

# Paige Gray

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## *Academic Employment*

### **Professor of Writing and Liberal Arts**

Savannah College of Art and Design (Atlanta, GA) • 2018-

### **Visiting Assistant Professor, English Department**

Fort Lewis College (Durango, CO) • 2016-2018

### **Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English and Philosophy**

United States Military Academy at West Point • 2015-2016

### **Graduate Instructor, Department of English**

The University of Southern Mississippi (Hattiesburg, MS) • 2011-2015

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## *Education*

### **Doctor of Philosophy • English**

#### **The University of Southern Mississippi, 2016**

Dissertation: “Cub Reporters: American Children’s Literature and Journalism in the Golden Age”

Dissertation Committee Chair: Eric Tribunella

Research Areas: Children’s and Young Adult Literature; Nineteenth-Century and Early Twentieth-Century American Literature; Journalism and Media Studies

### **Master of Arts • English**

#### **The University of Southern Mississippi, 2012**

Thesis: “‘Bloom in the Moonshine’: Imagination as Liberation in *Anne of Green Gables*”

Thesis Advisor: Eric Tribunella

### **Master of Arts • Journalism**

#### **Columbia College Chicago, 2008**

Thesis: “Walking Around in CIRCLES: A Look into Chicago’s Chinese Mutual Aid Association and the Restructuring of Immigrant Nonprofits”

Thesis Advisor: Len Strazewski

Emphasis Area: News Writing and Reporting

### **Bachelor of Arts • English Honors**

#### **Indiana University-Bloomington, 2005**

Thesis: “‘There’s No Place Like Home’: Reconstructing Domestic Ideology in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, *The Winter’s Tale* and ‘A Cyborg Manifesto’”

Thesis Advisor: Ellen Mackay (now at University of Chicago)

Degree minors: Spanish; Dance

## Academic Publications

### Books

***Children of the Black Press: African American Youth and Periodical Culture in Twentieth-Century America*** (current project)

***Play Things: An Exploration of Objects, Imagination, and Age*** (current project)

***Cub Reporters: American Children's Literature and Journalism in the Golden Age*** (SUNY Press, 2019)

### Peer-Reviewed Journals

**“Join the Club: African American Children's Literature, Social Change, and the Chicago Defender Jr.”** *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*. 42.2 (2017): 149-168

**“A Different Sunshine’: Writing Jamaican National Identity Through the Girl’s Coming-of-Age Story in Paulette Ramsay’s *Aunt Jen*.”** *Bookbird: A Journal of International Children’s Literature* 53.2 (May 2015):12-20.

**“Bloom in the Moonshine’: Imagination as Liberation in *Anne of Green Gables*.”** *Children's Literature* 42 (2014): 169-196.

### Essay Collections

**“A Living Thing: The Very American Invention of Jack Pumpkinhead.”** *The Characters of Oz*. Eds. Dina Massachi and Mark West. Forthcoming.

**“Bizarre Creatures' and the Fans Who Love Them: The Dark Crystal as Alternative Children's Culture.”** *Alt Kidlit: What Children's Literature Has Been, Never Was, and Might Yet Be*. Eds. Kenneth B. Kidd and Derritt Mason. Forthcoming.

**“Let Us Make the World Know that We Are Living: *The Brownies’ Book*, African American Newspapers, and Black Childhood Identity.”** *A Centennial Celebration of The Brownies’ Book*. Eds. Dianne Johnson-Feelings and Jonda C. McNair. University Press of Mississippi, 2022.

**“(In)Visibility and Voice(lessness): Destabilizing Disability in *The Summer of the Swans* and *The Westing Game*.”** Co-authored with Sara K. Day. *Dust Off the Gold Medal: Rediscovering Children’s Literature at the Newbery Centennial*. Eds. Sara L. Schwebel and Jocelyn Van Tuyl. New York: Routledge, 2021.

**“Readers and Primers.”** *The de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection: History and Holdings*. Eds. Eric L. Tribunella and Ellen Ruffin. Oxford, MS:University Press of Mississippi, 2021.

**“You’ve Seen Too Much to Be Innocent’: *The Outsiders*, the Myth of American Youth, and Young Adult Literature”** and **“Greasers and Gallants: Realism, Romanticism, and Identity in *The Outsiders*.”** *Critical Insights: The Outsiders*. Ed. M. Katherine Grimes. Amenia, NY: Grey House-EBSCO, 2018. 217-228; 187-196.

**“A Spectacle of Girls: L. Frank Baum, Women Reporters, and the Man Behind the Screen in Early Twentieth-Century America.”** *Girls’ Series Fiction and American Popular Culture*. Ed. LuElla L. D’Amico. Lanham, MD: Lexington-Rowman & Littlefield, 2016. 69-90.

**“Finding Our Timeless Neverland: Reconstucting Age Identity through Imagination.”** *Barrie, Hook, and Peter Pan: Studies in Contemporary Myth*. Ed. Alfonso Muñoz Corcuera and Elisa T. Di Biase. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2012. 175-185.

## Public Forums and Conversations

**“When Black Kids—Shut Out from the Whitewashed World of Children's Literature—Took Matter Into Their Own Hands.”** Published by *The Conversation, Chicago Tribune*, and others. February 2021.

**“Chapter XX. Surprises.”** *Little Women 150*. Ed. Gregory Eiselein and Anne Phillips. May 2019. [lw150.wordpress.com](http://lw150.wordpress.com).

**“Vicarious Formations: The American Military, Identity, and Children's Literature.”** SCHY Commentaries (Society for the History of Childhood and Youth). Ed. Patrick Ryan. April 2019. [schy.org/features/commentaries](http://schy.org/features/commentaries).

**“What's Behind America's Insistence on Instilling Grit in Kids?”** Published by *The Conversation, Time.com, Salon* and others. September 2016.

## Book Reviews

**“Review: Vicious Infants: Dangerous Childhoods in Antebellum U.S. Literature by Laura Soderberg.”** *Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth* 15.2 (2022): 343-345.

**“Writing Identities, Erasing Borders: *The Night Diary, Front Desk*, and Our Shared Story of Migration.”** *Jeunesse* 11.2 (2019): 312-319.

**“Review: Tweenhood: Femininity and Celebrity in Tween Popular Culture by Melanie Kennedy.”** *The Journal of Popular Culture* 52.6 (2019): 1559-1561.

**“Review: Darger's Resources by Michael Moon.”** *The Journal of American Culture* 36.4 (2013): 372-373.

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## Recent Conferences

**Children's Literature Association Conference**, Atlanta, June 2022

- “Thy Daughters Are Lovely and True”: Spelman College's Campus Mirror and (Re)Seeing Young Black Women in 1920s Atlanta

**Modern Language Association Convention**, Washington D.C., Jan. 2022 (postponed for 2023)

- Growing a “Beautiful Place”: The City's Romance of the Rural in Early Twentieth-Century African American Children's Literature

**Children's Literature Association Conference**, Virtual, June 2021

- Making the Nation: The Ideological Work of Children's Readers and Primers
- Southern Invisibility: Place and Identity in *The Summer of the Swans*

**Children's Literature Association Conference**, Indianapolis, IN, June 2019

- “The Art and Engineering of Empathy in Jim Henson's *The Dark Crystal*”

**Modern Language Association Convention**, Chicago, Jan. 2019

- “Becoming Young Adult: American Culture, Teenagers, and YA Literature in the Twentieth Century”

**Children's Literature Association Conference**, San Antonio, TX, June 2018

- ““Tell Them He Jumped from a Whale-Boat”: *Moby-Dick's* Pip and Black Childhood in Antebellum America”

**American Literature Association Annual Conference**, San Francisco, May 2018

- Roundtable: Research Society of American Periodicals Article Award Winners

**Children's Literature Association Conference**, Tampa, FL, June 2017

- ““Things Which Are Obviously So Really Aren't”: *Chocolates for Breakfast*, the Reality of the Young Adult, and the Imagined Future of Young Adult Literature”

**Children's Literature Association Conference**, Columbus, OH, June 2016

- “Join the Club: African American Children's Literature, Social Change, and the Chicago Defender Jr.”

## *Teaching Experience*

### Courses

**Cinema in Context (CINE 705)**, Savannah College of Art and Design • Winter 2021, Summer 2021, Summer 2022

**History of Cinema (CINE 275)**, Savannah College of Art and Design • Fall 2020, Winter 2021

**Foundations of Story (ENGL 142)**, Savannah College of Art and Design • Winter 2019, Winter 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Winter 2022, Spring 2022

**Reading Films (CINE 205)**, Savannah College of Art and Design • Summer 2019, Winter 2020, Summer 2020, Summer 2021, Fall 2021

**Fashion Writing (WRIT 330/730)**, Savannah College of Art and Design • Spring 2020, Fall 2021

**Magazine Journalism (WRIT 385/735)**, Savannah College of Art and Design • Summer 2019, Winter 2020, Summer 2020, Spring 2022

**News Writing and Reporting (WRIT 345/745)**, Savannah College of Art and Design • Fall 2019

**Ink to Ideas: Critical Concepts in Writing and Literature (ENGL 123)**, Savannah College of Art and Design • Fall 2018–Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021

**Art in Adaptation (ENGL 221)**, Savannah College of Art and Design • Spring 2019, Spring 2020

**Literary Journalism (WRIT 713)**, Savannah College of Art and Design • Spring 2019, Winter 2022

**History of Rhetoric (ENGL 733)**, Savannah College of Art and Design • Winter 2019, Winter 2020, Spring 2021

**Media Literacy (ENGL 116)**, Fort Lewis College • Fall 2016–Spring 2018

**Semantics (ENGL 265)**, Fort Lewis College • Spring 2017–Spring 2018  
• "Picturing Meaning": Course focused on relationship between words, images, and meaning through the use of picture books

**Media Writing Topics (ENGL 315)**, Fort Lewis College • Fall 2016–Spring 2018  
• Topics: Youth and Media; Narrative Journalism; Travel Writing; Cultural Criticism

**Advisor for Student Newspaper (ENGL 250/350)**, Fort Lewis College • Fall 2016–Spring 2018

**Current Events and Trends in Media (ENGL 219)**, Fort Lewis College • Fall 2016  
• Topic: 2016 Presidential Election

**Literature (EN102)**, United States Military Academy at West Point • Spring, Summer 2016  
• Each literature course focused on childhood and the idea of youth. Texts included Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (2007), Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home* (2006), excerpts from Frederick Douglass's autobiography and Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, among others.

**Composition (EN101)**, United States Military Academy at West Point • Fall 2015

**World Literature**, The University of Southern Mississippi • 2013–2015  
• Texts included classic fairy tales, Art Spiegelman's *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* (1986), Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (1990), Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *Notes from the Underground* (1864), and Tsitsi Dangarembga's *Nervous Conditions* (1988).

**Survey of American Literature I (ENG 370)**, The University of Southern Mississippi • Fall 2014  
• Beginnings to 1865; authors included Irving, Cooper, Emerson, Poe, Hawthorne, Douglass, Whitman, Dickinson, Rebecca Harding Davis.



**Online Composition II (ENG 102)**, The University of Southern Mississippi • Fall 2014

**Expanded Composition (ENG 100E, 101E)**, The University of Southern Mississippi • 2012-2013

**Composition I and II (ENG 101, 102)**, The University of Southern Mississippi • 2011-2012; Fall 2013

### *Mentorships & Camps*

**Lead Instructor and Coordinator**, Camp Quidd-Lit, The University of Southern Mississippi, 2014 & 2015

- summer youth camp focusing on children's and young adult literature

**Journalism Mentor**, Columbia College Chicago, 2007-2008

**Adult Literacy, ESL, and Writing Tutor**, 2004-2009

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### *Professional Journalism Experience*

**Freelance Writer/Journalist**, 2006-

- Bylines include: *Salon*, *Time.com*, *Chicago Tribune*, Yahoo! News, *The Conversation*, *DGO* (Durango, CO); *Humanities*; *Mississippi Magazine*; *Sense* (Mobile, AL); *LocalFlavor* (Santa Fe, NM); Compass Media (Alabama and Mississippi Gulf Coast region); CenterstageChicago.com (a *Chicago Sun-Times* property); *Huerfano County World* newspaper (CO); *Cairn* online magazine (Denver, CO); *Chicago Journal*; *Mint Magazine* (Chicago)

**Special Sections Editor**, *The Taos News* • Taos, NM, 2009-2010

- Both *The Taos News* and my individual sections received **first place recognition and honors** from the New Mexico Press Association and the National Newspaper Association during my tenure.

**Copy Editor/Page Designer**, *Summit Daily News* • Frisco, CO, 2008

**Marketing Manager, Graphic Designer, Reporter, Columnist**, *Indiana Daily Student* • Bloomington, IN, 2001-2005

- The *Indiana Daily Student* continually garners state and **national honors**, and has repeatedly won the Associated Collegiate Press Pacemaker Award and the Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence, including from 2001-2005.

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### *Selected Honors & Awards*

**Honorable Mention for the 2016-2017 Research Society for American Periodicals Article Prize** • "Join the Club: African American Children's Literature, Social Change, and the Chicago Defender Junior," *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* 42.2

**Teaching Empowerment Team** • Fort Lewis College, 2016

- Proposal for investigation and discussion into pedagogical issue (development of Journalism and Multimedia Studies program) chosen by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Team members each receive a \$500 stipend.

**Nominee, Graduate Assistant of the Year** • The University of Southern Mississippi, 2015

- chosen by faculty to represent department for university-wide award

**Helen Bahr Graduate Research Award** • The University of Southern Mississippi, 2015 & 2013

- financial award given for research and conference travel

**Lillian Gary Taylor Fellowship in American Literature** • The University of Virginia, 2014 (two weeks in August & two weeks in December)

**Nomination for 2014 University of Southern Mississippi Graduate Student Innovation Award** • 2013

**Children's Literature Association Graduate Student Honor Essay Award** • 2013

- “The ‘Not Unmusical Cries’ of a ‘Peculiar Class’ in America: The ‘Evolution’ of Horatio Alger, Jr.’s Newsboys and Print Journalism in the Late Nineteenth Century”

**James Sims Essay Award** • The University of Southern Mississippi, 2013

- “The ‘Not Unmusical Cries’ of a ‘Peculiar Class’ in America: The ‘Evolution’ of Horatio Alger, Jr.’s Newsboys and Print Journalism in the Late Nineteenth Century”

**AAUW Hoffman Scholarship** • 2012-2013

- financial award given to graduate of Richmond High School (Richmond, IN) pursuing English graduate studies

**First Place • English Graduate Organization Essay Award**, The University of Southern Mississippi, 2012

- “Big Chief Tablets Caught in Spider Webs: Delusion, Academia, and the Southern Past in *A Confederacy of Dunces* and *All the King's Men*”

**Teaching Assistantship**, The University of Southern Mississippi, 2010-2015

**Distinguished Graduate**, Columbia College Chicago, 2008

**Graduate Opportunity Award**, Columbia College Chicago, 2007

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## *Selected Service*

**Secretary**, Children's Literature Association Conference, 2022-2024

**Manuscript Peer Reviewer**, University of Massachusetts Press, 2022

**Conference-Planning Chair**, Children's Literature Association Conference 2021 & 2022

**Executive Committee Delegate**, Children's and Young Adult Literature Forum, Modern Language Association, 2020-2025

**Master of Fine Arts Thesis Committee Director**, Savannah College of Art and Design: Adia Carter (2023); Lucia Conkright (2022); Brittany Higgins (2022); Katey Ceccarelli (2021); Selby Perkins (2020)

**Master of Fine Arts Thesis Committee Member**, Savannah College of Art and Design: Hannah Moseley (2022); Epiphany Dames (2021); Justin Fredericksen (2020); Twisha Chhaya (2020); Russell Cambron (2019); Elizabeth Henry (2019)

**Editoial Consultant**, *Research in Diversity in Youth Literature*, Winter 2021

**Editoial Consultant**, *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, Spring 2019

**Children's Literature Association Publicity Committee Chair**, appointed by association president and executive board for three-year term, 2018-2021

**Children's Literature Association Publicity Committee**, appointed by association president and executive board for three-year term, 2015-2018

**Degree Program Developer, Journalism and Multimedia Studies**, English Department, Fort Lewis College, 2016-2018

**Organizer and Facilitator, Banned Book Week Celebratory Reading**, English Department, Fort Lewis College, Fall 2016

**Assessment Committee**, Fort Lewis College, Fall 2016-Spring 2017

**Thesis Committee Member**, Cadet Haley O'Connor: "The Dark Mark and the Swastika: An Exploration of Nazi Influence on J. K. Rowling's Death Eaters in the Harry Potter Series," Department of English and Philosophy, United States Military Academy, Spring 2016

**John Calabro Night of the Arts Visual Arts Judging Committee**, Department of English and Philosophy, United States Military Academy, Spring 2016

**Academy Idol Dramatic Monologue Competition Committee**, Department of English and Philosophy, United States Military Academy, Spring 2016

**Children's Literature Peer Reviewer**, *Revista de Estudios Nortamericanos* (University of Seville), Fall 2015

**Term-End Examination Committee**, Department of English and Philosophy, United States Military Academy, Fall 2015

**Managing Editor and Graphic Designer**, *The Robert Frost Review*, The University of Southern Mississippi, 2010-2015

**Hattiesburg Teen Book Club Facilitator and Co-Founder**, partnership between the local public library and the USM Dept. of English, 2012-2015

**English Graduate Organization**, University of Southern Mississippi, 2010-2015

- Treasurer, 2011-2012

**Special Assistant**, Children's Literature Association Conference Organizing Committee, University of Southern Mississippi, 2013

**Moderator**, Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of Southern Mississippi, 2014 & 2015

**Peer Reviewer**, *The Unjournal of Children's Literature* (San Diego State University), 2013

**Program Assessor for Composition**, University of Southern Mississippi, 2012-2014

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## *Media and Public Engagements*

**Guest on the Johns Hopkins University Press podcast**, March 2021

- Discussed my article published in *The Conversation*, "When Black Kids – Shut Out from the Whitewashed World of Children's Literature – Took Matters into Their Own Hands"

**Young Adult Literature Panel Moderator**, Decatur Book Festival, 2019, 2020

**Lecture, "Illuminated Whimsy: Picture Books, Childhood and the Work of Maira Kalman,"** High Museum of Art (Atlanta, GA), August 2019

**Panelist, "The Changing Face of Journalism,"** May 2018

- Event sponsored by the Durango Public Library featuring journalist Carl Bernstein

**Guest on *The Matt Townsend Show***, Sirius Radio, October 2016

- Discussed my article published in *Time*, "Kids Don't Need to Understand Grit"

## *Selected Presentations*

**Liberal Arts Faculty Lecture, “Cub Reporters: American Children's Literature and Journalism in the Golden Age,”** Savannah College of Art and Design-Atlanta, October 2019

**Sustainability Summit,** Environmental Center, Fort Lewis College, March 2017

- “Truth in Media: How to Sift Through the Bull”

**Composition Pedagogy Forum,** Department of English, The University of Southern Mississippi, March 2015

- “How Teaching Composition and Teaching Literature Can Inform Each Other”

**Composition Pedagogy Forum,** Department of English, The University of Southern Mississippi, April 2014

- “Our Town: Teaching Community in Local Contexts”

**Faculty Graduate Research Colloquium,** Department of English, The University of Southern Mississippi, September 2012

- “Too Much Light Makes the Truth Go Blind: Audience, Meaning, and the Present in Pinter’s Theater”

**New Mexico Press Association Convention,** Las Vegas, NM, July 2010

- “Conceiving Special Sections and Designing for the Community Newspaper”