

## **J. Dillon Brown**

One Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1122  
St. Louis, MO 63130  
(314) 935-9241  
jdbrown@wustl.edu

### **Appointments**

- 2014-present Associate Professor of Anglophone Literatures  
Department of English  
Washington University in St. Louis
- 2007-2014 Assistant Professor of Anglophone Literatures  
Department of English  
Washington University in St. Louis
- 2006-2007 Assistant Professor of Diaspora Studies  
English Department  
Brooklyn College, City University of New York

### **Education**

- 2006 Ph.D. in English Literature, University of Pennsylvania  
1994 B.A. in English Literature, University of California, Berkeley

### **Fellowships, Grants, Awards**

- 2015 Maxwell C. Weiner Humanities Research Grant (Washington University)  
Summer 2013 Arts and Sciences Research Seed Grant (Washington University)  
Spring 2013 Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship (Washington University)  
2011 Common Ground Course Development Grant (Washington University)  
2009 Harry S. Ransom Center British Studies Fellowship  
2009 Special Recognition for Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring  
Summer 2007 PSC CUNY Research Award  
2006-2007 Brooklyn College New Faculty Fund Award  
2006-2007 Leonard & Clare Tow Faculty Travel Fellowship (Brooklyn College)  
2004-2005 J. William Fulbright Research Grant (for Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago)

### **Books**

#### *Migrant Modernism: Postwar London and the West Indian Novel*

Monograph examining the metropolitan origins of early West Indian novels with an interest in establishing the historical, social, and cultural contexts of their production. Through individual case studies of George Lamming, Roger Mais, Edgar Mittelholzer, V.S. Naipaul, and Samuel Selvon, the book seeks to demonstrate Caribbean fiction's important engagements with the experimental tradition of British modernism and discuss the implications of such engagements in terms of understanding the nature, history, locations, and legacies of both modernist and postcolonial literature. (University of Virginia Press, 2013)

*Beyond Windrush: Rethinking Postwar West Indian Literature*

Essay collection, co-edited with Leah Rosenberg (University of Florida), consisting of thirteen essays that seek to expand and revise the narrow critical narrative usually told about Anglophone Caribbean literature at mid-century. Avoiding the conventional emphasis on male, Afro-Caribbean nationalism in the novels of the period, the collection focuses on understudied aspects of cultural production at the time – including marginalized authors and genres, the contested role of gender and sexuality in imagining national identities, regional and global circuits of exchange outside of the Caribbean-British axis, and engagements with popular cultural forms – in order to offer a more comprehensive, variegated account of the early foundations of West Indian literature. (University Press of Mississippi, 2015)

## Essays and Book Chapters

“Rum and Coca-Colonization? Ralph de Boissière & U.S. Cold War Power.” *Interventions* (forthcoming).

“The Commonwealth vs. the Common Good? Race, Class, and Social Citizenship in the Welfare State.” *The People: Belonging, Exclusion, and Democracy (Cambridge Themes in British Literature and Culture)*. ed. Matthew Taunton and Benjamin Kohlmann (forthcoming, Cambridge University Press).

“The New Britain.” *The Nation (Cambridge Themes in British Literature and Culture)*. ed. Andrew Murphy (forthcoming, Cambridge University Press).

“Tradition and the Individual Talent of Edgar Mittelholzer.” *In the Eye of the Storm: Edgar Mittelholzer 1909-2009 Critical Perspectives*. ed. Juanita Cox (forthcoming Peepal Tree Press).

“Late Modernism and the Black Atlantic: Provincializing Literary History.” *Late Modernism and Expatriation*. ed. Lauren Arrington (Clemson, S.C.: Clemson University Press, 2022).

“Authorizing the Hinterlands: Forms of History in Wilson Harris’s *Jonestown*.” *Journal of West Indian Literature* 29.2 (April, 2021), 1-12.

“A Moving Centre: The Caribbean in Britain.” *Caribbean Literature in Transition*, Volume 2. ed. Curdella Forbes and Raphael Dalleo (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021).

“Towards an ‘inclusive, fluid diversity in Caribbean writing’: The West Indian Scholar and Her Quarrel with Literary Criticism.” *Journal of West Indian Literature* 28.1 (April, 2020), 46-51.

“Location and Accommodation: Double Displacement, Diasporic Attachments.” *The Cambridge History of Black and Asian British Writing*. ed. Susheila Nasta and Mark Stein (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020).

“Geographies of Migration: The Caribbean Novel.” *The Oxford History of the Novel in English, Volume 11: The Novel in Africa and the Caribbean*. ed. Simon Gikandi (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016)

Introduction to *Water with Berries* by George Lamming (Leeds: Peepal Tree Press, 2016).

“Escaping the Tropics through New York: Eric Walrond and Claude McKay in the American Grain.” *The Global South* 7.2 (Spring 2014), 37-61.

- “Instituting Anglophone Caribbean Literature.” *Le « postcolonial » comparé: anglophonie, francophonie.* ed. Claire Joubert and Emilienne Baneth (Paris: Presses Universitaires de Vincennes, 2014).
- “A State of Interdependence: Caryl Phillips and the Postwar World Order.” *ARIEL* 44.2-3 (2013), 85-111.
- “Modernism and Anglophone Caribbean Literature.” *The Routledge Companion to Anglophone Caribbean Literature.* ed. Michael Bucknor and Alison Donnell (London: Routledge, 2011).
- Introduction to *While Gods Were Falling* by Earl Lovelace (Leeds: Peepal Tree Press, 2011).
- “Textual Entanglement: Jean Rhys’s Critical Discourse.” *Modern Fiction Studies* 56.3 (Fall 2010).
- “Nostalgia for the Future: The Novels of Earl Lovelace.” *Caribbean Literature After Independence: The Case of Earl Lovelace*, ed. Bill Schwarz (London: Institute for the Study of the Americas, 2008).
- “Changing the Subject: The Aesthetics and Politics of Reading in the Novels of George Lamming.” *The Locations of George Lamming*, ed. Bill Schwarz (London: Warwick University Caribbean Studies/Macmillan, 2007).
- “Exile and Cunning: The Tactical Difficulty of George Lamming.” *Contemporary Literature*. 47: 4 (Winter 2006). Article reprinted in *Immigrant Fictions: Contemporary Literature in an Age of Globalization*, ed. Rebecca L. Walkowitz (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2007).

### Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries

- Review of Caribbean Biography Series: *Derek Walcott* by Edward Baugh, *Marcus Garvey* by Rupert Lewis, *Earl Lovelace* by Funso Aiyejina, and *Beryl McBurnie* by Judy Raymond. *Journal of West Indian Literature* 28.2 (November, 2020), 171-75.
- Review of *Calypto Jews: Jewishness in the Caribbean Literary Imagination* by Sarah Phillips Casteel. *African American Review* 51.3 (Fall 2018).
- Review of *Beyond Calypso: Re-reading Samuel Selvon* by Malachi McIntosh (ed.). *New West Indian Guide* 92.3-4 (2018).
- “Windrush.” *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism.* ed. Stephen Ross (2016).
- Review of *Island Bodies: Transgressive Sexualities in the Caribbean Imagination* by Rosamond S. King. *ALH Online Review* Series VI (2016).
- Review of *Eric Walrond: A Life in the Harlem Renaissance and the Transatlantic Caribbean* by James Davis. *s/x salon* 21 (February 2016).
- Review of *Commonwealth of Letters: British Literary Culture and the Emergence of Postcolonial Aesthetics* by Peter Kalliney. *CLIO* 44.2 (2015).
- Review of *The Purloined Islands: Caribbean-U.S. Crosscurrents in Literature and Culture 1880-1959* by Jeff Karem. *Journal of West Indian Literature* 22.1 (November 2013).
- Review of *Legba’s Crossing: Narratology in the African Atlantic* by Heather Russell. *African American Review* 44.1-2 (Spring/Summer 2011).

Review of *New World Modernisms* by Charles W. Pollard. *Journal of West Indian Literature*. 15.1 (November, 2006).

## Papers Presented

- “Performing Black Power in Earl Lovelace’s *The Dragon Can’t Dance* and *Is Just a Movie*.” Society for Caribbean Studies Annual Conference (UK, online, 2022)
- “John Bull vs. Uncle Sam: Ralph de Boissiere and Inter-Imperial Trinidad.” Seminar co-organizer and presenter: “Inter-Imperiality and Alliance: Precarious Interventions Across Hemispheres and Identities.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference (Montreal, 2021)
- “Rum and Coca-Colonization? Ralph de Boissiere and U.S. Cold War Power.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference (Chicago, 2020 – canceled)
- “Beyond the Hinterlands? Forms of History and Wilson Harris’s *Jonestown*.” 38<sup>th</sup> Annual West Indian Literature Conference (University of Guyana, 2019)
- “Modernism and the Caribbean Novel.” 37<sup>th</sup> Annual West Indian Literature Conference (University of Miami, 2018).
- “On not being able to perform Black Power in Earl Lovelace’s *The Dragon Can’t Dance*.” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present Conference 9 (UC-Berkeley, Oakland, CA; 2017)
- “Creolizing Black Power: American Racial Politics in a Caribbean Frame.” Panel organizer and presenter: “Hemispheric Studies in a Caribbean Key.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference (Philadelphia, PA; 2017)
- “Location and Accommodation: Double Displacements, Diasporic Attachments.” Symposium: The Cambridge History of Black and Asian British Writing. (University of Münster; 2016 – invited)
- “Modernism, Postcolonialism, Resistance, Complicity.” Modernist Studies Association Conference 17 (Boston, MA; 2015 -- invited seminar participant)
- “Looking Beyond Windrush.” Plenary roundtable organizer and presenter: “Rethinking Postwar Anglophone Literature.” 34<sup>th</sup> Annual West Indian Literature Conference (UPR-Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico; 2015)
- “C.L.R. James and Erna Brodber: The Travels and Travails of American Apartheid.” Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference (New Orleans, LA.; 2015)
- “The (East) African Presence in Caribbean Literature.” Beyond Orientalism: Abyssinia and/in the World (St. Louis, MO; 2015 – invited)
- “On the Shores of an American Lake: Mapping the Literary-Political Imaginary of C.L.R. James.” 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual West Indian Literature Conference (UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados; 2014)
- “Literary Logics of Development: The Anglophone Bildungsroman.” Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference (Grand Anse, Grenada; 2013)
- “Rum and Coca-Cola-ization? Ralph de Boissiere and the Revision of America.” 31<sup>st</sup> Annual West Indian Literature Conference (University of Miami; 2012)
- “Founding Fathers: Reframing the Origin Myth of Anglophone Caribbean Literature.” Roundtable organizer and presenter: “Who ‘Belongs’ to Postwar West Indian Literature?”. Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference (Le Gosier, Guadeloupe; 2012)
- “Eric Walrond and Claude McKay: Cultural and National Citizenship in the American Grain.” Panel organizer and presenter: “Variations on Citizenship and Belonging in Anglophone Caribbean Literature.” Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference (Le Gosier, Guadeloupe; 2012)
- “Tradition and the Individual Talent of Edgar Mittelholzer: The Emergence of the West Indian Novel.” Robert Penn Warren Center, Emerging Modernisms Seminar (Vanderbilt University; 2011 – invited)
- “Instituting Anglophone Caribbean Literature.” Journée d’étude Caraïbes/Le « postcolonial » comparé: anglophonie, francophonie (Université Paris 8, France; 2011 – invited)
- “De-centering the Postcolonial: Anglophone Caribbean Literature in an American Vein.” New Geographies of Postcoloniality and Globalization Conference (UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad; 2011)
- “Shades of Difference: The Mobility of Race and the Caribbean Novel.” Race Across the Atlantic Symposium (St. Louis, MO; 2011)
- “Windrush, Continued? Black British Literature in the Present Tense.” 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900 (Louisville, KY; 2010)

- “Cold War Currents: Caribbean Literature in America’s Backyard.” University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Seminar Series in Theory and Criticism (UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados; 2010 – invited)
- “Enslaved by the Yankee Dollar: *Rum and Coca-Cola* and the Perils of Postwar Power.” Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference (Kingston, Jamaica; 2009)
- “Double Jeopardy: Nationalism and West Indian Literature in the Old American Century.” Department of English Faculty Colloquium (St. Louis, MO; 2009)
- “Consecrating Caribbean Literature: The Rise and Fall of *Caribbean Voices*.” Panel organizer and presenter: “Postwar Technologies of Canonization: Querying the High/Low Divide.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference (San Francisco, CA; 2008)
- “A Commoner Cosmopolitanism: Samuel Selvon’s Experimental Forms.” Panel organizer and presenter: “The Global Afterlife of Modernism.” Modernist Studies Association Conference 10 (Nashville, TN; 2008)
- “Sambo in a Strange Land: Travels and Travails of an Exemplary Literary Figure.” Little Black Sambo: Children’s Literature, Race, and a Century of Controversy (St. Louis, MO; 2008 – invited panelist)
- “Samuel Selvon, Caribbeanness, and the Universality of the Local.” Tulane University, Cuban and Caribbean Studies Conference: Virtual Caribbeans (New Orleans, LA; 2008)
- “A Contrary Tradition: Edgar Mittelholzer’s West Indian Modernism.” Modernist Studies Association Conference 9 (Long Beach, CA; 2007)
- “George Lamming: In Praise of Difficulty.” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Conference (Barbados; 2007 – invited plenary panelist)
- “Sovereign or Subject? Interrogating Freedom in the Novels of Earl Lovelace and Caryl Phillips.” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Conference (Barbados; 2007)
- “On the Limits of Counterdiscursivity: Samuel Selvon’s Critical Struggles.” 14<sup>th</sup> Triennial Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies Conference (Vancouver; 2007)
- “Narrative and Nostalgia in the Novels of Earl Lovelace.” Caribbean Literature After Independence: The Case of Earl Lovelace (London; 2006 – invited)
- “The Politics of Caribbean Experimentalism in Postwar London.” 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on West Indian Literature (San Juan, Puerto Rico; 2005)
- “Changing the Subject: George Lamming and Modernist Reading.” 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on West Indian Literature (Grenada; 2004)
- “The Difficulties of George Lamming.” Penn Modernism and Twentieth-Century Studies Group Seminar (Philadelphia, PA; 2004)
- “Writing on the Wall: Cinema within *Finnegans Wake*.” Extreme Joyce/Reading on the Edge (Berkeley, CA; 2001)

## Teaching

*At Washington University in St. Louis:*

- English Literature 151: Freshman Seminar: Immigrants and Exiles
- English Literature 2152: Literature in English: Modern Texts & Contexts
- English Literature 215: Introduction to Literary Study
- English Literature 258: Art of the Novel
- English Literature 3071: Caribbean Literature in English
- English Literature 312: The Sun Also Sets: The Emergence of the Postcolonial Novel
- English Literature 3520: Introduction to Postcolonial Literature and Theory
- English Literature 394: African Literature in English
- English Literature 461: Seminar in Postcolonial Studies: The Novel and Globalization
- English Literature 461: Seminar in Postcolonial Studies: Anglophone Caribbean Literature
- Comparative Literature 411: The Empire Writes Back
- English Literature 524: Nation, State, Literature

English Literature 524: International Modernism/World Literature  
English Literature 524: Caribbean Literature and U.S. Empire  
Writing 1: Writing Culture From the Margins  
Writing 104: Writing Identity

*At Brooklyn College, CUNY:*

English 2: Research Writing: The Immigrant  
English 50.13: Introduction to Postcolonial Literature and Theory  
English 79.7: Introduction to Diaspora Literature  
Core Curriculum 10.01: Literature, Ethnicity, and Post-World War II Immigration

**Service (at Washington University)**

*University:*

2021-            Member, Faculty Advisory Board, Center for Teaching and Learning  
2018-20        Co-chair, Office of the Provost's Standing Committee for Facilitating Inclusive Classrooms  
2015-18        Member, Office of the Provost's Standing Committee for Facilitating Inclusive Classrooms  
2016            Member, Faculty Senate Council Committee on Free Speech  
2016            Interviewer, Ervin Scholars Program  
2012-13        Office of the Provost's Work-Life Balance Committee  
2010-18        Discussion Leader, First Year Reading Program

*College:*

2018            Interviewer, Mylonas Honorary Scholars Program  
2017            College Writing Committee  
2014-17        Member, Center for the Humanities Executive Committee  
2014, 2022     Judge, Dean James E. McCleod Freshman Writing Prize  
2013            Center for the Humanities Graduate Student Fellowship Selection Committee

*Department of English:*

2021-22        Chair, Black Diaspora and/or African Anglophone Literatures Search Committee  
2021-22        Executive Committee  
2022            Judge, F. Ward Denys Prize  
2020-21        Steering Committee  
2020-21        Graduate Committee  
2019-20        Contemporary American Literature Search Committee  
2017-19        Lynne Cooper Harvey Chair Search Committee  
2018-19        Executive Committee  
2018-19        Curriculum Committee  
2013-18        Director of Undergraduate Studies  
2013-18        Chair, Curriculum Committee  
2016, 2018, 2021    Judge, Leanna Boysko Prize  
2014, 2015     Judge, Dramatics Club Prize  
2013-15        Executive Committee  
2012-13        20<sup>th</sup>-Century British and Anglophone Literature Search Committee

2011-12	Executive Committee
2011-12	Graduate Committee
2011-12	Committee for Undergraduate Assessment
2011	Judge, Leanna Boysko Prize
2010-12	Faculty Sponsor, Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society
2010-12	Chair, Undergraduate English Majors' Social Committee
2010-11	Graduate Placement Committee
2007-09	Curriculum Committee
2007-09	Graduate Placement Committee
2007-09	Faculty Sponsor, Graduate Major Field Workshop
2009	Judge, Dramatic Clubs Prize
2008	Judge, F. Ward Denys Prize

*Department of African and African American Studies*

2021-	Mentoring Committee (Karma Frierson)
2018-19	Caribbean Studies Search Committee

**Other Professional Service**

Reader/peer reviewer, book manuscripts: University of Georgia Press  
University of the West Indies Press  
University of Virginia Press  
Cambridge University Press  
Edinburgh University Press

Reader/peer reviewer, journal articles: *African American Review*  
*Amodern*  
*Anthurium*  
ARIEL  
*Atlantic Studies*  
*CLC Web*  
*Comparative Literature*  
*Comparative Literature Studies*  
*Contemporary Literature*  
*English Literary History (ELH)*  
*Journal of Commonwealth Literature*  
*Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association*  
*Journal of Narrative Theory*  
*Journal of West Indian Literature*  
*Modern Fiction Studies*  
*Mosaic*  
*Studies in the Novel*  
*Texas Studies in Language and Literature*  
*The Global South*

Consultant Reader (2022- )                      ARIEL

External M. Phil. examiner: University of the West Indies, Cave Hill (Barbados)

### **Teaching and Research Interests**

Anglophone Caribbean literature, postcolonial literature and theory, post-1945 British literature and culture, history of the novel, diasporic literature, transatlanticism, globalization, Black British literature, modernism, sociology of literature

### **Academic & Professional Affiliations**

Caribbean Studies Association  
Modernist Studies Association  
Modern Language Association  
American Comparative Literature Association