zen,” Miami University Philosophy Club, 2017.

“Revisiting Mixed Race Theory in an Afro-Pessimist Framework,” University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2016.

“Scholarship on Fleek,” LitUnplugged event, Miami University, October 2016.

“Race and Sexuality: New Horizons,” Indiana University, 2009.

“On *Queer in Black and White*,” Michigan State University, 2003.

“Notes on the African American Literary Tradition.” University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Colombo, Sri Lanka, July 2002.

TEACHING

Introductory courses for majors and nonmajors

- UNV 101: First Year Experience
- English 122: Popular Literature: Science Fiction and Fantasy
- English 144: Major American Authors
- WGS 201: Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- English 276: American Literature after 1900
- English 298: Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies

Courses in African American literature and other courses at the 300 and 400 level

- English 336: African American Writing, 1746-1877
- English 338: African American Writing, 1945-Present
- English 337: African American Writing, 1877-1945
- English 435/WGS 435: Queer Theory
- English 440X: James Baldwin
- English 440: Samuel Delany and Octavia Butler
- English 450N: Transatlantic Abolitionist Literature (Literary London Program)
- English 480: Independent Reading for Department Honors
- English 495: Capstone: Afrofuturism and Afropessimism
- English 495: Capstone: Mixed Race Literature

Writing courses

- English 111: College Composition
- English 112: Composition and Literature
- English 225H: Honors Advanced Composition

Graduate courses

- English 603: Theories and Their Histories
- English 690: “Every Goodbye Ain’t Gone”: Representations of Africa in the African American Literary Tradition
- English 740: Theoretical Blackness: New Critical Race Theory
- English 750: Histories and Methodologies
- English 751: Special Problems (independent study)

SERVICE

Professional

- Mentor in the *Engaged Scholars Initiative* (co-sponsored by Swarthmore College), 2021-Present
- Manuscript reviewer for *Cultural Critique*
- Manuscript reviewer for *MELUS*
- Manuscript reviewer for *Modern Fiction Studies*
- Manuscript reviewer for *Meridians*
- Manuscript reviewer for *Signs*
- Manuscript reviewer for *African American Review*
- Manuscript reviewer for *GLQ*
- Manuscript reviewer for *Mosaic*
- Manuscript reviewer for *Modernism/modernity*
- Manuscript reviewer for University of Illinois Press
- Manuscript reviewer for University of Virginia Press
- Member of the Ohio Humanities Speaker’s Bureau
- Consultant for The Black American Tree Project
- Board member, Cancer Justice Network

Miami University

University and College Level:

- Chair, Petitions Committee of Graduate Council, 2021-2023
- Receive and process petitions from graduate students across the University.
- Share the petitions with subcommittee members.
- Oversee and facilitate discussion of petitions.
- Collate subcommittee responses and share with the Graduate Council.
- Faculty Advisor, Black Books Matter, 2019-present
- Graduate Council, 2018-present
- CRES Curriculum Development Committee, 2017-2018
- Liberal Education Council, 2016-2017
- CAS Committee on Committees, 2015-2016
- Faculty Learning Community on Mindfulness, 2016
- Campus Climate Survey Committee, 2015-2016
- Council on Diversity and Inclusion, 2015 -2016
- Faculty Senate, 2015
- LGBTQ Concerns Committee, 2003-2006
- Film Studies Advisory Committee, 2001-2006
- Founder and Faculty Advisor, Film Studies Club, 2001-2003

- Feminist Seminar, 2001

Department Level:

- Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2020-present
- Literature Committee, 2001-07, 2009-present

Director of the Literature Program, 2007-10

- I was the first faculty member to hold this position which was newly created in 2007.
- Convene monthly meetings of literature faculty.
- Collaboratively review Literature curriculum.
- Oversee programs that invited speakers to Miami University.
- Coordinate with Associate Chair on issues related to the Literature program.
- Coordinate with the Department chair on issues related to the Literature program.
- Sponsor and plan a lecture series of invited speakers.
- Chair of Grade Review Subcommittee, Composition Committee, 2015-2019.
- Receive and process petitions to rendered grades by undergraduates.
- Share petitions with committee members.
- Oversee and facilitate discussion of contestations.
- Collate committee responses and make a recommendation for response.
- English Graduate Admissions committee, 2017-2019
- Graduate Committee, 2001-2007; 2010-2018
- Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2016-2017
- Member, 112 Top 25 curriculum redesign Team, 2008-2009
- Department Curriculum Review Committee, 2007-2008
- Assigned Research Appointment Committee, 2005
- American Literature Search Committee, 2004-2005
- Graduate Subcommittee on Ph.D. Curriculum, 2004-2005
- Search Committee, for assistant professor in ENG/WGS, 2002
- Faculty Advisor, Sigma Tau Delta: English Honor Society, 2002

Graduate Advising

Ph.D.

- Javiera Green, Chair (Present)
- Jonnetta Woodard, Chair (Present)
- Dasol Choi, Committee member (Present)
- Brenda Tyrrell, Committee member (Defended 2020)
- Danielle Hart, Committee member (Defended 2020)
- Nolan Boyd, Committee member (Defended 2020)
- Lynn Hall, Committee member (Defended 2020)
- Alandis Johnson, Educational Leadership, Committee member (Defended 2017)
- José De La Garza (co-chair with Julie Minich; Defended 2016)
- Tan-Feng Chang, Committee member (Defended 2014)
- Erin Douglas, Committee member (Defended 2010)
- Jamie Calhoun, Committee member (Defended 2009)
- Susan Pelle, Chair (Defended 2008)
- Brandon Clay, Committee member (2007)
- Jeff Bickerstaff, Committee member (2006)
- Peggy Davis, Committee member (2004)

- Natasha Allen, Committee member (inactive)

M.A.

- Andrea Moucil-Lordes, Chair (Present)
- Darryn Edwards, Committee member (Defended 2020)
- Emily O'Brien, Chair (Defended 2018)
- Dhanuka Bandara, Committee member (Defended 2018)
- Samitha Senanayake, Chair (Defended 2017)
- Evan Fackler, Chair (Defended 2017)
- Charlynn Estes, Committee member (Defended 2016)
- Kristin Rutter, Committee member (Defended 2015)
- Chelsea Tadeyeskye, Committee member (Defended 2015)
- Joseph Thornton (poetry), Committee member (Defended 2015)
- Matt Young (fiction), Committee member (Defended 2015)
- Mosisah Mavity, Chair (Defended 2014)
- Alex Friedman, fiction, Committee member (Defended 2014)
- Curtis Dickerson, fiction, Committee member (Defended 2014)
- Allison Nettnin, Committee member (Defended 2013)
- Chamere Poole, Chair (Defended 2010)
- Jordan Carroll, Chair (Defended 2009)
- Alexander Jenkin, Committee member (Defended 2009)
- Lloyd Garrison, Committee member (Defended 2005)
- Carmen Elliott, Committee member (Defended 2005)
- Shawna Rushford, Committee member (Defended 2004)
- Rayna Robinson, Committee member (Defended 2003)