

DAGMAWI WOUBSHET

Department of English
Cornell University
250 Goldwin Smith Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853
dw242@cornell.edu

Employment

Cornell University

Associate Professor, Department of English, 2013 to present

Assistant Professor, Department of English, 2006 to 2013

Education

Harvard University, Ph.D., History of American Civilization, 2007

Harvard University, A.M., English and American Literature and Language, 2002

Duke University, B.A., History and Political Science, 1998

Honors & Awards

Scholar-in-Residence, Modern Museum of Art/Gebre Kristos Desta Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2015-2016

Named one of “The 10 Best Professors at Cornell” by Business Insider, 2013

Robert A. & Donna B. Paul Award for Excellence in Advising, Cornell University, 2012

Mellon Interdisciplinary Writing Group Grant, “Queer Temporality and Risk,” Society for the Humanities, Cornell University, 2012-2013

Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum, 2011

Faculty Fellow, Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, 2010-2011

Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies Seed Grant, Cornell University, 2009

Alice Cook Award, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, Cornell University, 2009

Mellon Interdisciplinary Writing Group Grant, “Centering Africa: Subjectivity, Modernity, and Global Change,” Society for the Humanities, Cornell University, 2008-2009

Society for the Humanities Research Grant (supporting summer research travel to Ethiopia), Cornell University, 2007, 2008, & 2009

Frederick Sheldon Travel Fellowship (supporting one-year research trip to South Africa), Harvard University, 2003-2004

Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Prize, Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University, 2003

Derek Bok Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, 2001, 2002, & 2003

Robert Falk Award for Outstanding Work in American Literature, Duke University, 1998

DAGMAWI WOUBSHET

William J. Griffith University Service Award, Duke University, 1998
Black Students Alliance Commencement Speaker, Duke University, 1998

Publications

Book

The Calendar of Loss: Race, Sexuality, and Mourning in the Early Era of AIDS (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015)

Edited volume

Ethiopia: Literature, Art, and Culture. Special issue of *Callaloo* 33.1 (2010), co-edited with Salamishah Tillet and Elizabeth Wolde-Giorgis.

Essays and interviews

“An Interview with Julie Mehretu,” *Callaloo* 37.4 (2014):782-798.

“Eric Gottesman,” *Contact Sheet 177/Light Work Annual* (2014): 101.

“Love Visual: A Conversation with Haile Gerima,” conducted with Sarah Lewis, *Callaloo* 36.3 (2013): 634-657.

“An Interview with Bekele Mekonnen,” *Northeast African Studies* 13.1 (2013): 215-226.

“Introduction for Hortense Spillers,” *Callaloo* 35.4 (2012): 925-928.

“The Romance of Ethiopia: A Critical Introduction,” co-authored with Salamishah Tillet and Elizabeth Wolde-Giorgis, *Callaloo* 33.1 (2010): 8-14.

“Gleaning Ethiopia” in *Predicting the Past: The Visual Art of Loulou Cherinet*. Exhibition catalogue published by the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University and the Gebre-Kristos Desta Museum of Modern Art, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Summer 2009. Reprinted in *Callaloo* 33.1 (2010): 199-202.

“An Interview with Andreas Eshete,” *Callaloo* 33.1 (2010): 102-116.

“New World Alphabet,” *Transition* 103 (2010): 118-121. Reprinted in *African Lives: An Anthology of Memoirs and Autobiographies*, ed. Geoff Wisner (Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2013).

“Tizita: A New World Interpretation,” *Callaloo* 32.2 (2009): 629-634.

“Image and Imagination: Notes on Postmodernism,” *Nka: A Journal of Contemporary African Art* 22/23 (2008): 130-135.

“Tizita,” *Callaloo* 30.2 (2007): 509-510.

“Staging the Rainbow Nation,” *Art South Africa* 2.2 (2003): 33-36.

Entry on “Melvin Dixon,” *African American National Biography*, eds., Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham (Oxford University Press, 2008).

Entries on “Alvin Ailey,” “Thomas Glave,” and “Glenn Ligon,” *LGBTQ America Today: An Encyclopedia*, ed. John Hawley (Greenwood Press, 2009).

Books in Progress

“Here Be Saints: James Baldwin and Late Style”

“New Flower: A Memoir”

DAGMAWI WOUBSHET

Presentations

Invited Lectures and Presentations

- “Secularism and Politicized Faith,” The 4th Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa, Lake Tana/Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, April 19, 2015.
- “Jean-Michel Basquiat: Black Lives Matter,” Jean-Michel Basquiat: Now’s the Time Symposium, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada, March 28, 2015.
- “James Baldwin’s Late-Style,” Cornell English Collation Lectures, Ithaca, New York, March 18, 2015.
- “The Italian Occupation in Ethiopian Literary Imagination,” The Italian Occupation in Ethiopia, Casa Italiana, New York University, New York City, October, 24, 2014.
- “A Conversation with Barbara Chase-Riboud”—the 2014 *Callaloo* Conference, Emory University, October 18, 2014.
- “Encounters with Africa: James Baldwin and the Making of Global Black Consciousness,” Global Black Consciousness: An International Conference at DAK’ART 2014, Dakar, Senegal, May 11, 2014.
- “Reflections on Political Identity: A Debate between Andreas Eshete and Mahmood Mamdani moderated by Dagmawi Woubshet,” African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, April 23, 2014.
- “Saving Sex: Urvashi Vaid, Susie Bright and David France in Conversation with Dagmawi Woubshet,” Cornell University, March 18, 2014.
- “Mourning: A Fierce Act,” College of Arts and Sciences, the University of Virginia, January 29, 2014.
- “AIDS Orphans and their Epistles to the Dead,” the Trans-Atlantic, the Diaspora, and Africa—the 2013 *Callaloo* Conference, Oxford University, United Kingdom, November 29, 2013.
- “Sudden Flowers: AIDS Orphans and the Work of Mourning,” the Thought of AIDS: Humanities and the Epidemic, Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University, April 5, 2013.
- “Love Visual: A Conversation with Haile Gerima,” Love—the 2012 *Callaloo* Conference, Princeton University, October 12, 2012.
- “Looking for the Dead: Black Queer Mourning in the Early Era of AIDS,” Rabinor Lecture in American Studies, Cornell University, April 3, 2012.
- “The Feelings of Motherless Children: AIDS Orphans and their Epistles to the Dead,” Institute for Comparative Modernities, Cornell University, March 28, 2012.
- “The Art of Death and Dying,” a four-part radio lecture in Amharic on Sheger 102.1 FM, one of two private radio stations in Ethiopia, May 2011. The lectures were: “Studying Death in the Humanities,” “Slavery and its Narratives,” “AIDS Poetry in the U.S.,” and “Musho: Professional Mourners of Ethiopia.” All four lectures were initially presented in English at Alle School of Fine Arts, Addis Ababa University, March-April 2011.
- “New World Alphabet,” Transnationalizing LGBT Studies, Syracuse University, September 23, 2010.

DAGMAWI WOUBSHET

- “Making *Teza*: Narrative, Cinematography, and Music,” a conversation with filmmaker Haile Gerima, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library, New York City, April 9, 2010.
- “Owning Cultural Property—Telling Our Own Stories,” a conversation with filmmaker Haile Gerima, novelist Maaza Mengiste, and photographer Chester Higgins, Dwyer Cultural Center, New York City, April 10, 2010.
- “Literature and Politics: Ethiopian and African American Perspectives,” Sheger 102.1 FM, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July 7, 2009.
- “The Futures of Pan-Africanism,” the Intellectual’s Dilemma: Production and Praxis in the Twenty-First Century—the 2009 *Callaloo* Conference, Washington University in St. Louis, March 29, 2009.
- “Language, Discipline, and Diaspora,” Literature, Culture, and Critique—the 2008 *Callaloo* Conference, Tulane University, March 6, 2008.
- “Tizita Poetics and Diaspora Interpretations,” Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, August 2, 2007.
- “AIDS Writing and the Poetics of Compounded Loss,” Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS), the Graduate Center, City University of New York, April 17, 2007.

Conference Presentations

- “The Question of Privacy in James Baldwin’s Late Works,” James Baldwin and the Question of Privacy, American Studies Association, Los Angeles, California, November 8, 2014.
- Respondent to Fred Moten, “Preoccupied Breathing,” Society for the Humanities, Cornell University, April 19, 2014.
- Moderator to “The Barrel of a Pen: Politics and Struggle in African Writing—A Conversation with Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o and Ndirangu Wachanga,” Cornell University, April 17, 2014.
- “Examining Dimensions of the African Diaspora,” Institute of African Studies, Columbia University, New York City, February 22, 2014.
- “James Baldwin and the Making of Late Style,” Art, Activism, and Post-Civil-Rights Black Identity, Modern Language Association, Chicago, Illinois, January 9, 2014.
- “The Feelings of Motherless Children: AIDS Orphans and their Epistles to the Dead,” Looking Forward, Looking Back: Cataclysm, Representation, and African Literature, American Comparative Literature Association, Providence, Rhode Island, March 31, 2012.
- “New World Alphabet,” Looking Back/Moving Forward: The Future of Africana/Black Studies, Cornell University, April 16, 2010; Why Feminism Now? 40 Years of Women’s Studies at Cornell, Cornell University, October 30, 2009.
- “A Poetics of Compounding Loss: Melvin Dixon, Paul Monette, and the AIDS Elegy,” Poetics of HIV: Modernism Revisited, American Comparative Literature Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 2, 2010.

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- “James Baldwin and the Burdens of Public Life,” James Baldwin: In His Time/In Our Time, Suffolk University, March 21, 2009; James Baldwin Symposium, Cornell University, November 8, 2008; American Studies Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 17, 2008.
- “Themes in Contemporary Ethiopian Literature and Visual Culture,” Goethe Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, August 21, 2008.
- “AIDS Narratives and the Obituary Mode,” Midwest Modern Language Association, M/MLA Annual Convention, Cleveland, Ohio, November 10, 2007.
- “Picking up Nadine Gordimer’s *The Pick Up*,” New Student Reading Project, Cornell University, August 19, 2007; Tompkins Country Public Library, September 19, 2007; Kendal at Ithaca, November 1, 2007.
- “Tizita Poetics and Diaspora Interpretations,” James Baldwin: Work, Life, Legacies, University of London, June 30, 2007; Going Global, Going Vernacular: Appropriation and Disowning of English in Post-Colonial Contexts, Cornell University, April 27, 2007; Imaging Ethiopia: Monarchy and Modernity, Cornell University, April 21, 2007; American Studies Association, Oakland, CA, October 13, 2006.
- “The Fabulous and the Transcendent in Tony Kushner’s *Angels in America*,” Harvard University, April 2003.
- “Fiction and Catastrophe,” the Eleventh Annual Research Conference on African Studies, Boston University, March 2003.

Interview

- “Meet ETV with Tefera Gedamu,” a program on Ethiopian Television, August 2, 2013
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tdwpqw98Ffw>

Teaching

Courses

- English 1157, Introduction to African American Literature
English 1158, Contemporary African American Literature
English 2040, Introduction to American Literature: Reconstruction to the Present
English 2650, Introduction to African American Literature and Culture
English 2770, Literatures of the Black Atlantic
English 3650, The 1980s
English 3740, Contemporary African American Poetry
English 4651, American Elegy
English 4740, Contemporary Black Literature and Art
English 4750, AIDS Narratives
English 4910, James Baldwin and Toni Morrison
English 6811, James Baldwin (graduate seminar)

DAGMAWI WOUBSHET

Department & University Service

College of Arts & Sciences, Budget Advisory Committee, 2015
Black Queer Studies Search Committee, 2013-2014
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow Search Committee, 2013
Department of English Graduate Admissions Committee, 2013, 2010
Arthur Lynn Andrews Award For Fiction Committee, 2012
Pre-Major Advising Pilot Project, College of Arts and Sciences, 2011-2012
Committee on Graduate Student Teaching, 2013, 2011-2012
Senior African Americanist Search Committee, 2008-2009
Junior African Americanist Search Committee, 2008-2009
American Studies Program Core Faculty, 2007-present
Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program Core Faculty, 2007-present
Africana Graduate Field, 2008-present
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program Advisory Board, 2007-present
Faculty Fellow, Carl Becker House, 2009-2013
Cornell Hip Hop Collection Advisory Board, 2008-present
Faculty Advisor, Cornell Students Acting on AIDS, 2007-2011
Convener, "James Baldwin: A Symposium," Cornell University, November 2008
College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Admissions, 2007
The Guilford Essay Prize Committee, 2007

Professional Service

Associate Editor, *Callaloo*, 2011-present
Contributing Editor, *James Baldwin Review*, 2014-present
Board of Directors, Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS), the Graduate Center,
City University of New York, 2009-2013