

Yalie Saweda Kamara

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Creative Writing (Poetry) & English Literature, University of Cincinnati, 2022

Dissertation: *Besaydoo*

Director: Professor Jennifer Glaser

M.F.A. Creative Writing (Poetry), Indiana University, 2018

Thesis: *Loud Organs and Extraordinary Bones*

Director: Professor Ross Gay

M.A. French Culture & Civilization, Middlebury College, 2011

Thesis (in French): *Une Analyse de la légitimation du rap français comme forme d'art dans la société française/ "An Analysis of the Legitimization of French Rap as An Art Form in French Society."*

Director: Professor Stéphanie Molinero

Thesis Coursework Abroad: L'université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne Paris, France, 2010-2011

B.A. Creative Writing (Creative Nonfiction) University of California, Riverside, 2008

B.A. Languages (Portuguese & French) University of California, Riverside, 2008

Study Abroad:

- Afro-Brazilian Studies & Portuguese, Associação de Cultura Brasil Estados Unidos, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, 2005- 2006
- Humanities & Portuguese, Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2006

HONORS

Artistic

- Finalist, Jake Adam York Poetry Prize (manuscript under review), 2022
- Poet Laureate of Cincinnati, 2022-2023 (two-year term)
- Featured Artist, Blink, A Festival of Light & Art, Cincinnati, 2022
- Featured Artist, FotoFocus Biennial, Cincinnati, 2022
- Featured Poet, Mayor's State of the City, Cincinnati, 2022
- Semifinalist, *Besaydoo*, Cave Canem Poetry Prize, 2021
- Nominee, *Best of the Net Anthology*, "Besaydoo," *The Adroit Journal*, 2021
- Finalist, *Besaydoo*, National Poetry Series Competition, 2020
- Featured Poet, Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival, 2020
- Nominee, The Pushcart Prize, "When Nina Simone Sings 'Just Like Tom Thumb's Blues,'" *JuxtaProse*, 2021
- Nominee, The Pushcart Prize, "Besaydoo," (Independent Nomination), *The Adroit Journal*, 2021
- Nominee, The Pushcart Prize, "Metaphors for My Two-Step" *Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters*, 2020
- Feature, "Woke Africa's Choice: 21 Best African Writers of the New Generation," *Woke Africa Magazine*, 2018
- Finalist, Brittle Paper Literature Prize for Poetry, 2017
- Finalist, Brunel University African Poetry Prize, 2017

Academic

- Alice Bird Babb Named Scholar, Philanthropic Educational Organization, 2021-2022
- Taft Competitive Dissertation Fellow, University of Cincinnati, 2021-2022
- Albert C. Yates Fellow, University of Cincinnati, 2018-2022
- Nominee, William C. Boyce Award for Teaching Excellence, 2021
- Nominee, Darwin T. Turner Scholars 2020 Breakfast of Champion Teacher, 2020
- Recipient, The English-Speaking Union Travel Grant, Cincinnati, 2020
- Recipient, Taft Travel Grant, University of Cincinnati, 2019

- Recipient, College of Arts & Humanities Travel Award, Indiana University, 2017
- Louise McNutt Fellow, Indiana University, 2015-2016
- French Graduate Studies Grantee, Middlebury College, 2010-2011

ARTISTIC RESIDENCIES, WORKSHOPS, SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Resident, Djerassi Residents Artist Program (forthcoming, 2024)
- Workshop Participant, The Critical Poetics Summer School, Critical Poetics Research Group, Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom (online), 2021
- Poet-in-Residence, WordPlay Cincy, Cincinnati, Ohio, Fall, 2019
- James Merrill Fellow, Vermont Studio Center, 2019
- Scholar, Kenyon Review Writers Workshop, 2019
- Resident, The Mastheads, 2019 (declined)
- Resident, Vermont Studio Center, 2018 (declined)
- Fellow, Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop, University of West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados, 2017
- Fellow, Emerging Critics Fellowship, National Book Critics Circle, 2017
- Don Belton Memorial Scholar, Indiana University Writers Conference, 2016

PUBLICATIONS

[Under Consideration]

- Poetry:
 - *Besaydoo* (full-length poetry manuscript)

[Forthcoming]

- Interviews:
 - “Julie Dash on the 25th Anniversary of *Daughters of the Dust*,” by Yalie Kamara and Michael T. Martin, *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, 2023
 - “On the Representation of Black Women in the Cinematic: Deborah Riley Draper,” by Yalie Kamara and Michael T. Martin, *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, 2023
 - “Jessie Maples and Women’s Labors: A Conversation,” by Yalie Kamara and Michael T. Martin, *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, 2022

[Published]

- Anthology:
 - *What You Need to Know About Me: An Anthology of Youth Writings on Immigration*, edited by Yalie Saweda Kamara (The Hawkins Project, 2022)
- Interviews:
 - “Boots Riley on *Sorry to Bother You* and the Matter of the ‘Good Fight,’” by Michael T. Martin and Yalie Kamara, *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, Volume 11, Number 2 (Spring 2020), pp. 176-215
 - “On the Commerce of Intimacy: Dany Laferrière on *How to Make Love to a Negro...* and *Heading South*,” by Michael T. Martin and Yalie Kamara, *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, Volume 9, Number 1 (Fall 2017), pp. 80-105
- Poetry Collections:
 - *A Brief Biography of My Name* (Akashic Books/African Poetry Book Fund, 2018)
 - *When The Living Sing* (Ledge Mule Press, 2017)
- Poetry:
 - “During lunch, Ms. Anne says,” and “A Golden Shovel for My Friend Michael,” *The Journal*, 2022
 - “Nia: 100 Blessings,” *Post Road*, 2022
 - “Besaydoo,” *The Slowdown*, 2021
 - “Besaydoo,” *The Adroit Journal* and *Poetry Daily*, 2020

- “When Nina Simone Sings ‘Just Like Tom Thumb’s Blues,” *JuxtaProse*, 2020
- “In Our New Home,” and “Souvenir,” *The Oxford Review of Books*, 2020
- “Wahala,” *Southern Indiana Review*, 2019
- “Elegy for My Two Step,” and “Metaphors for My Two Step,” “In the Year that the Trash Took Itself Out,” *Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters*, 2019
- “Pest Control,” *Poetry Society of America*, 2018
- “Oakland as Home, Home as Myth,” and “Eating Malombo in Freetown, 1989,” *Indiana Public Media*, 2018
- “Soumission Chimique,” *Popup Mag*, 2017
- “New America,” *Monster House Press Quarterly*, 2017
- “Haiku Love Letters for Gabby Douglas,” *Wusgood.Black*, 2016
- “When I Ask My Brother Jonathan to Write About Oakland, He Describes His Room,” *Amazon: Day One*, 2016
- “Rekia and Oscar and All of Their Sky Cousins,” *Entropy Mag*, 2016
- “Mother’s Rules,” *Vinyl: Poetry & Prose*, 2016
- Literary Criticism:
 - “Joy and Pain, Sunshine and Rain, Exploring the Nuances of Janela Pineda’s *Lineage of Rain*,” *Cincinnati Review*, 2021
- Fiction:
 - “Your First Set of Seasons” *Puerto Del Sol*, 2017
 - “Mirror” *The Blueshift Journal*, 2017
- Anthologies:
 - “Home,” *Don’t Look Now: Essays on What We Wished We’d Never Seen*, The Ohio State University Press, 2020 (Nonfiction)
 - “Le Champ Lexical #1: L’espoir [en 2020 c’est],” *Urgencies=Insurgencies*. California Poets, Volume One, edited by Forrest Gander, Nomadic Coffee, 2020 (Poetry)
 - “A Haiku Love Letter for Gabby Douglas,” *Furious Flower: Seeding the Future of African American Poetry*, Northwestern University Press, 2020 (Poetry)
 - “Mirror,” *Forward: 21st Century Flash Fiction Anthology*, Aforementioned Productions, 2019 (Fiction)
- Translations (French→English)
 - “Manifesto of Ouagadougou, FESPACO,” *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, Volume 12, Number 1 (Fall 2020), pp.479-483
 - “Benoît Ramampy (1947-1996): A Life Dedicated to Cinema” by Karine Blanchon, *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, Volume 8, Number 1 (Fall 2016), pp. 84-94
- Music
 - Lyricist, “A Healing,” poetry/lyrics created for *Mourning Jewels*, a choral and orchestral dissertation, by Indiana University Jacobs School of Music doctoral candidate Sam Ritter, 2019
 - Vocalist, “Tract for Valerie Solanas,” from Matmos album *The Rose Has Teeth in the Mouth of a Beast* (Matador Records, 2006)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Director of Creative Youth Leadership, WordPlay Cincy, Cincinnati, Ohio

- The Haiga Project, Fall, 2022-present
- Youth Poet Laureate Program, Summer, 2022-present
- Youth Arts in Action, Summer, 2022-present

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

- World Literature (English 2021), Fall, 2022-present

Teaching Assistant, Department of English, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

- Digital Skills for Arts & Science Majors (Digital Humanities Course) (English 2199), Spring, 2021

Instructor, Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

- Music and Poetry: Rap (English 3032), Fall, 2020
- Introduction to Poetry (English 1017), Fall, 2019
- English Composition (English 1001) Fall, 2018 & Spring, 2019

Instructor, Department of English, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

- “Poetry and the Archives of Empathy,” Intermediate Poetry (English W203), Spring, 2018

Associate Instructor, Department of English, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

- Introduction to Creative Writing, Poetry and Fiction (English W103), Fall, 2017, Spring, 2016, & Fall, 2015

Instructor, Youth Speaks, San Francisco, California

- Queeriosity Poetry Workshop, 2012

English Language Lecturer, Department of English, L’université Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand, Auvergne, France

- English for Undergraduate Business Students, Spring 2010 & Fall, 2009
- English for Undergraduate Humanities Students, Spring 2010 & Fall, 2009
- English for Undergraduate Science Students, Spring 2010 & Fall, 2009
- English for Graduate Math Students, Fall, 2009
- English for Undergraduate Foreign Science Students, Fall, 2009

English Language Assistant, Department of English, Le Collège et Le Lycée Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand, Auvergne, France

- Advanced English for High School Students, Spring 2009 & Fall, 2008
- Intermediate English for Middle School Students, Spring 2009 & Fall, 2008
- Beginning English for Middle School Students, Spring 2009 & Fall, 2008
- Advanced English for Middle School Students, Spring 2009 & Fall, 2008
- Intermediate English for Middle School Students, Spring 2009 & Fall, 2008
- Beginning English for Middle School Students, Spring 2009 & Fall, 2008
- English for High School Students, Spring 2009 & Fall, 2008

RESEARCH & EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- Research Associate, *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 2021-2022
- Executive Editor, *What You Need to Know About Me: An Anthology of Youth Writings on Immigration*, The Hawkins Project, San Francisco, Ca., 2019-2022
- Research Assistant & Assistant Editor, *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, Fall, 2016-Spring, 2021
- Researcher, *Unstitching the Past: A Digital Humanities Approach to Uncovering the Historical and Contemporary Relevance of the Kabaslot*, Supervisor: Professor James Lee, Digital Scholarship Center, Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, Spring, 2020
- Research Assistant, Black Film Center/Archive (BFC/A), The Media School, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, Spring, 2016–Fall, 2017
- Research Assistant, *Invoking the Caribbean: Caribbean Theatre in the United States*, Supervisor: Professor Vivian Halloran, American Studies Department, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, Fall, 2017

CONFERENCES

- Panelist, “The Power of Literary Citizenship,” National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) Convention, Columbus, Ohio, 2022
- Panelist, “Loss, Memory, Transformation: Women Poets and the Elegy,” Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP), Virtual, 2021
- Panelist, *Dressing as Diasporic Identity: European and North American Perspectives on the Kabaslot*, “Black In/Visibilities Contested,” The AfroEuropeans Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, 2019
- Panelist, *Linguistic Crossings: Creative Writing in English Language Acquisition*, Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS) Conference, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2019

- Moderator, “Puerto Rican Migrations, A Hundred Years of Migration (1917-2017): “Stories of Caribbean Exile and Diaspora,” Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 2017

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- Arts and Sciences Dean’s 21st Century Task Force Committee (member), College of Arts and Sciences, University of Cincinnati, 2020
- Co-Organizer, “Where I’m From: WordPlay Cincy/Aiken New Technical High School Day of Poetry,” University of Cincinnati, 2019
- Creative Writing MFA Recruitment Student Co-chair, Department of English, Indiana University, 2016-2018

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP), USA
- Critical Poetics Research Group, Nottingham Trent University, UK
- Creole Heritage Organization of California, US

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- English: Fluent
- French: Fluent
- Krio: Fluent
- Portuguese: Reading knowledge

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST