

# SHAMEEM BLACK

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

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Yale University, 2004 - present  
Assistant Professor, Department of English

## EDUCATION

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Stanford University, Stanford, CA  
Ph.D. in English, June 2004  
Alden Dissertation Prize, June 2005

Yale University, New Haven, CT  
B.A. in History, *summa cum laude with distinction*, May 1997

## BOOK MANUSCRIPTS

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*Fiction Across Borders*  
Forthcoming from Columbia University Press.

In a globalizing literary landscape, how might novels seek a new ethics of representing social difference? This book seeks to pick up where Edward Said's *Orientalism* leaves off: it turns to border-crossing novels in English from the United States, India, and South Africa to explore what it might mean *not* to write an Orientalist, primitivist, or imperialist work of fiction.

*Fiction in the Age of Transitional Justice: The Problem of Reconciliation*  
In progress.

Focusing on an era of international courts, truth commissions, political apologies, and human rights work, this book explores how fiction at the turn of the millennium contributes to the thorny process of transitional justice. It investigates the rise of a transnational literature concerned with reconciliation and analyzes the changing role of art after atrocity.

## ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

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"Microloans and Micronarratives: Sentiment for a Small World," forthcoming in *Public Culture*.

"Ishiguro's Inhuman Aesthetics," forthcoming in *Mfs: Modern Fiction Studies*.

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**ARTICLES AND ESSAYS**


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“Fictions of Rebuilding: Reconstruction in Ivan Vladislavic’s South Africa,” forthcoming in *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature*.

“Cosmopolitanism at Home: Amitav Ghosh’s *The Shadow Lines*,” *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 41:3 (September 2006), 45-65. Reprinted in *Amitav Ghosh’s The Shadow Lines: A Critical Companion*, ed. Murari Prasad (New Delhi: Pencraft International, 2008), 141-160.

“In Search of Global Books: Unwriting Orientalism in *The Fifth Book of Peace*,” in *Querying the Genealogy: Comparative and Transnational Studies in Chinese American Literature* [问谱系：中美文化视野下的美华文学研究], ed. Jennie Wang [林润] (Shanghai: Shanghai Translation Press, 2006), 277-285.

“Fertile Cosmofeminism: Ruth Ozeki and Transnational Reproduction,” *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism* 5:1 (2004), 226-256.

“Homoerotics of Influence: Eudora Welty Romances Virginia Woolf,” *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature* 22:1 (Spring 2003), 149-171.

“Recipes for Cosmopolitanism,” under review.

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**FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS**


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MacMillan Center Faculty Research Grant, Yale University, 2008

Morse Junior Faculty Fellowship, Yale University, 2007-2008

Whitney Humanities Center Fellowship, Yale University, 2007-2008

Griswold Research Fund Award, Yale University, 2007 and 2008

Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities, 2003-2004

Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2002-2003

Mellon Summer Fellowship, 2000 and 2002

Stanford University Fellowship, 1999-2002

Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, 1998-1999

John Spangler Nicholas Cup (ranked first in residential college), Yale University, 1997

Richard U. Light Fellowship (declined), Yale University, 1997

Phi Beta Kappa, Yale University, 1996

Richter Fellowship, Yale University, 1996

Francis E. Riggs Memorial Prize, Program in Directed Studies, Yale University, 1994

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**BOOK REVIEWS**


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Review of *Maxine Hong Kingston’s Broken Book of Life: An Intertextual Study of The Woman Warrior and China Men*, by Maureen Sabine, *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature* 24:2 (Fall 2005), 345-346.

## INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

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- “Fiction in the Age of Transitional Justice”  
Human Rights Workshop, Yale Law School, March 2008
- “Perpetrator Narratives in the South Asian Diaspora”  
South Asian Studies Seminar, Yale University, February 2008
- “College Writing”  
Staples High School, Westport, CT, October 2007
- “Transitional Justice and Contemporary Fiction”  
Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, October 2007
- “Reconciliation and Reconstruction: Styles of Rebuilding in South African Fiction”  
Transitional Justice Working Group, Yale University, April 2007
- “How Not To Write an Orientalist Novel”  
Twentieth Century Colloquium, Yale University, February 2007
- “The Problem of Imagining Others”  
Department of Literature, American University, January 2007
- “Crowded Self, Crowded Style: Writing Across Borders in Asian American Literature”  
Center for Asian American Studies and Department of English  
University of Texas, Austin, December 2006
- Discussant, “Aesthetics and Politics: Reflections on Image, Power, and Modern Pakistan”  
South Asian Studies Council, Yale University, October 2005
- Discussant, “Samina Ali – Dreaming of Fatwas”  
*Knowing South Asia*: South Asian Studies Council, Yale University, April 2005
- “Literature and Ethics: Martha Nussbaum’s “The Narrative Imagination””  
*Using Theory*, English Department discussion series, Yale University, October 2004
- “Cosmopoetics: Transcultural Imagination and the Asian Diaspora”  
Department of English, University of Toronto, January 2004  
Asian Studies Program, Bowdoin College, December 2003
- “Teaching Translation”  
Department of English, Oberlin College, January 2004
- “Cosmopoetics: On Imagining Others”  
Department of Literature, Claremont McKenna College, December 2003
- “Cosmopolitanism and Asian America”  
Asian Americas Humanities Workshop, Stanford University, April 2001

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

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- “Mourning Across Borders: Comparative Suffering in South African Fiction”  
*Global Languages, Local Cultures*: American Comparative Literature Association  
 Harvard University, scheduled March 2009
- “Feeling Poor While Feeling Rich: The Rhetoric of Internet Microloans”  
 Modern Language Association Conference, San Francisco, December 2008
- “Genocide III: Ethics, Transnationalism, and Atrocity”  
 Modernist Studies Association Conference, Vanderbilt University, November 2008
- “Cosmofeminist Sentiments: Feeling at a Distance through Global Media”  
 Modern Language Association Conference, Chicago, December 2007
- “Quests for Cosmopoetics: Leonard Woolf in Ceylon, Michael Ondaatje in Sri Lanka”  
 Modernist Studies Association Conference, Long Beach, November 2007
- “Styles of Rebuilding in South African Literature”  
*Trans, Pan, Intra: Cultures in Contact*  
 American Comparative Literature Association, Puebla, Mexico, April 2007
- “Abandoning Depth of Character: The Ethics of Attention”  
*Giving Attention*, University of Denver, October 2005
- “Traveling by Eye: The Geography of Amitav Ghosh”  
*Elective Affinities*: International Association of Word and Image Studies  
 University of Pennsylvania, September 2005
- “In Search of Global Books: Unwriting Orientalism in *The Fifth Book of Peace*”  
*Querying the Genealogy*: Center for the Study of Chinese World Literature  
 Fudan University, Shanghai, June 2005
- “Dogs, Things, and Monsters: J.M. Coetzee and the Problem of Empathy”  
 Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, Cambridge, April 2005
- “Ruth Ozeki’s Cosmofeminism”  
 Tenth International American Women Writers of Color Conference  
 Salisbury University, Baltimore, November 2004
- “Imagining Across Borders”  
*Global Ethnic Networks*: American Comparative Literature Association  
 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, April 2004
- “Speaking To, For, or About? The Problem of Transcultural Representation”  
*Addressing Dialogue*, Harvard University, April 2004
- “Narrating Asian Transnationalism: Amitav Ghosh and Cosmopolitan Poetics”  
 New England Association for Asian Studies, Harvard University, October 2003

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

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“Afro-Asian Solidarity: Charles Johnson and the Black Martial Arts”

*Crossing Over*: American Comparative Literature Association  
California State University, San Marcos, April 2003

“*Underworld* Citizens: Don DeLillo’s Cosmopolitan Rhetoric”

Berkeley/Stanford English Graduate Student Conference  
University of California, Berkeley, April 2000

“A Critique of Postcolonial Classrooms: Spivak’s Pedagogy, or, Teaching As Betrayal”

*Structuralist Iterations*, Stanford University, December 1999

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Yale University (2004-present)

### *Fiction Without Borders*

A class, taught in both lecture and seminar versions, on questions of globalization in contemporary literature from Australia, the Caribbean, India, Britain, the United States, Taiwan, and Turkey. Topics include the role of global circuits, the construction of “world literature,” the status of translation, the representation of social difference, and the changing contours of global violence.

### *Literature of the Middle Passage*

A co-taught course on fiction, poetry, autobiography, travel writing, and visual culture produced in the wake of the Atlantic slave trade, with a special emphasis on Caribbean literature. Includes an eight-day class trip to Barbados, where students participate in classes at the University of the West Indies, visit historical sites related to the slave trade, and volunteer in local schools.

### *Globalization and Postcolonial Literature*

A senior seminar focusing in depth on major postcolonial novelists, travel writers, and poets. Special attention paid to the institutions (such as the Nobel Prize) that shape the visibility of postcolonial literature in a globalizing world.

### *Literature in the Age of Globalization*

A graduate seminar linking prose narratives from five continents to theories of globalization found in literary criticism, sociology, anthropology, and gender studies.

### *Introduction to the Study of American Literature*

An entry-level seminar on fiction, poetry, and drama from Mark Twain to Suzan-Lori Parks. Particular emphasis on the transnational and multiracial dimensions of modern American literature.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### *Directed Studies: Literature*

A yearlong course on the Western literary tradition from Homer to T.S. Eliot. Attention paid to the development of the epic, the rise of lyric poetry, and the intertextual ties among major European authors. Students take this course concurrently with classes in Western philosophy and political thought.

### *The European Literary Tradition: Tragedy*

An introductory seminar from Greek tragedy to twentieth-century drama. Writers include Aeschylus, Sophocles, Shakespeare, Racine, Ibsen, and Pinter.

### *The European Literary Tradition: Epic and Novel*

An introductory seminar on Homer, Vergil, Dante, Cervantes, Joyce, and Rushdie, with emphasis on the Western intertextual tradition of the epic and novel.

### *Contemporary British Fiction*

An undergraduate-level directed reading on British fiction at the turn of the millennium. Special attention paid to the changing racial and economic landscape of Britain.

### *Magical Realism*

An undergraduate-level directed reading on the international tradition of magical realism, with special emphasis on Latin American, Indian, and American novels.

### *Contemporary South Asian Writing*

A graduate-level directed reading on modern Anglophone literature from India and Pakistan.

### *Senior Essay Advising*

Advisor for senior essays on South African, Indian, and Native American fiction.

### *Graduate Student Advising*

Outside reader for dissertations in progress on twentieth-century fiction and poetry.

Stanford University (1999-2001)

### *Writing and Critical Thinking: The Research Paper*

An introductory course focusing on independent research and writing. Students develop library and interview skills while composing a substantial research paper of their own devising. Papers ranged in subject matter from the status of interpreters in American courts to the effect of increased funding in professional sports to the British role in historic famines in Bengal.

### *Writing and Critical Thinking: Rhetoric, Argument, and the Arts of Persuasion*

An introductory course designed to teach the basics of close reading and clear writing.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Stanford University (1999-2001)

*American Autobiography* (teaching assistant)

A lecture course on the multiracial traditions of American life-writing from Benjamin Franklin to the present. Special attention paid to twentieth-century autobiographies. Guest-lectured on the work of Maxine Hong Kingston.

*The Nineteenth-Century British Novel* (teaching assistant)

A lecture course on Austen, the Brontes, Dickens, Eliot, and Carroll. Guest-lectured on the work of Charles Dickens.

China Foreign Affairs University, Beijing, China (1997-1998)

*American Culture and English*

A series of courses designed to promote linguistic and cultural fluency in English among university students. Included debates, interviews, small-group discussions, and research projects.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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Yale University

Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Advisory Board  
South Asian Studies Council  
Directed Studies Admissions Committee  
Artemis Project Faculty Advisory Committee  
Alumni Schools Committee Interviewer

Yale University, Department of English

Twentieth Century Colloquium Co-Convener  
Senior Essays and Special Projects Committee, Chair  
Junior Appointments Search Committee  
Senior Appointments Search Committee  
Honors and Prizes Committee  
Lectures and Arrangements Committee  
Graduate Admissions Committee  
Residential College Department Advisor

Panel Chair, "Movin' On Out: Cultural Interplays"

Tenth International American Women Writers of Color Conference  
Salisbury University, Baltimore, November 2004

Panel Organizer, "Cosmopolitan Writing"

*Global Ethnic Networks*: American Comparative Literature Association  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, April 2004

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

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Article Referee

*Contemporary Literature*

*Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*

*LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory*

*Journal of Commonwealth Literature*

*Transformations*

**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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Mandarin Chinese (reading and speaking proficiency)