

Curriculum Vitae

KOFI OWUSU, Ph.D.

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Degrees and Teaching Positions

- 2003- Professor of English, Carleton College
- 1996-2003 Associate Professor of English, Carleton College
- 1990-1995 Assistant Professor of English, Carleton College
- 1989 University of Alberta, Canada, Ph.D.**
- 1984-1988 Part-Time Graduate Student Teaching Appointment,
Department of English, University of Alberta, Canada
- 1981-1984 Lecturer in English, University of Ghana
- 1981 University of Edinburgh, Scotland, M.Litt.**
- 1978-1979 Temporary Assistant Lecturer, University of Ghana
- 1977-1978 Teaching Assistant, University of Ghana
- 1976-1977 English Language and Literature Teacher, Half-Assini
Secondary School, Ghana
- 1976 University of Ghana, B.A. Honors**

Professional Engagements

I. Leadership and/or Administrative Positions Held

- 2010-2013 Chair, Department of English, Carleton College
- Assumed responsibility for implementing English major curriculum overhaul following department deliberations coordinated by previous chair.
 - Oversaw three tenure reviews, the last three at the time. Everyone on full-time, tenure-track appointment in the department of English had been granted tenure by the completion of my term as chair.
 - Chaired full professors' review of a tenured colleague's successful promotion application.

1998-2010 Director, African/African American Studies Program, Carleton College

The program had zero FTE; the director, like all affiliated faculty, retained full-time commitments to home department. As director for four consecutive terms:

- I taught Core Courses;
- I advised and evaluated Senior Comps Projects; and
- I was *de facto* Program Assessment Coordinator as well as academic adviser for all majors and concentrators.

2000-2002 Coordinator of Multicultural Issues, Carleton College

(Coordinator position and the positions of Director, African/ African American Studies Program and Professorship in English held concurrently)

Worked (as "Faculty Representative") with the Multicultural Affairs Office, the Perlman Center for Learning and Teaching, and the Chaplain's office on College-wide inclusion, diversity, and broadly-defined "multicultural issues."

II. Sample of Academic, Scholarly, and Related Engagements

2019-2006-2010; 1991-2003 Mentor, Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Program

2017 Outside Reviewer for chapter in Peter Lang edited volume

2016-17 Member, Africana Studies Tenure Track Search Committee

2008-2009 External Examiner
Dissertation submitted for the award of the Ph.D. degree in English, Andhra University, Andhra Pradesh, India

2009 External Evaluator
Institutional Research Grant Proposal, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR.

2000 Contract with Routledge Publishers for entries in *Encyclopedia of African Literature*

1999 External Assessor
Candidate's dossier review and recommendation for promotion from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer & Senior Research Fellow in African Studies, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana

1998 Contract with Cambridge University Press for entries in *The Cambridge Guide to Women's Writing in English*

- 1998 External Assessor
Candidate's dossier review and recommendation for promotion from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor in the Department of Languages, University of Science and Technology, Ghana
- 1995 Lecturer & Facilitator, ACM Faculty Development Workshop on "Africanisms in American Culture"
- 1993 Referee for work submitted to *Universitas* (Ghana) for publication
- 1992 Advisory Editor for work submitted to *Modern Fiction Studies* (USA) for publication
- 1990 Referee for work submitted to *Callaloo* (USA) for publication.

Service on College Committees: Abbreviated List

- 2019- Faculty Alternate, Faculty Judiciary Committee
- 2019- Faculty Representative, Judicial Hearing Board
- 2017- Affiliated Faculty and Steering Committee Member, Africana Studies
- 2016-18 Member, Teacher Education Committee
- 2000-2002 Member, Perlman Center for Learning & Teaching Advisory Committee
- 1997-2010 Member, American Studies Committee
- 1996-1999 Member, Academic Standing Committee
- 1995-2002 Carleton Faculty Representative, the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) Committee on Minority Concerns
- 1990-2016 Member, African/African American Studies Committee

Membership in Professional Organizations

Regular Membership

Modern Language Association of America (MLA)

Occasional Membership

African Literature Association (ALA)

African Studies Association (ASA)

The National Council for Black Studies (NCBS)

Scholarship and Publications

1980-1989

[Graduate Student: M.Litt. Program, 1979-81; Lecturer in English, 1981-84; Graduate Student: Ph.D. Program, 1984-89]

Short Essays, Notes, and Reviews

1980. Book Review: "The Novels of Ayi Kwei Armah by Robert Fraser." *The Legon Observer*, vol. XII, no. 13.

1983. Rpt. Review Essay. "Robert Fraser, *The Novels of Ayi Kwei Armah, A Study in Polemical Fiction*." In *African Literature Today: Recent Trends in the Novel*, edited by Eldred Jones. London: Heinemann; New York: Africana.

1986. "(Literary Plagiarism) and Originality." *West Africa* [London], no. 3575.

1986. "Writers, Readers, Critics, and Politics." *West Africa* [London], no. 3582.

1987. "Point of View and Narrative Strategy in Ngugi's *A Grain of Wheat*." *Notes on Contemporary Literature*, vol. XVII, no. 1.

Refereed Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

1987. "Interpreting *The Interpreters*: The Fictionality of Wole Soyinka's Critical Fiction." *World Literature Written in English*, vol. 27, no. 2, pp. 184-195.

1988. "Armah's F-R-A-G-M-E-N-T-S: Madness as Artistic Paradigm." *Callaloo: A Journal of African-American and African Arts and Letters*, vol. 11, no. 2, pp. 361-370.

1989. "Interpreting Interpreting: African Roots, Black Fruits, and the Colored Tree (of 'Knowledge')." *Black American Literature Forum* (renamed *African American Review*), vol. 23, no. 4, pp. 739-765.

1990-

[Since 1990 appointment as Assistant Professor of English at Carleton, a liberal arts college with institutional commitment to teaching excellence]

1990. "Canons Under Siege: Blackness, Femaleness, and Ama Ata Aidoo's *Our Sister Killjoy*." *Callaloo*, vol. 13, no. 2, pp. 341-363.

1991. "The Politics of Interpretation: The Novels of Chinua Achebe." *Modern Fiction Studies*, vol. 37, no. 3, pp. 459-470.

Winner of the 1991 Margaret Church Memorial Prize for the best essay to have appeared in *Modern Fiction Studies*.

1991. "The Anglophone West African Novel." In *The Commonwealth Novel Since 1960*, edited by Bruce King. London: Macmillan.

1992. "Rethinking Canonicity: Toni Morrison and the (Non)canonic 'Other.'" In *Rewriting the Dream: Reflections on the Changing American Literary Canon*, edited by W.M. Verhoeven. Amsterdam: Rodopi.

1999. "Continue Your Telling, Ayi Kwei Armah [Tribute to Ayi Kwei Armah at 60]." *African Literature Association Bulletin*, vol. 25, no. 4.

1999. Commissioned Entries in *The Cambridge Guide to Women's Writing in English*, edited by Lorna Sage. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press.

- *Brown Girl, Brownstones*
- *The Color Purple*
- "Gorilla, My Love"
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
- *Paradise*
- *A Raisin in the Sun*
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- "Alice Walker."

2000. "Postcolonial Imaging and Architectonics in Wole Soyinka's *Season of Anomy*." *The Atlantic Literary Review*, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 158-171.

2002. Rpt. "Postcolonial Imaging and Architectonics in Wole Soyinka." In *Commonwealth Fiction: Twenty-First Century Readings*, edited by Rajeshwar Mittapalli and Alessandro Monti. New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers.

2003. Commissioned Entries in *Encyclopedia of African Literature*, edited by Simon Gikandi. London and New York: Routledge.

Essays on Authors and Their Work:

- "Ayi Kwei Armah"
- "Yaw Boateng"
- "Joseph E. Casely Hayford"
- "J. B. Danquah"
- "Michael Francis Dei-Anang"
- "Amu Djoletto"
- "Kobina Sekyi"
- "Francis Selormey"

2003. Rpt. "Canons Under Siege." *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Literary Criticism Series, vol. 177, Gale Publishing.

2013. "Thematic Design and Stylistic Patterns in Cameron Duodu's *The Gab Boys*." In *Reading Contemporary African Literature: Critical Perspectives*, edited by Reuben M. Chirambo and J.K.S. Makokha. Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi.

Ongoing, Long-Term Research Projects

The Legacy of Chinua Achebe

Toni Morrison's Novelistic Innovations

Trading Bodies, Histories, and Languages: Revisiting Enslavement in Selected Late Twentieth Century and Twenty-First Century Writing. Core authors of research interest include Yaw Boateng (*The Return*), Kwadwo Opoku-Agyemang (*Cape Coast Castle*), Yaa Gyasi (*Homegoing*), Colson Whitehead (*The Underground Railroad*), and Esi Edugyan (*Washington Black*).