

AAREN M. PASTOR

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EDUCATION

- 2022** Ph.D. English :: Ph.D. Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
Committee: Claire Colebrook (Chair), Janet Lyon, Matt Tierney, Jonathan Eburne
- 2017** M.A. English
Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
- 2013** B.A. English and Religious Studies, *cum laude*, Distinction in Research and Creative Works
Rice University, Houston, TX

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2022 – 2024** Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
- 2015 – 2022** Graduate Teaching Instructor, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
- Spring 2022** Research Assistant, Dr. Noam Tirosh, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
- 2019 – 2020** Writing Center Tutor Coordinator, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

Book Project

Neoliberal Fairness, Women's Sports and the Scientific Fundamentalism of Sex and Gender

In our moment of omnipresent media saturation, everyone's a scientist and a policy expert. This book examines the widespread public debates about the "fairness" of allowing trans girls and women and women with Disorders of Sexual Development (DSDs) to compete in amateur and professional sport. Media, individuals, sports governing bodies, and even the athletes themselves all proffer competing visions and definitions of sex and gender, and this project triangulates the rhetoric of sex and gender across multiple media domains to trace the emergence of a new scientific fundamentalism that hews to the ideology of T (testosterone) as determining sex. This fundamentalism risks erasing the work of second wave feminism to parse gender from sex, and return to a new biologically reductionistic model of a sex binary. Rhetorical claims to prioritize "fairness" over "inclusion" replicate historical patterns of abuse and marginalization under these same words and ignore a historical record which shows how women's sports have never been fair or inclusive for those multiply marginalized; indeed, the scientific "evidence" used to defend women's sports is rooted in the exploitation and abuse of Black female bodies in the name of science.

Dissertation Abstract

Care of the Self: Gurdjieffianism as Modernist Cure

This project argues for the importance of Gurdjieffianism, a mishmash of mystical, occult, and New Age-y thought, to literary and cultural modernism. It is also an excursus into the vexatiousness of material and psychological identity, sexed and gendered, interpellated by race and empire and the cataclysms of war (World Wars I and II but also the Russian Revolution and the Spanish Civil War). Through a study of Gurdjieff's influence on the personal praxes and public aesthetics of writers such as Margaret Anderson, Kathryn Hulme, Katherine Mansfield, Jean Toomer, and Leonora

Carrington, this book also examines writers who lived athwart to normativity and convention, in ways that liberal feminism and/or academic leftists might not particularly care for at the present moment, but who, in the context and stranglehold of the time in which they wrote and lived, nevertheless represent a rejection of the coherence of identity in terms of the compulsion to know and embrace of a self that is known by its active unfolding. These people sought an experience of self beyond the “prison-house of thought,” that is, beyond the explicit and implicit mandate to norm and conform. This book looks at the lives and works of those who could not or would not norm and conform, and whose journeys away from conformity were routed through the particularity of Gurdjieffianism.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“The reducibility of being: testosterone, sex/gender, and the question of “fair” play in women’s sports.” (under review.)

“Reading Through the Viscera: Leonora Carrington’s inhuman human.” *Modernism/modernity*, forthcoming **2024**.

“‘I’m a girl. But now I’m a boy too:’ Dildonics and prosthetic gender in Ernest Hemingway’s *The Garden of Eden*.” *Modern Fiction Studies*. 69.4. **Winter 2023**.

With Sean Weidman. “Modernism and Gender at the Limits of Stylometry.” *DHQ: Digital Humanities Quarterly*. 15.4. **2021**. Access via:
<http://digitalhumanities.org:8081/dhq/vol/15/4/000566/000566.html>.

“Unwarranted and Invasive Scrutiny: Caster Semenya, Sex-Gender Testing, and the Production of Woman in ‘Women’s’ Track and Field.” *Feminist Review*. 122.1. **2019**.

Chapters in Books

“*Lighter than My Shadow* by Katie Green” in *Disability Experiences: Memoirs, Autobiographies, and Other Personal Narratives*. Edited by Thomas G. Couser and Susannah B. Mintz. Macmillan Reference USA, **2019**.

“*Take 12, A Critical Performance*,” with Judith Roof, Melissa Bailar, and Philomena Bradford. In *Reading and Writing Experimental Texts: Critical Innovations*, edited by Robin Silbergeld and Kristina Quynn. Palgrave, **2017**.

Blogs

“Policing Gender and Regulating Testosterone in Women’s Track and Field: When All Womxn Lose.” *The Feminist Review blog*. **24 June 2019**.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited

9.27.2023 Public lecture “Trans Athletes are Athletes: The Struggle for Inclusion in Sports” and class session “Title IX at 50: What Work is Left Undone” [with Honorarium]
Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA

Conference

- 10.2023** “Gender Abolition: Negotiating between liberatory ideal and material forms”
National Women’s Studies Association, Baltimore, MD
- 11.2022** “Targeting Thomas: the gender ideology of “fair” play in the NCAA and professional women’s sports”
National Women’s Studies Association, Minneapolis, MN
- 10.2022** “Stitching Layers: Remedios Varo and the Creation of a Handmade World”
Modernist Studies Association, Portland OR
- 11.2021** “Jean Toomer’s Making of An “American” Race”
Modernist Studies Association, cancelled due to COVID-19
- 11.2020** “Creating Change: Opportunities for Transnational Feminist Action in Elite Women’s Distance Running”
National Women’s Studies Association Conference, cancelled due to COVID-19
- 11.2020** “Metamorphic Flesh: Navigating the Trans and Interspecies Theoretical Divide”
Modernist Studies Association Conference, cancelled due to COVID-19
- 11.2019** “North, South, East, West: Rereading the winds of Māori influences in the topographies of Katherine Mansfield’s ‘New Zealand’ stories”
National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA
- 10.2019** “North, South, East, West: Rereading the winds of Māori influences in the topographies of Katherine Mansfield’s ‘New Zealand’ stories”
Modernist Studies Association Conference, Toronto, CAN
- 11.2018** “Speculative Deaths and Textual Afterlives: Katherine Mansfield and *Cosmic Anatomy*”
Society for Literature and Science in the Arts Conference, Toronto, CAN
- 7.2018** “Polysemic Genders: Transcribing the ‘Self’ in Ernest Hemingway’s *The Garden of Eden*”
XVIII International Hemingway Conference, “Hemingway in Paris,” Paris, FRA
- 11.2016** “The Not-Self of Djuna Barnes’ *Nightwood*”
Society for Literature and Science in the Arts Conference, Atlanta, GA

TEACHING

Teaching Interests: first-year writing, US and British literature, women’s writing and literature, sports writing, feminist theory and women’s studies, sexuality and gender studies

University of Delaware

English:

Seminar in Composition, **ENGL 110**, 8 sections

Honors Seminar in Composition, **ENGL 110**, 1 section

The Pennsylvania State University

Rhetoric and Composition:

Freshman Composition and Writing, **ENGL 15**, 10 sections

Business Writing, **ENGL 202D**, 3 sections (1 online)

Technical Writing, **ENGL 202C** 3 sections (2 online)

Literature:

Sports, Literature and Ethics, **ENGL 234**, 1 section

Mysticism, Magic, and the Occult in Literary Modernism **ENGL 455**, 1 section

American Studies:

Religion in American Life and Thought, **AMST 140**, 2 sections (online)

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies:

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, **WGSS 100**, 1 section

Women and Gender in Literature, Art and Popular Cultures, **WGSS 106**, 4 sections (online)

SERVICE

University of Delaware

Faculty Senate Committee on General Education and Center for Teaching and Learning (CTAL)

2023 Assessment and Qualitative Analysis of E110: Seminar in Composition

Department of English

2022-2023 ARAK Journal Committee Member

Pennsylvania State University

Department of English

2017-2021 Modernist Studies Workshop, Treasurer, Vice-President, President

2018-2019 Penn State Learning Tutor

2015-2020 Program for Writing and Rhetoric Grade Appeal and Review Committee

2016 Graduate Mentor

AWARDS AND GRANTS

National

2019 John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum Ernest Hemingway Research Grant

2019 Modernist Studies Association Graduate Conference Travel Grant

2019 National Women's Studies Association Travel Grant and Conference Registration Scholarship

University of Delaware

2022-2023 Nominated, Excellence in Teaching Award

Pennsylvania State University

College and University

Fall 2021 RGSO Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Fall 2020 Center for American Literary Studies Dissertation Support Award

Fall 2019 Humanities Institute Graduate Semester Residency

Fall 2019 Superior Teaching and Research (STAR) Award, College of Liberal Arts

Departments of English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Spring 2020 Price Graduate Scholarship

Fall 2019 Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies NWSA Conference Fund

Fall 2019	Price Graduate Scholarship
Fall 2018	Price Graduate Scholarship
Spring 2018	Price Graduate Scholarship
Spring 2017	Philip Young Memorial Endowment
Fall 2016	George and Barbara Kelly Graduate Fund

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ CERTIFICATIONS

2023	Human Subjects Protections Training, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program)
2022	Penn State World Campus Online Faculty Development Course: Essentials of Online Teaching

LANGUAGES

Spanish (reading, speaking, and writing) :: French (limited reading)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modernist Studies Association, National Women's Studies Association, Modern Language Association