

JESS WAGGONER

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English, Indiana University, Bloomington, 2016

M.A. in English, Indiana University, Bloomington, 2011

B.A. in English, Honors, Earlham College, 2008

DISSERTATION

Crip Modernisms: The Roots of Disability Consciousness in American Literature and Culture
Dir. Scott Herring, Indiana University, Bloomington

POSITIONS HELD

Assistant Professor of Gender and Women's Studies and English, University of Wisconsin,
Madison, August 2020-Present

Postdoctoral Fellow, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, University of Houston,
2017-2020

Visiting Lecturer, Department of English, Indiana University, Bloomington, 2016-2017

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

External

American Association of University Women American Fellowship, 2022-2023

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, 2020

Catherine Prelinger Award, Coordinating Council on Women in History (\$20,000 award), 2019-
2020

Modernist Studies Association Research Grant, 2017

Schlesinger Collections Library Research Grant, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard
University, 2014-2015

Smith College Library Travel to Collections Grant, Smith College, 2015

Runner-up, Irving K. Zola Award for Emerging Scholars in Disability Studies, Society for
Disability Studies, 2014

Emerging Scholar Award, Disability History Association, 2013

Internal

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Institute for Research in the Humanities Fellowship, Spring 2024

Fall Research Competition Summer Salary Award, 2022, 2023, 2024

University of Houston

Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Faculty Summer Fellowship, University of Houston, 2019

Indiana University, Bloomington

Collins Living and Learning Center Teaching Award, Indiana, 2016

Susan D. Gubar Dissertation Fellowship, Indiana University, 2015

J.A. Robbins Memorial Prize, Indiana University Department of English, 2015

Sponsored Participant, Indiana University Graduate School, National Center for Faculty Diversity and Development Dissertation Success Program, 2015

College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Year Research Fellowship, Indiana University, 2014-2015

Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Indiana University Commission on Multicultural Understanding, 2014

Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society Travel Award, Indiana University, 2014
College Arts and Humanities Institute Research Travel Grant, Indiana University, 2013

University Graduate School Grant in Aid of Doctoral Research, Indiana University, 2013

Disability Student Services Excellence in Education Award, Indiana, 2013

POSITIONS OF SCHOLARLY COMPETENCE

Panels Organized and Chaired

Respondent and Organizer, "Returning to 'Normal' University Life: Pandemic Pedagogies during Debilitating Times." Modern Language Association, San Francisco, California, 2023.

Respondent and Organizer, "LGBT Health Humanities." Modern Language Association, Seattle, Washington, 2020.

Chair, "Embracing the Mess, Engaging the Complex: Disability Politics and Anti-Ableist Practices Among Poor and Racialized Populations." American Studies Association, Atlanta, Georgia, 2018.

Chair, “Feeling (In)Human: Rethinking Racialized Affect and Disability Biopolitics.” National Women’s Studies Association, Atlanta, Georgia, 2018.

Organizer and Presenter, “Intersectional Approaches to Modernism and Modernity.” University of Houston Department of English, 2018.

Organizer, “Disability, Institutionalization, and State Violence.” Modern Language Association, New York, New York, 2018

Organizer and Presenter, “Disabled Sexualities and Feminist Health.” National Women’s Studies Association, Baltimore, Maryland, 2017

Co-organizer and Presenter, “New Directions in Literary/Cultural Disability Studies and Critical Ethnic Studies.” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2017

Organizer and Presenter, “Reconfiguring the Public and Private through Modernist Disability Studies.” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2017

Organizer and Presenter, “Touching Disability: Crip Theory in the Archive.” Modern Language Association, Austin, Texas, 2016

Panel Organizer, “Disability, Race, and Sexuality in U.S. Modernisms.” Modernist Studies Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2014

Panel Organizer, “Disability Studies and Professionalization in the Humanities.” Society for Disability Studies, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2014

Publications Refereed For

Manuscript Reviewer for *Signs: A Journal of Women and Culture in Society*, 2022-Present

Manuscript Reviewer for *American Quarterly*, 2022-Present

Manuscript Reviewer for *Essays in Philosophy*, 2022-Present

Manuscript Reviewer for *Frontiers: a Journal of Women’s Studies*, 2017-Present

Manuscript Reviewer for *Review of Disability Studies: An International Journal*, 2016-2019

Manuscript Reviewer for *Disability Studies Quarterly*, 2015-Present

Professional Memberships

Member, Disability Studies Initiative, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fall 2020-Present

Forum Executive, Modern Language Association Medical Humanities and Health Studies Forum, Elected Member, 2019-2024

Elected Member, Modern Language Association Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession, 2016-2019

Member, Disability Studies Caucus, National Women's Studies Association

General Professional Memberships

Modern Language Association, 2012-Present

Society for Disability Studies, 2012-Present

National Women's Studies Association, 2012-Present

American Studies Association, 2014-Present

Cultural Studies Association, 2018-2020

Coordinating Council on Women in History, 2019-Present

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Articles and Contributions to Edited Volumes

“Problem Girls”: Gender Nonconformity as Crip Resistance in Early Disabled Feminist Life Writing” (accepted with revisions by *a/b: Autobiography Studies*, Nov 14) [P]

“*Dykes, Disability, & Stuff: Queer Ableisms and the Work of Cripqueer Print Cultures.*” *Feminist Studies*. 49.1 (2023).

“Race, Gender and Sanism: Remapping Feminist Genealogies of Madness.” *Signs: A Journal of Women and Culture in Society*. 47.4 (2022): 886-904. [P]

“Introduction: Visionary Politics and Methods in Feminist Disability Studies.” *The Journal of Feminist Scholarship*. Co-authored with Dr. Ashley Mog. 17.17 (2020): 1-8. [P]

“The Seriously Injured of our Civic Life’: Imagining Disabled Collectivity in Depression-era Crip Modernisms” for *Modern Fiction Studies*. Special Issue, “Modernist Fictions of Disability.” Ed. Maren Linett. 65.1. (2019): 89-110. [P]

“Disability and Afro-modernism.” *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Disability*. Invited Contributor. 2019. Ed. Alice Hall.

“‘My Most Humiliating Jim Crow Experience’: Afro-modernist Critiques of Eugenics and Medical Segregation.” *Modernism/modernity* 24.3 (2017): 507-525. [P]

“‘Oh say can you ___’: Race and Mental Disability in Performances of Citizenship.” *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 10.1 (2016): 87-102. [P]

“Crippling the *Bildungsroman*: Reading Disabled Intercorporealities in Truman Capote’s *Other Voices, Other Rooms*.” *Journal of Modern Literature* 38.1 (2014): 56-72. [P]

Book Reviews and Other Critical Reviews

“Leaky Masculinities, Porous Nations, Queercrip Affiliations: Review of *Vulnerable Constitutions: Queerness, Disability, and the Remaking of American Manhood.*” For *Journal of Modern Literature*, Fall 2021.

“Review of *Barriers and Belonging: Personal Narratives of Disability*” for *Disability Studies Quarterly*, March 2018.

“Review of *Bodies of Modernism: Physical Disability in Transatlantic Modernist Literature.*” for *English: Journal of the English Association*, 2018.

Lectures and Scholarly Papers Presented; Conference Organization; and Seminars

Lectures and Scholarly Papers Presented

Roundtable Presenter, “Crip of Color Critique.” Modern Language Association, January 2024.

Roundtable Presenter, “Crip Care, Crip Kinship: Creative Resistance for Survival.” National Women’s Studies Association, October 2023

Roundtable Presenter, “Crip Pedagogies in Apocalyptic Times.” National Women’s Studies Association, November 2022

Roundtable Presenter, “Queercrip Kinships: Archives, Doulas, and Restorying.” National Women’s Studies Association, November 2022

““Clean pigs”: Disability, Care Labor, and Animality in Claude McKay’s *Romance in Marseilles*,” Modernist Studies Association, October 2022

“Race, Gender and Sanism: Remapping Mad Feminist Genealogies.” Modern Language Association, January 2022

“Disability, Race and the Politics of Care.” Modern Language Association, January 2022

“Re–imagining Black Disabled Citizenship through *Ebony* Magazine, 1945–1950.” Organization of American Historians, April 2021.

“Gender, Sanism, and Racialized Narrative Prosthesis: Black Women’s Erasure from Mad Representation.” National Women’s Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, November 2019.

Roundtable Participant, “Teaching Disability Justice Studies,” National Women’s Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, November 2019.

“Print Cultures of Crip Feminist Coalitions, 1980-2000,” Cultural Studies Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, May 2019.

“Mad Literatures, Women of Color, and Racialized Narrative Prosthesis,” Ohio State University/Society for Disability Studies Conference, Columbus, Ohio, April 2019.

- “Disabled Students, Faculty, and the Classrooms Where We Teach and Learn,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, Illinois, 2019.
- Roundtable Participant, “Sustaining Disability Studies in Times of Crisis,” American Studies Association, Atlanta, Georgia, 2018.
- “Race, Gender and the Exclusion of Black Women from Psychiatry and Anti-Psychiatry Movements,” Multiethnic Literatures of the United States, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2018
- “Dykes, Disability and Stuff: Exploring Lesbian Activist Praxis.” National Women’s Studies Association, Baltimore, Maryland, 2017
- “Disability Access as Feminist Praxis at NWSA and Beyond.” National Women Studies Association, Baltimore, Maryland, 2017
- “Disabled Lesbian Counterpublics.” American Studies Association, Chicago, 2017
- “Wallace Stegner and Deaf Futurity.” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, 2017
- “Claiming Citizenship through Disability in *Ebony* Magazine.” Crip Futures: The Then and There of Disability Studies Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2016
- “‘A Displaced Person of American Democracy’: Black Medical Citizenship in the 1940s.” American Studies Association, Toronto, Ontario, 2015
- “Disability, Illness, and the Harlem Renaissance.” Critical Ethnic Studies Association, Toronto, Ontario, 2015
- “‘A Talent for Intimacy’: Identification as Crip Artistry in the Memoirs of Katharine Butler Hathaway.” Modernist Studies Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2014
- “‘Beetlejuice speaks the truth’: Blackness, Mental Disability and Performances of Citizenship.” Society for Disability Studies, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2014
- “Evasion as De-sensationalization in Disabled Women’s Modernist Life Writing.” American Comparative Literature Association, New York, New York, 2014
- “Reading Queer Disabled Intercorporeality in Truman Capote’s *Other Voices, Other Rooms*.” Society for Disability Studies, Orlando, Florida, 2013
- “Modern Vulnerabilities: Blackness and Disability in Wallace Thurman’s *The Blacker the Berry* and Langston Hughes’ *The Ways of White Folks*.” The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, University of Louisville, 2013
- “Identification, Abjection, and the Microcephalic Body: Performance at the Intersection of Mental and Physical Disability.” CUNY Graduate Center Conference on Cripples, Idiots, Lepers and Freaks: Extraordinary Bodies/Extraordinary Minds, New York, 2012

Conference Panels Organized and Chaired

Respondent and Organizer, "Returning to 'Normal' University Life: Pandemic Pedagogies during Debilitating Times." Modern Language Association, San Francisco, California, 2023.

Respondent and Organizer, "LGBT Health Humanities." Modern Language Association, Seattle, Washington, 2020.

Chair, "Embracing the Mess, Engaging the Complex: Disability Politics and Anti-Ableist Practices Among Poor and Racialized Populations." American Studies Association, Atlanta, Georgia, 2018.

Chair, "Feeling (In)Human: Rethinking Racialized Affect and Disability Biopolitics." National Women's Studies Association, Atlanta, Georgia, 2018.

Organizer and Presenter, "Intersectional Approaches to Modernism and Modernity." University of Houston Department of English, 2018.

Organizer, "Disability, Institutionalization, and State Violence." Modern Language Association, New York, New York, 2018

Organizer and Presenter, "Disabled Sexualities and Feminist Health." National Women's Studies Association, Baltimore, Maryland, 2017

Co-organizer and Presenter, "New Directions in Literary/Cultural Disability Studies and Critical Ethnic Studies." Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2017

Organizer and Presenter, "Reconfiguring the Public and Private through Modernist Disability Studies." Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2017

Organizer and Presenter, "Touching Disability: Crip Theory in the Archive." Modern Language Association, Austin, Texas, 2016

Panel Organizer, "Disability, Race, and Sexuality in U.S. Modernisms." Modernist Studies Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2014

Panel Organizer, "Disability Studies and Professionalization in the Humanities." Society for Disability Studies, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2014

Seminars

External

National Endowment of the Humanities Summer Seminar: Global Histories of Disability, Gallaudet University, 2018.

Presentation: "Crip Modernisms: Unspectacular Disability." Dartmouth Futures of American Studies Institute, Summer 2014 (Susan D. Gubar Chair Sponsored Participant)

Cornell School of Criticism and Theory, "Disability and Narrative" seminar, 2013

Internal

Participant, “Care: Politics, Performances, Publics, Practices,” Borghesi-Mellon Workshops.
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fall 2020-Present

Workshops Led

External

Disability Justice in Writing Centers. Workshop Leader, Indiana University Writing Tutorial Services. 17 April 2021.

“Beyond Accommodation: Disability Justice and Access in Your Workplace and Community.”
Workshop Leader, American Legal Association. 29 April 2021.

Workshop leader, “Feminist Access in the Classroom,” Sam Houston State University, April 2019.

Internal

University of Houston

“Feminist Disability Pedagogy Workshop.” Workshop Leader, University of Houston, Spring 2018

Indiana University, Bloomington

“What I Learned From Writing Every Day.” Workshop Co-Leader, Indiana University Graduate School, Spring 2016

“Funding Research and Travel.” Workshop Leader, Indiana University Department of English, Fall 2015

“Accessibility in the Classroom.” Workshop, Co-Leader, and Organizer with Prof. Justin Hodgson, Indiana University Department of English, Fall 2013

Panel Participation and Invited Talks

External

Invited Keynote, “Postwar Faculty Colloquium.” University of North Texas, Denton, TX, April 2025.

Invited Keynote, “Cosmologies of Care.” University of Houston, Houston, TX, October 2023.

Invited Talk, “Queer and Trans Perspectives in Healthcare and Beyond.” Middleton Public Library, Middleton, WI, June 2023

Invited Keynote, “Care Ethics Otherwise: A Conference.” Rock Ethics Institute, Penn State University, State College, PA, June 2023.

Invited panelist, “Centering Race and Disability in Histories of Eugenics.” Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, October 2022

Invited panelist, “The Art of Flourishing: Conversations on Disability.” The Hastings Center, New York, NY, February 2022

Invited talk, “Race, Gender, and Sanism: Remapping Mad Feminist Genealogies.” Colby College WGSS Colloquium, November 2021

Invited panelist, “The Future of Disability Studies at the Intersections.” Panel for Feminist Studies Association, December 2020

Invited panelist, “Covid-19 and Inequality,” Rice University, September 2020

Invited talk, “‘Dykes, Disability n’ Stuff’: Cripqueer Print Cultures, 1980-2000,” Rice University, February 2020

Invited talk, “Access, Interdependence, and Pedagogy.” University of Texas, Arlington, October 2019

Invited talk, “Crip Activisms, Aesthetics, and Ethics of Care.” CounterCurrents Arts Festival, Houston, TX, April 2019

Invited presentation, “Disability, Gender and Sexuality Workshop.” Invited Presentation, GLOBAL (LGBTQ Student Organization), University of Houston, Houston, TX, October 2018.

Invited talk, “Disability in a Diverse Society.” Invited Talk, DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, Spring 2016

Invited panelist, “‘My Most Humiliating Jim Crow Experience’: Disability, Afro-Modernism and Noncompliant Patienthood.” Society for Disability Studies, Atlanta, Georgia, Opening Plenary: “Disability, Race and the Limits of Rights-Based Discourse,” 2015

Research talk, “Gender and Disability Before the Mid-century.” Schlesinger Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2014

Internal

Invited panelist, “Beauty and Belonging.” University of Houston Living Archives Series, April 2019

Work Submitted for Publication

“Crippling Afro-Modernisms: Race, Gender, and the Roots of Disability Consciousness, 1900-1950” (book manuscript submitted January 15th to New York University Press)

Work In Progress

“Queer Ableisms and the Persistence of Cripqueer Life” (second book project; in progress; est. completion December 2026)

TEACHING AT UW-MADISON

Courses

Assistant Professor of Gender and Women's Studies and English, University of Wisconsin, Madison, August 2020-Present

- Fall 2023
 - GWS 370: Race, Gender and Sexuality in Ill and Disabled Lives
 - ENG 350: Gender and Literature
- Fall 2022
 - GWS 640: Senior Capstone
- Spring 2022
 - GWS 340: Intro to LGBTQ+ Sexuality: Queer Locations
- Spring 2021
 - GWS 370: Race, Gender and Sexuality in Ill and Disabled Lives
 - ENG 350: Gender and Literature
- Fall 2021
 - GWS 370: Race, Gender and Sexuality in Ill and Disabled Lives
 - GWS 343: Queer Bodies
- Fall 2020
 - GWS 343: Queer Bodies

Workshops Led

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Workshop co-leader with Brenna Swift (Graduate scholar, English). "Teaching Writing For Disability Justice." 23 April 2021.

Presentations and Lectures at UW

Guest Lecturer, GWS 100 Open House Seminar (Professor Anna Campbell), November 2023

Guest Lecturer, GWS 840 (Professor Jill Casid), "Disability Access as Feminist Praxis," October 2023

Guest Lecturer, Law, Med Sci and Nursing 768: Health Advocacy & Patient Centered Care, (Professor Sachin Gupte), September 2022

Guest Lecturer, GWS 100 Open House Seminar (Professor Sami Schalk), November 2021

Guest Lecturer, GWS 720 Feminist Disability Studies graduate course, (Professor Sami Schalk), April 2021

Respondent, Miles Wilkerson (Graduate scholar, History), "Disabled Enslaved Knowledge and Fugitive Bounties in British North America, 1700-1775." Critical Political Economy Seminar, University of Wisconsin, Madison. 7 April 2021.

Student Advising

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor, Noelle Candler, Gender and Women's Studies

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor, Honeycomb Lemke, Gender and Women's Studies

MA Advisor, Bailey Hosfelt, Gender and Women's Studies

MA Committee Member, Becca Owen, Gender and Women's Studies

PhD Committee Member, Caroline Hensley, Department of English

PhD Committee Member, Miranda Alksnis, Department of English

SERVICE

Institutional

Member, Disability Studies Initiative, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fall 2020-Present

Faculty Affiliate, Institute on Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality, University of Houston,
2019-2020

Co-founder, Critical Disability Studies Initiative, University of Houston, 2017-Present

Departmental

Access, Climate, and Diversity Committee, Gender and Women's Studies, Fall 2023

Curriculum Committee, Gender and Women's Studies, Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Research Committee, Gender and Women's Studies, Fall 2020-Spring 2021

Professional

Forum Executive, Modern Language Association Medical Humanities and Health Studies
Forum, Elected Member, 2019-2024

Gender Infinity Conference, Accessibility Committee, 2018-2019

Modern Language Association Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession, Elected
Member, 2016-2019

Member, Disability Studies Caucus, National Women's Studies Association

Manuscript Reviewer for *Signs: A Journal of Women and Culture in Society*, 2022-Present

Manuscript Reviewer for *American Quarterly*, 2022-Present

Manuscript Reviewer for *Essays in Philosophy*, 2022-Present

Manuscript Reviewer for *Frontiers: a Journal of Women's Studies*, 2017-Present

Manuscript Reviewer for *Review of Disability Studies: An International Journal*, 2016-2019

Manuscript Reviewer for *Disability Studies Quarterly*, 2015-Present

Public

Curator and Emcee, Queercrip Showcase, Disability Pride Madison, 27 July 2023.

Interviewee. "How One Organization is Helping to Combat the Uptick in Anti-Trans Legislation" *Verywellhealth.com*. 14 June 2021.

Radio Interview. Queery. WORT 89.9 FM Madison, Wisconsin Community Radio. (wortfm.org). 13 April 2021.

"University of Houston's First Transgender and Non-Binary Studies Course" (reachhouston.com). 4 December 2019.

"Important Intersections: Dr. Jess Waggoner teaches first Transgender Studies Course at the University of Houston." *Spectrum South: The Voice of the Queer South*. 21 August 2019.