

# Lauren S. Cardon

## Curriculum Vitae

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Tuscaloosa, AL 35406  
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Department of English  
Morgan Hall 103, Box 870244  
The University of Alabama  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

### EDUCATION

- 2008                      Ph.D. (American Literature), Tulane University; Defended 2008  
Dissertation: *Marrying In and Out of Whiteness: Twentieth-Century Intermarriage Narratives*
- 2004                      M.A. (American Literature), Tulane University
- 1999                      B.A. & B.F.A. Degrees, University of Texas at Austin  
Double Major: English & Art History

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2025-Present            Interim Department Chair  
Dept. of English, University of Alabama
- 2024-2025                Director of Graduate Studies  
Dept. of English, University of Alabama
- 2021-Present            Associate Professor (Tenure-Track, Tenured as of 2024)  
Dept. of English, University of Alabama
- 2019-2021                Associate Professor (Non-Tenure, Contract)  
Dept. of English, University of Alabama
- 2013-2019                Assistant Professor (Non-Tenure, Contract)  
Dept. of English, University of Alabama
- 2012-2013                Assistant Director of the Writing Program  
Dept. of English, Tulane University
- 2008-2012                Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow  
Dept. of English, Tulane University

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books

- 2026 (anticipated)      *A Planet in Hospice: Environmental Justice in Existential Ecofiction*  
(Book). Forthcoming, OSU Press.
- 2022                        *Inclusive College Classrooms: Teaching Methods for Diverse Learners.*  
With co-author Dr. Anne-Marie Womack. Routledge, December 2022.  
Reviewed in *South Atlantic Review* 89.4 (Winter 2024)

- 2021 *Fashioning Character; Style, Performance, and Identity in Contemporary American Literature*. University of Virginia Press, April 2021.  
Reviewed in  
*Journal of American Studies* 57.2 (2023)  
*Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* 59.07 (March 2022)  
*Journal of Dress History* 5.5 (Late Autumn 2021).
- 2016 *Fashion and Fiction: Self-Transformation in Twentieth-Century American Literature*. University of Virginia Press, April 2016.  
Reviewed in  
*Journal of Dress History* 2.2 (Summer 2018)  
*Literature & History* 27.1 (May 2018)  
*American Literature* 89.4 (December 2017)  
*Journal of American Studies* 51.4 (November 2017)  
*Edith Wharton Review* 33.1 (2017)
- 2012 *The “White Other” in American Intermarriage Stories, 1945-2008*. December 24, 2012. Palgrave Macmillan, Signs of Race Series.

### Articles & Book Chapters

- 2026 “Beyond the Transition Story: Queering Transgender Literature.” *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Identity*. Edited by Donald Wehrs. Routledge, 2026. Forthcoming.
- 2025 “Telling Their Own Stories: Coauthoring with Students to Advance DEI Pedagogy.” *Productive (and Disruptive) Partnerships: Faculty & Undergraduates Co-Authoring in English Studies*. With coauthor Brandy Martinez. Eds. Laurie Grobman and Jane Greer. Utah State University Press.
- 2024 “COVID and Accessibility.” Co-authors Brielle Campos, Danielle Gilman, and Jessie Wirkus. *Southern Atlantic Review*, Spring 2024.
- 2023 Introduction and bibliographic annotations. *Short Story Criticism Series Vol. 332: Alice Walker’s “Everyday Use.”* Co-Author and Academic Advisor, edited collection. Edited by Rebecca Parks. Gale-Cengage, pp. 259-292.
- 2022 “‘What Could I Possibly Say?’ Addressing Racist Dialogue in the Classroom.” Co-author Cassander L. Smith. *The Teaching Professor and The Best of the 2021 Leadership in Higher Education Conference*. Magna Publications, 2022. Initially published as conference spotlight; reprinted in *Teaching Professor* newsletter.
- 2020 “Global Foodways: Digital Humanities and Experiential Learning.” *Quick Hits: Teaching with Digital Humanities*. Eds. Christopher Young and Emma Wilson. University of Indiana Press, 2020.

- 2018 “Naturalism and the City in the Fiction of Theodore Dreiser.” *Colonial Era to the 19th Century in American Literature*. Ed. Laura Liebman. *Gale Researcher*. Gale, 2016. Digital.
- 2014 “Diagnosing and Treating Millennial Student Disillusionment.” *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning* vol. 46, no. 6, (Nov./Dec. 2014): 34-41.
- 2011 “From Black Nationalism to the Ethnic Revival: *Meridian*’s Lynne Rabinowitz.” *MELUS* 36.3 (Fall 2011): 159-185.
- 2007 “‘Good Breeding’: Margaret Mitchell’s Multi-Ethnic South,” *Southern Quarterly* 44.4 (Summer 2007): 61-82.
- 2004 “*Herzog* as Survival Literature,” *Saul Bellow Journal* 20.2 (Fall 2004): 85-108.

#### **Public/Commissioned Writing**

- 2022 “The Quiet Activism of André Leon Talley.” *Zora Magazine*. January 21, 2022.

#### **Book Reviews**

- 2017 Review of Celia Marshik, *At the Mercy of Their Clothes: Modernism, the Middlebrow and British Garment Culture*. *Literature and History*, vol. 26, no. 1, Spring 2017.

#### **Encyclopedia Entries**

- 2009 Grace Paley & Lillian Hellman. Cronin, Gloria L. and Alan L. Berger. *Encyclopedia of Jewish-American Literature*. Facts on File, 2009.

#### **AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS**

- 2016-2019 \$3,000 per year, Distinguished Teaching with Technology Fellowship, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Alabama
- 2017 \$2,000, Arts & Sciences Teaching Grant, University of Alabama
- 2016-2017 \$1000 per year, Learning in Action Fellowship, University of Alabama
- 2016 \$500 QEP/Learning in Action Experiential Learning Grant for Advanced Studies in Writing, “Discourses of Food: Growing, Cooking, Consuming”
- 2014 \$5,000 UA Research Grants Committee Award for *Fashion and Fiction: Self-Transformation in Twentieth-Century American Literature*
- 2012 \$1,000, Newcomb Institute Research Grant for *Fashion and Fiction*

2007 \$450, Louisiana Board of Regents, dissertation research at Columbia University Butler Library & Yale University Beinecke Library

### CONFERENCE ACTIVITY / PARTICIPATION

- 2026 Participant, Community-Engaged Pedagogy Seminar. Modern Language Association (MLA): Toronto, Ontario. January 2026.
- 2025 “There Are No ‘Best Practices’: An Adaptive Future for SoTL.” Community-Engaged Pedagogy Seminar. Modern Language Association (MLA): New Orleans, LA. January 2025.
- 2024 “The Stories We Resist Knowing: Teaching Counternarratives and Critical Thinking.” Presenter/Panelist, College Language Association; Memphis, TN. April 2024.
- 2023 “‘When it fights back, it does so decisively’: The Avenging Earth and Racial Revenge in *The Broken Earth Trilogy*.” Presenter/Panelist, College Language Association; Atlanta, GA. April 2023.
- 2022 “‘The species won’t last long’: Pristine Wilderness Fantasy in *The Overstory* and *The Southern Reach Trilogy*.” Presenter/Panelist, SAMLA Conference; Jacksonville, FL. November 2022.
- 2022 “What are we testing? Rethinking assessment for access and inclusion.” Roundtable Panelist for *COVID and Accessibility: Roundtable Discussion About Policies Instituted in Response to the Pandemic Related to Access* panel. SAMLA Conference; Jacksonville, FL. November 2022.
- 2022 “Revising Ableist Discourses: Octavia Butler’s Environmentalism in Parable of the Sower.” Presenter/Panelist, MELUS Conference; New Orleans, LA. March 2022.
- 2021 “‘What could I possibly say?’ Addressing Racist Dialogue in the Classroom.” Co-Presenter for 60-minute workshop. Leadership in Higher Education Conference; Baltimore, MD. October 2021.
- 2019 “Talking the Talk: Using Pedagogical Discourse in Teaching Statements and Interviews.” Presenter/Panelist, Both Sides of the Desk panel, SAMLA Convention; Atlanta, GA. November 2019.
- 2019 “‘A Phoenix First Must Burn’: Octavia Butler and the Fantasy of Apocalypse.” Presenter/Panelist, NEMLA Convention; Washington, DC. March 2019.

- 2018 “Keeping the “Human” in Humanities: Engendering Social Conscience and Public Engagement.” Presenter, SAMLA Convention; Birmingham, AL. November 2018.
- 2018 “We Came Back and Completely Denied Who They Were”: Alice Walker on the Black Arts Movement.” Presenter, CLA Convention; Chicago, IL. April 2018.
- 2017 “The Beat Women Writers and Counterculture Fashion,” Presenter. PAMLA Conference; Honolulu, HI. November 2017.
- 2017 “Crimson Fried and Taste of the Tide: Food Writing and Digital Humanities,” Presenter. Digitorium; Tuscaloosa, AL. March 2017.
- 2016 “From the Fashion Archives: Dior’s Femininity in the Poems of Anne Sexton and Sylvia Plath,” Presenter. PAMLA Conference; Pasadena, CA. November 2016.
- 2016 “The “Digital Doorway”: Digital Archives as a Point of Entry for Student Research Papers,” Presenter. CCCC Conference; Tampa, FL. April 2016.
- 2015 “The Freshman Genealogy Project: Personal Research, Public Audience,” Chair and Presenter. SCMLA Conference; Nashville, TN. October 2015.
- 2014 “A Landscape of Innovation: Writing and Research Beyond the Classroom,” Chair and Presenter. SCMLA Conference; Austin, TX. October 2014.
- 2014 “‘The skin like tar against the canary yellow dress’: Visions of ‘Authentic Blackness’ in Toni Morrison’s *Tar Baby*,” Presenter. CLA Conference; New Orleans, LA. March 2014.
- 2012 “‘Fashion Democracy’ and Early Makeover Stories,” Presenter. Southwest/Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Associations Conference; Albuquerque, NM. Feb. 8-10, 2012.
- 2010 “The Rescue That Never Happened: Refuting the Romantic Entanglements between John Smith and Pocahontas,” Presenter. ASA; San Antonio, TX. November 2010.
- 2010 “From *Mules and Men* to the Levee Tours: Sensational Tourism in New Orleans,” Co-Chair and Presenter. ACLA Conference; New Orleans, LA. June 2010.

- 2009 “Teaching Obama in the Multiracial Classroom,” Presenter. SCMLA Conference; Baton Rouge, LA. October 2009.
- 2008 “Sherman Alexie’s Double-Seeing Half-Breeds,” Presenter. ALA Conference; San Francisco, CA. May 2008.
- 2005 “Zuckerman’s Jewishness: The Cultural Narrative in *American Pastoral*,” Presenter. ALA Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Symposium; Boca Raton, FL. October 2005.

#### INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 2025 “Teaching Through the DEI Crisis: A Critical Thinking Approach.” Co-Presenter. Graduate Student Summer Residency on Teaching and Learning, National Humanities Center. July 16, 2025.
- 2025 “Eight Strategies for Creating Inclusive Classrooms.” Co-Presenter. Humanities in Class Webinar. National Humanities Center. May 2025.
- 2025 “When Students Check Out: 5 Strategies for Student Engagement.” Plenary Speaker. Lilly Conference—Austin, TX. May 2025.
- 2025 “Teaching with Intention: Creating Meaningful Learning Experiences.” Northern Oklahoma College. Virtual Talk. February 10, 2025.
- 2024 “Teaching with Intention: Creating Meaningful Learning Experiences.” Presenter/Workshop Leader. Preconference Workshop. The Teaching Professor Conference. New Orleans, LA. June 7, 2024.
- 2023 “‘Is This Offensive?’ Tense Moments and Traumatic Content in the Age of Call-out Culture.” Co-Presenter/Workshop Leader with Cassander L. Smith. Preconference Workshop. The Teaching Professor Conference. New Orleans, LA. June 9, 2023.
- 2022 “Planning a Lecture for the Undergraduate Classroom.” Presenter and Panelist. Graduate Student Summer Residency on Teaching and Learning, National Humanities Center, virtual. July 12, 2022.
- 2022 Keynote Address: “Building an Inclusive Future: The Stakes of DEI Initiatives in Higher Education.” Co-Presenter with Cassander L. Smith. Convocation, College of the Sequoias. Keynote followed by workshop, virtual. January 2022.

- 2021 Keynote Address: “Striving Toward Inclusion: Rethinking the Classroom Experience,” Refresh: New Energy for Teaching Seminar & Workshop, Louisiana State University. Keynote Address. August 20, 2021.
- 2020 “Backward Design/Forward Assessment” and “Lesson Planning for Building Community,” Building Connections Course (Re)Design Program, College of Wooster, OH. Virtual Workshop. June-July 2020.
- 2020 “Teaching Methodologies and Lesson Planning” (tentative title), National Humanities Center Summer Residency, Chapel Hill, NC. July 2020. (Postponed to 2021 due to COVID restrictions.)
- 2017 “Digital Humanities: How Students Become Curators,” Keynote Speaker. Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries Annual Meeting; Montgomery, AL. April 19.
- 2016 Guest Book Reading, Q&A, and Signing for *Fashion and Fiction*. Octavia Books; New Orleans, LA. June.
- Campus/Departmental: University of Alabama**
- 2024 “When Students Check Out: 5 Strategies for Student Engagement.” Fall Meeting Seminar Leader. College of Human Environmental Sciences. August 19.
- 2021 “Scripting the Unscripted: How to Talk about Race and Other Charged Topics in the Honors Classroom.” Co-Presenter with Cassander L. Smith. Workshop for Honors College. August 13.
- 2020 “Inclusive Lesson Planning.” Presenter/Leader. Diversity Initiative Workshop. March 24.
- 2017 “Teaching with Special Collections—Cookbooks.” Panel Discussion organized by Hoole Special Collections and held in Gorgas Library. February 13.
- 2016 “Serving Up Experiential Learning with Digital Humanities: The Crimson Fried Food Blog.” Alabama Digital Humanities Workshop. April 20.
- 2015 “UA Genealogies: Historical Archives and Storytelling.” Digitorium: The University of Alabama Digital Humanities Conference. April.
- 2015 “Writing Personal Statements for Graduate School.” Religious Studies Student Association. March.
- 2015 “Writing Personal Statements for Medical School.” Health Professions, College of Arts & Sciences. January (2 sessions).

2015 “UA Genealogies Digital Pedagogical Project.” Alabama Digital Humanities Center Brown Bag. January 28.

2014 Guest Speaker/Presenter for Graduate School Dissertation Writers' Retreat (interdepartmental). May 9.

### **Tulane University**

2012 “The ‘Slim Silhouette’ and the Modernist Antiheroine in *The Great Gatsby*, *Mosquitoes*, and *The Garden of Eden*.” Works in Progress Series, Department of English. November 29.

2012 “Job Materials and Professional Etiquette.” Tulane University Law School, Career Development Office. February 24.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **The University of Alabama**

American Literature I, Large Lecture (Fall 2025)

Late American Literature / Fashion in American Literature, Graduate Seminar (Spring 2025)

Late American Literature / Multiethnic Literature, Graduate Seminar (Fall 2022 & 2024)

Late American Literature / Environmental Literature, Graduate Seminar (Spring 2022 & 2024)

Advanced Studies in Literary Genres (Spring 2019, Spring–Fall 2020, Fall 2022–Fall 2023)

Topics in American Literature, Post-1945: Multiethnic Literature (Fall 2015 & 2016, Fall 2023)

Advanced Studies in American Literature (Fall 2018–Fall 2020, Spring–Fall 2021)

Introduction to English Studies (Fall 2014, Fall 2017–Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023)

Topics in African American Literature (Spring 2018)

Advanced Studies in Writing (Spring & Fall 2016, Fall 2017–2018)

American Literature I Honors (Fall 2015–2017)

American Literature I, online session (Spring 2018 & 2019)

American Literature II, online session (Summers 2014 & 2015, Fall 2017 & 2018)

American Literature II Honors (Spring 2015–2018)

Writing Center Practicum (Spring 2015)

Advanced English Composition (Fall 2013, 2014, & 2015; Spring 2015–2017)

Advanced Expository Writing (Spring 2013)

English Composition: Introduction to Argument (Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

### **Tulane University**

Freshman Writing (Fall 2004, Spring 2005 & 2006; Fall & Spring 2008–2013)

Introduction to American Literature (Summers 2009–2011)

Interdisciplinary Education Seminar, “New Orleans Tourism” (Fall 2012)

### **Yeshiva University**

Composition & Rhetoric I & II (Fall 2007, Spring 2008)

### **Fordham University**

Basic Writing (Spring 2008)

Composition & Rhetoric (Fall & Spring 2006–2008)

**The New School**

Writing Practicum: American Music in Literature (Summer 2007)

**DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECTS**

- 2017-2018            Global Foodways, Advanced Studies in Writing  
[adhc.lib.ua.edu/globalfoodways/](http://adhc.lib.ua.edu/globalfoodways/)
- 2017                 Taste of the Tide, Advanced Composition  
<http://tasteofthetide.as.ua.edu>
- 2016                 *Crimson Fried* Food Blog, Advanced Studies in Writing  
<http://crimsonfried.as.ua.edu>
- 2015-2017           Literary Landscapes, American Literature Honors I & II  
<http://literarylanscapes.as.ua.edu/>
- 2014-2015           UA Genealogies, Advanced Composition: Student research on genealogy  
<http://uagenealogies.as.ua.edu/>

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2007-2009           Research Assistant  
 Tulane University / Molly Anne Rothenberg  
 Researched unpublished materials on Rudolph Fisher in the Schomburg Center, for Rothenberg's project, published in *PMLA* May 2012.
- 2005                 Research Assistant  
 Emory University / *Correspondence of Samuel Beckett*; Atlanta, GA
- 2005                 Research Assistant  
 Tulane University / Donald Pizer  
 Assisted in compiling and transcribing trial coverage for a documentary edition of the DLB on Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*.
- 2004                 Research Assistant  
 Tulane University / Felipe Smith  
 Assisted in a book project on black modernism in New York City at the 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Schomburg, and Lincoln Center library locations.
- 2003                 Research Assistant  
 Tulane University / Michael Kuczynski  
 Compiled updated bibliography for *A Manual of the Writings in Middle English, 1050-1400*.

**SERVICE TO PROFESSION****External Reader for Promotion**

- 2023                 Candidate for Promotion, Associate Teaching Professor, Rice University

**Manuscript Peer Review**

2019-2020 Reader Reports for University of Michigan Press

**Journal Manuscript Review**

2026 *The Explicator*

2024 *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*

2021 *MELUS*

2021 *European Journal of American Culture*

2015 *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*

2012 *MELUS*

**Panel Organizer/Co-Organizer**

2018 Educate, Celebrate, Fight: Honoring a Legacy of Black Women in Popular Culture Panel, CLA Convention; Chicago, IL. April 2018.

2015 Something Old, Something New: Wedding Traditional Texts and Digital Pedagogies Panel, SCMLA Conference, October 2015.

2014 "Saving" the Souls of Black Folk: Preserving Folklore and Projecting Cultural Authenticity in African American Literature, CLA Conference, March 2014.

2010 Proud to Swim Home: Finding the Old in New Orleans, ACLA Conference, June 2010.

2009 Arts of the Comfort Zone: Provocation as a Pedagogical Tool in the Composition Classroom, SCMLA Conference, October 2009.

**DEPARTMENTAL / UNIVERSITY SERVICE****University of Alabama**

2024-Present Instructor Hiring Committee (Chair, 2025-Present)

2024-Present Executive Committee (Chair, 2025-Present)

2024-2025 Graduate Studies Committee (Chair, 2024-2025)

2024-2025 Assessment Committee

2016-Present LitFac Committee

2023-2024 Department Diversity Committee

2023-2024 MA Comps Committee

2022-2023 Ad Hoc Committee on 200-Level Literature Courses, Chair

2022-2023 Writing Intensive University Subcommittee

2022-2023 English Honors Thesis Adjudication Committee

2022 Search Committee for Department Chair

2021-2023 Sigma Tau Delta Honors Society, Faculty Advisor

2021-2022	Arts & Sciences Diversity Committee
2018-2022	Department Diversity Committee (Chair, 2021-2022)
2016-2021	Undergraduate Studies Committee
2019-2021	Diversity Initiative Coordinator
2017-2020	A&S Faculty Technology Advisory Committee
2017-2018	Job Placement Advisor for Graduate Students
2016-2019	A&S Teaching Fellows Committee
2016-2019	Professional Development Workshop Series for English Majors
2018	Ad Hoc Committee Chair for Revisions to Americanist Surveys
2016-2018	Team Talisma Committee
2016-2017	Ad Hoc Task Force Committee for Major Recruitment
2015-2016	Executive Committee Member
2014-2015	Instructor Retention/Review Committee
2014-2015	Ad Hoc Committee on Tenure/Promotion Guidelines
2013-2015	Ad Hoc Committee on Instructor Involvement
2013-2015	Undergraduate Studies Committee
2013-2014	First-Year Writing Program Teaching Observation Committee

### **Tulane University**

2011-2013	Postdoc Advisory Committee (Chair 2012-2013)
2005-2006	President, English Graduate Organization
2004-2005	Vice President, English Graduate Organization

### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

2022	Podcast Interview, <i>Life Elsewhere</i> .
2022	<a href="#">Interview</a> about <i>Fashioning Character: Style, Performance, and Identity in Contemporary American Literature</i> for <i>The Metropolitan</i> , a Detroit-based publication.
2022	Podcast Interview, <i>History of Literature</i> .
2022	Consultant, interviewed/quoted as a fashion expert in <a href="#">an article on "clowncore"</a> for <i>Refinery29</i> , February 3, 2022.
2022	Consultant, interviewed/quoted as fashion expert in <a href="#">an article on Thierry Mugler</a> , <i>Glossy Magazine</i> , January 24, 2022.
2016	Book Reading and Signing for <i>Fashion and Fiction</i> , Octavia Books, New Orleans, LA
2016	WVUA 23 News, Feature on Advanced Studies in Writing project and community event
2015	"Lost Writers of the Plains," NET Nebraska NPR & PBS Stations; interviewed for radio series featured on <i>Friday Live</i> , <i>Weekend Edition</i> , and <i>All Things Considered</i> , March 6-April 30 2015. Interviews also featured in iBook, <i>Lost Writers of the Plains</i> .

2007 “Fashion in American Politics,” WCAP Lowell, MA. 30-minute segment/  
interview for *Valley View*, June 15, 2007.

## RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019-Present Co-Founder / Writer, The Résumé Professor  
Co-founded online business writing résumés and cover letters for clients.

2010-2015 Founder / Writer, The Image Advisor  
Founded a business assisting clients in professional image and job materials.

2006-2007 Title V Writing Tutor, Learning Enhancement Center, Metropolitan College  
Tutored students in basic writing and grammar. Developed online independent learning modules and conducted writing workshops.

2003-2007 Senior Résumé Writer, Strategic Résumés  
Interviewed clients, prepared résumés, wrote business plans and grants, and participated in job fairs. Guest lectured for Tulane writing classes.

1999 ESL / EFL Instructor & Program Coordinator  
Scuola Lorenzo de’ Medici / Fabbrica di Rifle; Florence, Italy  
Coordinated activities and helped develop new EFL program. Taught Business English at the Rifle Jeans Factory in Barberino di Mugello.

1998-1999 Writing Consultant, Undergraduate Writing Center, University of Texas

## LANGUAGES

Italian, good, basic speaking and reading proficiency  
Spanish, basic reading proficiency

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

College Language Association (CLA)  
The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)  
Modern Language Association (MLA)  
South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA)