

# Donika Kelly

Department of English  
St. Bonaventure University

3261 West State Road  
St. Bonaventure, NY 14778

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English Literature, *Reading Against Genre: Contemporary Westerns and the Problem of White Manhood*. Dissertation Committee: Michael Kreyling (Chair), Dana Nelson, Paul D. Young, Sarah Igo, Vanderbilt University, August 2013.

M.A. in English, “Framing the Subject in Natasha Trethewey’s *Bellocq’s Ophelia*.”  
Thesis Director: Michael Kreyling, Vanderbilt University, 2009.

M.F.A in Writing, *The White Meat*.  
Thesis Director: A. Van. Jordan, University of Texas at Austin, 2008.

B.A. in English, Southern Arkansas University, 2005.

### Cave Canem

Faculty: Toi Derricotte, Cornelius Eady, Terrance Hayes, Claudia Rankine, Ed Roberson, Harryette Mullen, Carl Phillips, Angela Jackson, Colleen McElroy, and Thomas Sayers Ellis, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, 2009, 2011, 2013.

## POETRY COLLECTION

*Bestiary* (Graywolf 2016), Winner of the 2015 Cave Canem Poetry Prize.

## SELECTED POETRY PUBLICATIONS

*Sinister Wisdom* "Bedtime Story For The Bruised Heart", "Cartography As An Act of Remembering", "The Three Birds Of The Milky Way" and "Labyrinth" (Forthcoming 2017)

*Tin House* "The Oracle Remembers the Future Cannot Be Avoided," "Gun Control (Mama)," and "Primer: *D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths*" (Forthcoming Summer 2017)

*Washington Square* "In the Chapel of St. Mary's" and "Self-Portrait in Labyrinth" (Forthcoming 2017)

*Buzzfeed Reader* "Partial Hospitalization" (2016)

<i>Gulf Coast</i>	“Love Poem: Chimera” (Winter 2016)
<i>Rockhurst Review</i>	“Construction,” “Revelation: Black Bear,” “Revelation: White Bear,” and “Pony” (Fall 2016)
<i>Virginia Quarterly Review</i>	“Bower Bird,” “Swallow,” and “How to be alone” (Summer 2016)
<i>Pleiades</i>	“Love Poem: Centaur” and “Love Poem Mermaid” (Spring 2016)
<i>Nashville Review</i>	“Fourth Grade Autobiography” (2016)
<i>Gris-Gris</i>	“Handsome Is,” “Little Box,” and “Love Letter” (2016)
<i>Cincinnati Review</i>	“Acheron” and “Hymn” (Fall 2015)
<i>Eleven Eleven Journal</i>	“Ocelot” (Summer 2015)
<i>Rove</i>	“Statistics” (Spring 2015)
<i>Tupelo Quarterly</i>	“A Man Goes West and Falls Off His Horse in the Desert” and “Self-Portrait as a Door” (Fall 2013)
<i>The Best of Kore Press</i>	“Arkansas Love Poem” (2013)
<i>West Branch</i>	“Love Poem: Griffon” (Fall 2013)
<i>RHINO</i>	“Last rites” (2013)
<i>Bloom</i>	“Tender” and “What Gay Porn Has Done for Me” (Fall 2012)
<i>Vinyl</i>	“Love Poem: Minotaur” and “Sonnet in which only one bird appears” (2012)
<i>The Feminist Wire</i>	“The Yard,” “Love Song,” “Whale,” “Arkansas Love Song,” and “Where she is opened. Where she is closed.” (2011)
<i>Crazyhorse</i>	“Archaeology” and “Perhaps you tire of birds” (Fall 2011)
<i>Hayden’s Ferry Review</i>	“Whale” (Spring 2011)

## DISSERTATION

“Reading against Genre: Contemporary Westerns and the Problem of White Manhood”

Committee: Michael Kreyling (Chair), Dana D. Nelson, Paul Young, Sarah Igo (Outside reader).

This project seeks to understand how cultural representations of white American manhood, particularly those found in contemporary westerns from 1985-2008, shape our expectations of white men. I turn to the western as a site of cultural understanding integral to the larger American narrative of Manifest Destiny, independence, and compulsory heterosexuality. I suggest that the representations of manhood found in westerns dehumanize white men, but that through employing a strategy of radical empathy, we can more ethically critique white manhood.

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Assistant Professor

St. Bonaventure University, English Department, 2016—

ENG 350: Creative Writing: Narrative II

Texts included: *Bird by Bird* (Lamott), *Best American Fiction 2016* (Díaz).

ENG 271: Creative Writing: Poetry

Texts included: *A Poetry Handbook* (Oliver), *Night Sky with Exit Wounds* (Vuong), *Native Guard* (Trethewey), *Common Man* (Manning), *Look* (Sharif), *Don't Let Me Be Lonely* (Rankine).

ENG 270: Creative Writing: Narrative

Texts included: *The Making of a Story* (LaPlante).

ENG 213: Popular Literature: American Masculinities

Texts included: *Close Range* (Proulx), *Dien Cai Dau* (Komunyakaa), *American Born Chinese* (Yang), *Moonlight*, *The Sessions*, *Pariah*.

CLAR 110: Composition and Critical Thinking

### Lecturer

Santa Clara University, Women's and Gender Studies, 2016

WGST 51: Introduction to LGBTQ Studies

Texts included: *Finding Out: An Introduction to LGBT Studies* (Gibson, Alexander, and Meem).

University of California, Davis, Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, 2015—2016

WMS 104: Feminist Inquiry

Texts included: *Feminist Research Practice* (Hesse-Biber), and *Bellocq's Ophelia* (Trethewey).

WMS 50: Introduction to Gender Studies

Texts included: *The Gendered Society Reader* (Kimmel and Aronson), *History of U.S. Feminisms* (Dicker).

Vanderbilt University, Women's and Gender Studies, 2014—2015

WGS 150w: Sex, Gender, and Everyday Life

Texts included: *The Gendered Society Reader* (Kimmel and Aronson), *The Color Purple* (Walker).

WGS 201: Women and Gender in Transnational Contexts

Texts included: *Between Woman and Nation* (Kaplan), *Transnational America* (Grewal), *Disposable Women and Other Myths of Global Capitalism* (Wright), *Lose Your Mother* (Hartman).

WGS 212: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Studies

Texts included: *The Routledge Queer Studies Reader* (Hall), *Crush* (Siken), *Sister Outsider* (Lorde).

WGS 243: Sociology of Men and Masculinity

Texts included: *The Masculinity Studies Reader* (Adams and Savran), *Notes of a Native Son* (Baldwin); *Zero to Three* (Brown).

Vanderbilt University, Department of English, 2013—2015

ENGL 100w: Composition

Texts included: *Norton Field Guide to Writing*, *Drown* (Díaz), *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere* (Packer).

ENGL 116w: Introduction to Poetry: Issues in American Poetry

Texts included: *A Poetry Handbook* (Oliver), *Don't Let Me Be Lonely* (Rankine), *The Common Man* (Manning).

ENGL 118w: Introduction to Literary and Cultural Analysis: “Gods and Monsters: Representations of White Manhood in American Culture”

Texts included: *Fight Club* (Palahniuk), *Lars and the Real Girl*, *The Trouble with Normal* (Warner).

### **Graduate Instructor**

Vanderbilt University, 2009—2012

ENGL116w: Introduction to Poetry, Spring/Fall 2012

Texts included: *The Norton Introduction to Poetry*, *Blue Front*, Martha Collins.

ENGL 100w: Composition: Writing and Representation, Fall 2011

Text included: *Norton Field Guide to Writing*.

ENGL 102w: Literature and Analysis: American Revisions. Fall 2010

Texts included: *Close Range* (Proulx), *Top Dog/Underdog* (Parks), *Please* (Brown).

ENGL102w: Literature and Analysis: Constructing the Outsider, Fall 2011/Spring 2010

Texts included: *Beowulf* (Heaney trans.), *Merchant of Venice* (Shakespeare), *Belloq's Ophelia* (Trethewey).

### **Instructor**

Southern Arkansas University

Composition II, Summer 2009.

Continuing Education Poetry Workshop, Spring 2005.

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS**

Lambda Literary Award in Lesbian Poetry, Finalist

2017

Publishing Triangle's Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry, Finalist	2017
National Book Award, Long List	2016
Cave Canem Poetry Prize, Winner	2015
Bayard Rustin Advocacy Award, Office of LGBTQI Life, Vanderbilt	2015
Thomas Daniel Young Award for Excellence in Teaching, Vanderbilt	2013
Cave Canem Graduate Fellow	2009, 2011, 2013
New Issues Poetry Prize, Finalist	2013
National Poetry Series, Finalist	2011
Provost's Graduate Fellowship, Vanderbilt University	2008-2013
University Fellowship, Vanderbilt University	2008-2013
James A. Michener Fellow in Writing	2005-2008
Bucknell Seminar for Younger Poets, June Fellow	2004

## **PRESENTATIONS, READINGS, WORKSHOPS, AND INSTITUTES**

### **Selected Poetry Readings**

Featured author, Reader Riot Book Festival, Florence, AL, April 2017.

Poetry reading, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, April 2017.

The Kathleen Mallory Lecture Series, Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, AR, April 2017.

Creative Writing Program reading (with Solmaz Sharif), University of California Davis, Davis, CA, March 2017.

Cave Canem Poetry Prize Reading (with Katy Richey and Linda Susan Jackson), Lillian Vernon Creative Writers House, NYU, December 2016

Miami Book Fair, November 2016:

Poems: A Reading (with Chinaka Hodges, Janine Joseph, and Solmaz Sharif).

Award-Winning Readings: National Book Award Nominees: Poetry (with Rita Dove, Monica Youn, Kevin Young, Solmaz Sharif, and Jane Mead).

An Evening with the National Book Awards Nominees Sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Poetry Reading, Bennington College, October 2016

Poetry Reading, Arkansas Tech, March 2016.

Hazel Reading Series (with Toni Mirosevich, Aimee Phan, Deborah Steinberg, Huda Almarashi and Vanessa Hua), San Francisco, CA, September 2015.

*Rove* Poetry Reading (with Lisa Dordal), Berea, KY, March 2015.

Cave Canem Poetry Prize Reading (with Tracy K. Smith, Douglas Brown, and Leon Baham), New York, NY, December 2014.

Poets Corner Reading Series (with Elizabeth Barnett), Scarritt Bennett, Nashville TN, January 2014.

### **Panels and Institutes**

"Citizen Poet, Citizen Queer"; Split This Rock Spring 2013.

"'You write about what?!': Thoughts from a black lesbian poet writing a dissertation about white men," Northeast MLA, Spring 2013.

"The Cowboy Homodestic in *Lonesome Dove*, *City Slickers*, and 'People in Hell Just Want a Drink of Water,'" Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth University, Summer 2012.

"Framing the Subject in Natasha Trethewey's *Bellocq's Ophelia*," Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference, New Orleans, LA. Spring 2010.

Bucknell Seminar for Younger Poets, Bucknell University, June 2004.

### **Workshop Presentations**

"Making Visible," Empowerment Conference, Women's Research and Resource Center, University of California, Davis, Fall 2015.

"Queer Metaphors: A poetry workshop," OUT in Front Conference, Vanderbilt University, Spring 2015.

"Voices and Counter Voices: Exploring the Persona Poem," Workshop, Southern Arkansas University, Spring 2011.

“Changing Points of View: Exploring the Persona Poem,” Workshop, Nashville Young Writers' Workshop, Spring 2011.

“Ekphrasis and American Photography,” Workshop, Nashville Young Writers' Workshop, Spring 2011.

### **Guest Lectures**

“White men are people too,” Lecture given in Jonathan Metzl’s Men’s Health, Vanderbilt University, Fall 2014.

“Is Paris Still Burning?: Considering the Changing Role of the Drag Queen in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” Lecture given to Sarah Kersh’s Feminism and Film class, Spring 2013.

“Line and the Voice,” Lecture given to Shannin Schroeder’s Creative Writing Workshop, Southern Arkansas University, March 2009.

### **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Member of the President’s Standing Committee on Equity and Diversity, St. Bonaventure University, 2016-2017.

Thesis advisor for Tiana Clark, Vanderbilt University, Spring 2017.

Faculty advisor for *The Laurel*, St. Bonaventure’s literary magazine, 2016-2017.

Faculty advisor for the Chattertons poetry club, St. Bonaventure University, 2016-2017.

Poetry Screener for the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas, Austin, 2016.

Grant Reviewer for the Barbara Deming, Money for Women Fund, Fall 2015

Co-Facilitator for the Queer People of Color Affinity Group, Office of LGBTQI Life, Vanderbilt University, 2014-2015.

Fiction application screener for Vanderbilt University MFA Program, 2014, 2015.

Grant reviewer for the Kentucky Foundation for Women, Fall 2012 and Fall 2015.

Rheney Lecture Coordinator, Guest Speaker Domino Perez, Vanderbilt University, Spring 2010.

Poetry judge for *The Rectangle*, Sigma Tau Delta, 2009-2014