

**Gwendolyn Etter-Lewis**  
**English, Global and Intercultural Studies**  
**Miami University**  
**Oxford, OH 45056**  
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**EDUCATION**

Ph.D.          Linguistics                  University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, MI

Dissertation: Sociolinguistic Patterns of Code-Switching in the Language of  
Preschool Black Children

Areas of specialization:      American Dialects, Sociolinguistics

Languages:                      French, Hebrew

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2001 -          Professor of English                  Miami University      Oxford, OH  
Courses Taught: Introduction to Linguistics, Feminism and the Diaspora-Women  
of Color in the U.S., Studies in the African Novel, Black Feminist Theory,  
Introduction to Women's Studies, African Women Writers, Structure of  
the English Language, Varieties of English, Language and Gender,  
History of the English Language, Women's Autobiography, Postcolonial  
Literature and African Masculinities, Structure of Modern English,  
Engaged Learning Practicum (college readiness program for  
underrepresented high school students), African Writers in Europe:  
Between Two Worlds (taught at the MU John E. Dolibois European  
Center, Luxembourg), Feminist Theories and Methodologies

2014 -          Affiliate          Educational Leadership

**ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

2005-2006      Interim Director, Black World Studies      Miami University      Oxford, OH

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

*Lights of the Spirit: Historical Portraits of Black Bahá'is in North America.* Co-edited with  
Richard Thomas. (Wilmette, Illinois: Bahá'i Publishing Trust, 2006)

*Unrelated Kin: Race and Gender in Women's Personal Narratives.* Co-edited with Michele  
Foster. (Routledge, 1996)

*My Soul Is My Own: Oral Narratives of African American Women in the Professions.*  
(Routledge, 1993)

### **SELECTED BOOK CHAPTERS AND JOURNAL ARTICLES**

“The Most Challenging Issue Revisited: Black Women’s Perspectives on Race and Gender in the Bahá’i Faith.” (book chapter) In Loni Bramson, ed. *Race and Religion: The Intersection of Baha’i Race Unity Efforts and African American History.* Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. (2018)

“Teaching to Digress: Pedagogy, Feminism and the Search for Voice.” Book chapter co-authored with MU graduate student Roselyn Banda and MU undergraduate Sarah Kinley. In *Supporting Multiculturalism and Gender Diversity in University Settings.* Edited by Molly Zhou. (Hershey, PA: IGI Global, 2015).

“Dark Bodies/White Masks: African Masculinities and Visual Culture in *Graceland, The Joys of Motherhood, and Things Fall Apart.*” In *Masculinities in African Literary and Cultural Texts.* Helen Mugambi and Tuzyline Allan, eds. Abeya Clark Publishing, 2010.

“Raising Hell”: The Body as Text in Selected Letters of Bessie Head.” In *The Life and Work of Bessie Head: A Celebration of the Seventieth Anniversary of Her Birth.* Mary Lederer, Seatholo Tumedi, Leloba Molema, and M. J. Daymond, eds. Gaborone: Pentagon Publishers, 2008.

“Filled with Voice/Emptied of Self: Reading and Teaching African Feminist Consciousness in Lauretta Ngcobo’s *And They Didn’t Die.*” *Journal of the African Literature Association.* Vol. 1, No. 1. Winter/Spring, 2007. p. 105-126.

“The Sky Is Falling: Black Studies and the Politics of Public Discourse.” *Journal of Black Studies.* Vol. 36, No. 5. May, 2006, p. 720-731.

“Black Women in the Bahá’i Faith: Leading by Principle” In *Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia.* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Darlene Clark Hine, editor. (NY: Oxford University Press, 2005).

### **SELECTED PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

“Narratives of Underrepresent Elders in Ohio: Uncovering the Importance of Place” presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting. November 16-20, 2016. New Orleans, LA. Co-authored with Kate de Medeiros.

“Hidden in Plain Sight: The Secret Lives of African American Centenarians” presented at the North American Network in Aging Studies Conference. Miami University, Oxford, OH. May 19-22, 2015.

“Turnip Greens and Candied Yams: Soul Food as Social Change, One Meal at a Time.” Annual Meeting of the Oral History Association. Madison, Wisconsin. October 8-12, 2014.

“Negotiating Points of Change: Black Feminism and the Empowerment of Young Women and Girls.” Annual Meeting of the National Women’s Studies Association. November 7-10, 2013. Cincinnati, Ohio. Paper presented with two undergraduates and one graduate student mentor for Project R.E.A.C.H. (reaching every aspiration for college with hope)

“The Secret Lives of African American Centenarians. Annual meeting of the Oral History Association.” October 9-13, 2013. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

“R.E.A.C.H. for Success: Mentoring Challenges and Opportunities for Women of Color in the Academy.” ACE Annual Conference. Franklin University. November 1-2, 2012. Columbus, Ohio.

“Hidden in Plain Sight: Methodology and Recovery in African American Women’s Life Histories.” Annual Meeting of the Oral History Association. October 10-14, 2012. Cleveland, Ohio.

“‘Now that’s the truth’: Trauma and Recovery in the Oral Narratives of African American Centenarians.” Annual Meeting of the Oral History Association. October 12-16, 2011. Denver, Colorado.

“We Specialize in the Wholly Impossible:” African American Women and Contemporary Language Practices”. Panel Chair. 6<sup>th</sup> International Gender and Language Association Biennial Conference. Tsuda College (Kodaira Campus). September 18-20, 2010. Tokyo, Japan.

“Dark Bodies/White Masks: Remapping African Masculinities in Chris Abani’s *Graceland*.” Annual Conference of the African Literature Association. The University of Arizona, Tucson. March 10-14, 2010.

## SELECTED GRANTS/AWARDS

Jennie Elder Suel Distinguished Woman of Color Award (2019) – Miami University

MU Interdisciplinary and Innovation Fund Grant (2015) Project: Dream Keepers – a college  
Dr. Denise Taliaferro Baszile, Anthony James, co-pi's readiness program

Ohio Long-Term Care Research Project Grant (2015) Project Title: “Perspectives of  
Dr. Kate de Medeiros, co-pi Long-Term Care by Minority Group  
Members in Ohio”

Assigned Research Appointment (MU) 2012 Research Topic: Oral Histories of African  
American Centenarians

Service Learning Mini-Grant, 2007 Miami University Office of Community  
Engagement and Service  
Project: Mentoring program for at risk  
African American high school girls

Hampton Fund Research Grant (MU) 2004 Maseru, Lesotho  
Research Topic: Gender in the Classroom

Assigned Research Appointment (MU) 2004 Research Topic: The National Council of  
Negro Women and the Construction of  
Black Feminist Activism

## AFFILIATIONS

African Studies Association  
Oral History Association  
North American Network in Aging Studies  
Association for Bahá’i Studies

## SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- Women’s Studies Advisory Committee
- Black World Studies Advisory Committee
- Linguistics Committee
- Dream Keepers (college readiness program) Founder and Advisor
- Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee
- Educational Leadership Program Review (internal committee)
- Co-Chair, GIC Search Committee (Assistant Professor, Africanist)
- English Department Search Committee (Digital Humanities)
- University Harassment/Discrimination Review Panel
- University Library Committee

