Susan Scott Parrish

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Program in the Environment
University of Michigan
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Education

Ph.D., Department of English, 1998
University of California, Berkeley
M.A., Department of Rhetoric, 1990
Princeton University
B.A., Magna Cum Laude, 1986
Elected to Phi Beta Kappa Society

Academic Employment

2021-	Chair, Michigan Society of Fellows
2020-	Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, English, Program in the Environment (PitE)
2016-	Professor, Department of English, PitE
2014-	Associate Professor, PitE and LSA Honors
2005-	Associate Professor, Department of English
1998-2005	Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Michigan

External Honors and Fellowships

2024-2025	R. Stanton Avery Distinguished Fellowship in the Humanities at The
	Huntington Library.
2019	Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment prize,
	Honorable Mention, for the best book of ecocriticism published in 2017
	and 2018, for <i>The Flood Year 1927: A Cultural History</i> .
2018	James Russell Lowell Prize, Modern Language Association, Honorable
	Mention, for <i>The Flood Year 1927</i> , "for an outstanding literary or linguistic
	study, a critical edition of an important work, or a critical biography"
	published in a given year.
2011	Lester J. Cappon Prize for "Richard Ligon and the Atlantic Science of
	Commonwealths," awarded annually by the editorial board of <i>The William</i>
	and Mary Quarterly to the best article published the previous year.
2006	Ralph Waldo Emerson Award for American Curiosity. This prize is awarded
	to one book annually by the Phi Beta Kappa Society "for scholarly studies
	that contribute significantly to interpretations of the intellectual and
	cultural condition of humanity."
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2005	Jamestown Prize for <i>American Curiosity</i> . The prize is awarded by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, University of North Carolina Press, the College of William and Mary, and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation every other year "to an exceptional book-length scholarly manuscript pertaining to the history and culture of the Atlantic World circa 1450–1815."
2003	Stephen Botein Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society
2001-2002	Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History Fellowship, Harvard University
2001	National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Fellowship
1998	Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture's Richard L. Morton Award for 1997 <i>William and Mary Quarterly</i> article
1998	Honorable Mention for the South-Eastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies' Percy Adams Prize for 1997 <i>WMQ</i> article
1996-1997	Thomas and Carolyn Killefer Fellowship
1995-1996	Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship
1990-1995	Stanford University Fellowship
1989-91	Jacob K. Javits Fellowship

Internal Honors, Fellowships, and Grants

2020	Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award
2020	Appointed Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in recognition of outstanding
	contributions to undergraduate education
2018-2021	Appointed Senior Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows
2016	The John Dewey Award for demonstrated long-term commitment to the
	education of undergraduate students
2013	Michigan Humanities Award
2012	Associate Professor Support Fund Summer Grant
2010	University Undergraduate Teaching Award
2008-2009	Institute for the Humanities John Rich Fellowship
2006-2007	Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute Fellowship
2006	Teaching with Technology Initiative Grant, Center for Research on
	Learning and Teaching
2006	Instructional Development Fund Grant, Center for Research on Learning
	and Teaching
2001	Horace H. Rackham Faculty Fellowship

Publications

Monographs

The Flood Year 1927: A Cultural History (Princeton UP, 2017). Paperback 2018.

Awarded ASLE's biennial book prize, Honorable Mention (2019) and the MLA's James Russell Lowell Award, Honorable Mention (2018).

French translation as *La Grande Crue du Mississippi de 1927: Une Histoire Culturelle Totale* Trans. Olivier Salvatori (Editions du CNRS, March 2019).

Subject of interdisciplinary roundtable discussion at American Studies Association Conference (Nov., 2016).

Reviewed in: Agricultural History, American Literary History, Arkansas Review, Choice, Journal of American History, Journal of Southern History, Kirkus Reviews, Modernism/Modernity, Publishers Weekly, Reviews in American History, Times Literary Supplement.

American Curiosity: Cultures of Natural History in the Colonial British Atlantic World (Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture/UNCP, 2006).

Awarded the Jamestown Prize and the Ralph Waldo Emerson Award

Reviewed in: American Historical Review, American Literature, Bloomsbury Review, Canadian Journal of History, Early American Literature, Early Science and Medicine, Environmental History, Isis, Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment, Itinerario, Journal of American History, Journal of American Studies, Journal of the Early Republic, Journal of the History of Science, Journal of Interdisciplinary History, Journal of Southern History, New England Quarterly, Northeastern Naturalist, Nuncius, Reviews in American History, William & Mary Quarterly, Winterthur Portfolio

Monograph in Progress

Into the Woodwork: Black American Life and Its Forest Materials

Edited Volumes

The Norton Critical Edition of William Faulkner's Absalom, Absalom! (January 2023).

The Cambridge Companion to American Literature and the Environment, co-edited with Sarah Ensor (March 2022).

Robert Beverley, *The History and Present State of Virginia* (1705) (OIEAHC/UNCP, 2013).

Articles and Chapters:

"New Materialism and American Environments," in ed. Jay Cook, *The New Materialisms* (collection under submission).

"Epistemologies of the Coast: from Columbus to Esi Edugyan's *Washington Black,*" in eds. Andrea Carosso and Sonia Di Loreto, "Coastlines, Oceans and Rivers of North America: Encounters and Ecocrises," special issue of *Iperstoria* 19 (Spring/Summer 2022), (Lead Chapter) https://iperstoria.it/issue/view/45.

"Looking for the Black Outdoors with Dawoud Bey," in *The Cambridge Companion to American Literature and the Environment* (2022).

"Jordan Peele's *Get Out* and the Mediation of History," *Representations* 155 (Summer 2021).

"Making Disaster Thinkable through Fiction" in eds. Andy Horowitz and Jacob Remes, *Critical Disaster Studies* (UPennP, 2021).

"Climate and Race" in ed. Michael Boyden, *Climate in American Literature and Culture* (Cambridge UP, 2021).

"Richard Wright's Environments: Mediating Personhood through the South's Second Nature" in ed. Eric D. Lamore, *African American Autobiography: Twenty-First Century Contexts and Criticism* (U Wisconsin P, 2017).

"As I Lay Dying and the Modern Aesthetics of Ecological Crisis" in ed. John Matthews, The New Cambridge Companion to William Faulkner (Cambridge UP, 2015).

"Zora Neale Hurston and the Environmental Ethic of Risk" in eds. Joni Adamson and Kimberly Ruffin, *American Studies, Ecocriticism, and Citizenship: Thinking and Acting in the Local and Global Commons* with an Introduction by Philip Deloria (Routledge Press, 2013) (Lead Chapter).

"Embodying African Knowledge in Colonial Surinam: Considering Two William Blake Engravings in Stedman's 1796 *Narrative*" in eds. Agnes Lugo-Ortiz and Angela Rosenthal, *Slave Portraiture in the Atlantic World (1599-1889)* (Cambridge UP, 2013).

"Faulkner and the Outer Weather of 1927," American Literary History 24.1 (March 2012) special issue entitled "Sustainability in America."

"Science, Nature, Race" in eds. Nicholas Canny and Philip D. Morgan, *The Oxford Handbook of the Atlantic World, 1450-1850* (Oxford, UK: Oxford UP, 2011; paper 2013).

"Richard Ligon and the Atlantic Science of Commonwealths," William and Mary Quarterly (April 2010). This article was awarded the Lester J. Cappon Prize for the best article in the Quarterly in 2010.

"William Byrd II and the Crossed Languages of Science, Satire, and Empire in British America" in eds., Ralph Bauer and José Antonio Mazzotti, *Creole Subjects in the Colonial Americas: Empires, Texts, Identities* (OIEAHC/UNCP, 2008).

"Diasporic African Sources of Enlightenment Knowledge" in eds., James Delbourgo and Nicholas Dew, *Science and Empire in the Atlantic World* (Routledge, 2007)(reprint).

"Scientific Discourse" in ed. Kevin J. Hayes, Oxford Handbook of Early American Literature (Oxford UP, 2007).

"Women's Nature: Curiosity, Pastoral, and the New Science in British America," *Early American Literature* 37.2 (July 2002), 195-238.

"The Female Opossum and the Nature of the New World," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d Series, Vol. LIV, No. 3 (July 1997), 475-514 (lead article). This article was awarded the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture's Richard L. Morton Award for 1997 and an Honorable Mention for the South-Eastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies' Percy Adams Prize for 1998.

Recent and forthcoming Reviews

Amitav Ghosh, *The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis* (U Chicago P, 2021) for *Critical Disaster Studies* (forthcoming 2024).

Luigi Monge, Wasn't That A Mighty Day: African American Blues and Gospel Songs on Disaster (U P of Mississippi, 2022) for African American Review (forthcoming 2024).

Public Humanities Work

Participated on a panel to discuss William Faulkner's works for the Norton Critical Editions Speakers Series (September, 2022).

Interviewed by Matthew Rozsa for *Salon* (June 24, 2022): https://www.salon.com/2022/06/24/great-mississippi-flood-climate-change-yellowstone/.

Interviewed for American History Tellers' podcast series on the 1927 flood (May 2022) https://wondery.com/shows/american-history-tellers/episode/5279-the-great-mississippi-flood-media-storm/.

Interviewed by Memphis Public Radio on the sonic history of the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 (January 2021).

"The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 Laid Bare the Divide between the North and the South," Smithsonian (www.smithsonianmag.org) April 2017.

Interviewed by Northern Lights Productions for an exhibit on the 1927 flood to be housed at the Museum of Mississippi History (March 2017).

Interview on 1927 flood for McMaster History professor, Michael Egan's "Our Bedtime Story," a speculative podcast on disaster (October 2017). https://soundcloud.com/user-571360326/bedtime-stories-series-introduction/recommended

Interview on Mississippi Public Radio's daily radio program called "Mississippi Edition" (January 2017). http://www.mpbonline.org/blogs/mississippiedition/mississippi-edition-thursday-jan-5th/

Recent Invited Lectures

Invited speaker, "Faulkner and Black Forestry," on a plenary panel devoted to William Faulkner at the Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers Conference, Houston, October, 2023.

Invited speaker, Faculty Panel for "Reconstructing History and Challenging Canons," organized by UM Student Government, March, 2023.

Invited speaker, "Disaster Mediation," at the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies (UM) Symposium, "Whither Critical Disaster Studies?" March, 2022.

Invited (virtual) speaker, "Jordan Peele's *Get Out* and the Mediation of History" Northwestern American Studies, February, 2021.

Visitor, with three speaking events, to Washington University, St. Louis, February, 2020.

Keynote speaker, Conference on "Coastal Americas," University of Torino, Italy, November 14-15, 2019.

Invited presenter at the "Environment and the Novel Roundtable," Novel Theory Seminar, Mahindra Center, Harvard University, December 2018.

Invited speaker, the Critical Disaster Studies Symposium, NYU Gallatin School, September, 2018.

Keynote speaker, "International Symposium on Eco-Catastrophe," Uppsala University, 8 May 2017.

Invited speaker, Stockholm University, Department of English, 9 May 2017.

Invited Speaker, Goethe University, Frankfurt, American Studies, 5 May 2017.

Recent Conference Talks

"The Talking Woods" as part of a panel "The Biopolitics of Race in the United States: Food, Fuel, Trees, Logistics" at the American Studies Association (ASA) Conference, Montreal, November, 2023.

"Solomon Northup's Fish Trap," versions delivered at both the Southern Labor Studies Association Conference, September, 2022, and the C19 Virtual Conference, October, 2020.

"The Bitter Sum: Accounting for Racist Words in *Absalom, Absalom!*," co-presented with Johannes Burgers, at "Faulkner's Fetishized Words" International Virtual Symposium organized by University of Picardy Jules Verne in Amiens, France and the University of Richmond, May, 2021.

"Faulkner, Authorship, and the Anthropocene" for a conference on "William Faulkner: 'Le Pere du Texte'" at Universite de Picardie Jules Verne, Amiens, France, September 27-28, 2019.

"Jordan Peele's *Get Out* and Rural Material Allegiances" on the panel "Dark Ecologies: Grounds of Trauma in 21st-Century Horror Films," Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE) Conference, June 2019.

Recent Conferences Organized

Member of the local planning committee for the ASLE Conference, Detroit, June 2017.

Member of the planning committee for the Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference, "The South in the North," Boston University, March, 2016.

Recent Conference Panel Activity

Convener of "Pedagogy and the Making of the First Norton Critical Edition of *Absalom, Absalom!,*" Designated Faulkner Society Panel, American Literature Association (ALA), May 2022.

Participant on "Roundtable: (re)Framing Single Author Studies," ALA, May 2019.

Participant on panel to discuss Britt Russert's *Fugitive Science*, ASA, Atlanta, November, 2018.

Respondent to a Panel, "The New Natural History," OIEAHC Conference, Williamsburg, June, 2018.

Selected Professional Activities and Service

Editorial Board, American Literary History, 2024-

Editorial Board, The Faulkner Journal, 2021-

Editorial Board, Winterthur Portfolio: A Journal of American Material Culture, 2013-2018.

Editorial Board, American Literature, 2012-2015.

Editorial Board, Early American Literature, 2010-2015.

Executive Committee, MLA "American Literature to 1800" Division, 2007-2012. Secretary, 2010; Chair, 2011.

Council member, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, 2010-2013. Chair, Publications Committee, 2012-2013.

Application Reviews: National Endowment for the Humanities, the OIEAHC Postdoctoral Fellowship, the UM Humanities Institute Faculty and PhD Fellowships.

Manuscript Reviews, Books: Cambridge University Press, Louisiana State University Press, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture book publications (UNCP), Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, University of Chicago Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, Yale University Press.

Manuscript Reviews, Journals: American Literature, American Literary History, The Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP), Atlantic Studies, Early American Literature, Early American Studies, Isis, ISLE, JEMCS, Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Nineteenth-Century Literature, and William and Mary Quarterly.

Manuscript Workshops: McNeil Center for Early American Studies (UPenn), University of Michigan, Uppsala University, Michigan Society of Fellows.

Promotion Reviews: Auburn University, Harvard University, MIT, Northwestern University, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, University of California-Davis, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, University of Massachusetts-Amherst,

University of Alabama, University of North Texas, Washington University at St. Louis, Yale University.

Selected Departmental Service, English Language and Literature

Third Year Review Committee, Member, 2023

Job Placement Officer, 2002-2005, 2015-2016, 2021-2022

Person-Specific Hiring Committee, Chair, 2022

Associate Chair, 2019-2021

Member of the Executive Committee, 1999-2000, Fall 2000, Fall 2002, 2004-2005, 2006-

2008, 2009-2011, Winter 2014, 2014-2015, 2017-2019, 2023-2024

Ad Hoc Reading Committee, Target of Opportunity Hire, Winter 2016, 2020

Director, Honors Program, 2005-2008, 2019-2020 (Interim)

Chair, Third Year Review, 2018

Search Committee, English/PitE joint hire, 2016-2017

PhD Admissions Committee, Chair, 2017

Faculty Advisor, American Studies Consortium, 2012-2018

Director, Undergraduate Studies, 2007-2008, 2010-2011, 2014-2015

Graduate Advisory Committee, 2009-2010

Third-Term Review Committee, 2011, 2013

Search Committee, Lecturer III Position, English/Program in the Environment, 2009

Search Committee, Director of the New England Literature Program, 2008, 2023

New England Literature Program, Faculty Advisory Committee, 2009-2012, 2014-2015

Salary Committee, 2007

Search Committee for Fiction Position, Winter 1999 and 2003-4

Search Committee for Multiple Position Hire, 2004-2005, 2006-2007

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Winter 1999

Selected UM Service

Chair, Michigan Society of Fellows, 2021-2026

PitE Committee on Environmental Justice minor, Winter 2023

Exploratory group to investigate potential Humanities exchanges between UM and SJTU (China), Winter 2019

JPitE Transition Committee, Fall 2017

Water @ Michigan Steering Committee, 2017-2018

Convener, First Book Workshop for LSA Junior Faculty, May-December, 2017, 2019

Provost Committee on Academic Programs in Environment and Sustainability, 2016

LSA Honors Director Search, Interview Committee Member, 2016

LSA Faculty Call Out (to recruit admitted underrepresented undergraduates), 2016

Fulbright Fellowship Interviewer of Student Applicants, 2015

Matthei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum (MBGNA) Faculty Associate, 2010-2016

Executive Committee, Institute for the Humanities, 2010-2013

Advisory Board, LSA Honors Program, 2007-2013

Lecturer Review Committee, Program in the Environment, 2011, 2015

Advisory Board, Atlantic Studies Initiative, 2006-2008
Third-Year Review Committee, Organizational Studies Program, 2008
Lecturer Review, Sweetland Writing Center, 2008
Panelist, UM Career Center/Rackham/Center for the Education of Women, "Parenting in the Academy," 2008

Teaching and Advising

Current Graduate Examinations and Dissertation Committees

Samantha Adams (English)
Surabhi Balachander (Chair, English)
Leila Braun (Co-Chair, English)
Alexander Clayton (History)
Patricia Jewell (Chair, English & WGS)
Bryan Kim-Butler (Chair, English)
Yelizaveta Tishchenko (Chair, English)
Kyle McCormick (English)

Completed Dissertations

English

Sarah Jane Kerwin (2023), "Coming and Going to Know a Place: Transience in Literature of the US West." Visiting Assistant Professor, Oberlin College (Chair).

Emelia Abbe Robertson (2023) "Brewing Sedition: The Insurgent Objects of Drinking in Early America." Grant Writer and Donor Relations Specialist, Development Office at the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation (Chair).

Bretney Moore (2022) "Ceding Space to the Accumulation: Clothing the Longing at the Heart of the Human Condition." Assistant Head of School and Lead Humanities Instructor, City of Bridges High School, Pittsburgh, PA.

Mika Kennedy (2020) "Crossed Wires: Japanese American Incarceration and the Environmental Frontier." Assistant Professor, Ithaca College.

Malcolm Tariq (2018) "Versing the Ghetto: African American Writers and the Urban Crisis."

Logan Scherer (2017) "Beyond Curiosity: Late-Nineteenth-Century American Women's Narratives of Obsession." Senior manager of editorial projects for Prison and Justice Writing at PEN America.

Emily Waples (2016) "Self-Health: The Politics of Care in American Literature, 1793-1873." Associate Professor, Biomedical Humanities, Hiram College. (Chair) (Winner of Proquest Dissertation Award, 2017).

Kathryn Bevilacqua (2016) "Making U.S. Readers in the Early Twentieth Century." Alison Carr (2015): "American Interiors: Beneath the Surfaces of Natural History in Early U.S. Writing" (Chair).

Christopher Barnes (2014): "Reading Methodist Characters: The Figure and Politics of Popular Evangelicalism in American Fiction, 1790-1860." (Pursuing School of Information MA).

Carolyn Dekker (2014): "Placing the Bomb: the Pastoral and the Sublime in the Nuclear Age." Assistant Professor, Finlandia University.

Puspa Lal Damai (2012) (English and American Culture).

Lauren LaFauci (2009): "Peculiar Nature: Slavery, Environment, and Nationalism in the Antebellum South." Assistant Professor, Whitman College (Chair).

Laura Ambrose (2008): "Plotting Movement: Epistemologies of Local Travel in Early Modern England." Associate Professor, St. Mary's College.

Gavin Hollis (2008): "The Absence of America on the Early Modern Stage." Associate Professor, Hunter College of the City University of New York.

Sabiha Ahmad (2007): "Technologies of Mettle: The Acting Self and the Early Modern English Culture of Metals." Assistant Professor, UT, El Paso.

Holly Dugan (English & Women's Studies, 2005): "The Ephemeral History of Perfume: Scent and Sense in Early Modern England." Associate Professor, George Washington University.

Other Departments

Joseph Gaudet (2018, American Culture): "The Energy Capital of the World: A History of Grass, Oil, and Coal in the Powder River Basin."

Melissa Johnson (2018, History): "The Talk of the Town: Women, Gossip and Watchfulness in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts."

Andrew Rutledge (2018, History):

Jennifer Lynn Garcia Peacock (2017, Program in American Culture): "The Chicana/o Countryside: A Visual History of California's Central Valley, 1965-1985." Assistant Professor, Davidson College.

Christine Walker (2014, History): "To Be My Own Mistress: Women in Jamaica, Atlantic Slavery and the Creation of Britain's American Empire, 1660-1770." Assistant Professor, History, Texas Tech University.

Alyssa Chen (2013, Program in American Culture): "The Literary Production of Humane America."

Nadia Baadj (2012, History of Art): "'Monstrous creatures and diverse strange things': The Curious Art of Jan van Kessel the Elder, 1626-1679." Rosalind Franklin Fellow and Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Groningen.

Daniel Livesay (2010, History): "Children of Uncertain Fortune: Mixed-Race Migration from the West Indies to Britain, 1750-1820." Assistant Professor, History, Drury University.

Catherine Cangany (2009, History): "Frontier Seaport: Detroit's Transformation into an Atlantic Entrepot, 1701-1837." Associate Professor, History, University of Notre Dame. Michelle McDonald (2005, History): "From Cultivation to Cup: Caribbean Coffee and the North American Economy, 1765-1805." Associate Professor, History, Richard Stockton College.

Amanda Moniz (2008, History): "Labours in the Cause of Humanity in Every Part of the Globe': Transatlantic Philanthropic Collaboration and the Cosmopolitan Ideal, 1760-1815." Associate Director, National History Center.

Rebecca Brannon (2007, History): "Reconciling the Revolution: Resolving Conflict and Rebuilding Community in the Wake of Civil War in South Carolina, 1775-1860." Associate Professor, History, James Madison University.

Erika Gasser (History & Women's Studies, 2007): "Manhood, Witchcraft, and Possession in Old and New England." Associate Professor, History, University of Cincinnati. Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor (2003, History): "The Measure of the Market: Women's Economic Lives in Charleston, SC and Newport, RI 1750-1820." Associate Professor, History, UC, Davis.

Joseph La Sala (2001, History): "'Heavenly Merchandize:' An Archeology of Culture and Consciousness in Puritan New England."

Courses Taught

Graduate

The Absalom Laboratory Southern Materialisms, 1780-1940 Southern Modern Up South

William Faulkner and Zora Neale Hurston

Hazarding the Atlantic in the Long Seventeenth Century

Transatlantic Epistemologies: 1584-1763

True Histories of the Atlantic World, 1600-1800

American Literature to 1830: Key Texts

The Environmental Imagination in American Literature

Undergraduate

Environments:

The Environmental Imagination in American Literature, 1492-Present (English & PitE) Southern Natures: The Making and Unmaking of Races and Environments (English & PitE)

Southern Studies:

Southern Modern

The U.S. South, Then and Now

William Faulkner

Honors Seminar: Faulkner, Hurston, and Wright: Authorship, Environment, and the Jim Crow South

Film:

The New Hollywood, 1967-1978

The Social Thriller: Get Out and Its Filmic and Literary Ancestors

Early Modern Atlantic World:

The West after 1492 (LSA Honors Core lecture)

American Literature to 1830

Travels and Travails in New Worlds, 1600-1860

US, Broadly:

The American Novel

The Modern City (a version of the American Novel course)
Introduction to Literary Studies: "Hide & Seek"
Honors Seminar: American Novels in Critical and Historical Contexts

Honors Thesis Writing Workshop

Membership

American Antiquarian Society (elected 2007)
Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE)
Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers
American Studies Association
C19
Modern Language Association
Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
Society for the Study of Southern Literature
Southern Labor Studies Association