

Matthew Mullins

EDUCATION

Ph.D. English, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2012
M.A. English, North Carolina State University, 2007
B.A. History of Ideas and Biblical Studies, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2005

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of English, Oklahoma Baptist University, 2024-
Associate Professor of English & History of Ideas, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2020-2024
Assistant Professor of English & History of Ideas, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2012-2020

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Enjoying the Bible: Literary Approaches to Loving the Scriptures. Baker Academic, 2021.
Reviews: *Front Porch Republic*, *Mere Orthodoxy*, *For the Church*, *Comment*, *Reformed Journal*, *JETS*, *Journal of Language, Culture, and Religion*, *Rural Theology*
Recognition: Award of Merit – *Christianity Today*'s 2022 Book Awards

Postmodernism in Pieces: Materializing the Social in U.S. Fiction. Oxford University Press, 2016.
Reviews: *American Literary History*, *American Literature*, *Contemporary Women's Writing*, *Journal of American Studies*, *MFS: Modern Fiction Studies*, *Orbit: A Journal of American Literature*

Edited Projects

"W(h)ither the Christian Right?" with Christopher Douglas. Essay cluster for *Post45: Contemporaries* (September 2022).

"Literature and the Bible" with Adrienne Miles. Special issue of *Southeastern Theological Review* 12.2 (Fall 2021).

"Postcritique." Special Focus of *American Book Review* 38.5 (July/August 2017).

Articles in Journals

"Octavia E. Butler's *Kindred* as a Prototype of HistoFuturism." *African American Review* 57.3-4 (Fall/Winter 2024): 323-336.

"Exvangelical Exodus: David Bazan and the Fallout of Culture War Christianity." *The Journal of American Culture* 47.1 (March 2024): 24-32.

"Exvangelical (De)conversion Narratives and the Religious Politics of Spiritual Autobiography." *Biography* 46.2 (2023): 249-268.

"The Pursuit of Pain: Reclaiming Belief from the Secular in Kirstin Valdez Quade's 'The Five Wounds.'" *Christianity & Literature* 72.3 (September 2023): 478-494.

“A Case for Religious Criticism.” *Textual Practice* 37.2 (February 2023): 298-316.

Reprinted in *Futures of Literary Studies*, edited by Tim Lanzendörfer and Mathia Nilges, New York: Routledge, 2025.

“Introduction: W(h)ither the Christian Right?” With Christopher Douglas. *Post45: Contemporaries* (September 22, 2022).

“Picturing the Son: The Cognitive and Affective Dimensions of Biblical Imagery.” With Michael E. Travers. *Southeastern Theological Review* 12.2 (Fall 2021): 17-34.

“Culture War on Terror.” *Post45: Contemporaries* (September 11, 2021).

“From Old to New Materialism: Rethinking Freedom after Neoliberalism.” *Open Library of the Humanities* 4.2 (October 2018): 1-27.

“Counter-Counterstorytelling: Rereading Critical Race Theory in Percival Everett’s *Assumption*.” *Callaloo* 39.2 (Spring 2016): 457-472.

“Material Foundations: Retheorizing Native Writing and Social Construction in Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Ceremony*.” *Arizona Quarterly* 70.3 (Autumn 2014): 31-53.

“Antagonized by the Text, Or, It Takes Two to Read Alice Walker’s ‘Everyday Use.’” *The Comparatist* 37 (May 2013): 37-53.

“Hunger and the Apocalypse of Modernity in Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*.” *symplokē: A Journal for the Intermingling of Literary, Cultural, and Theoretical Scholarship* 19.1-2 (2011): 75-93.

“Objects and Outliers: Narrative Community in Don DeLillo’s *Underworld*.” *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction* 51.3 (Spring 2010): 276-292.

“Boroughs and Neighbors: Traumatic Solidarity in Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*.” *Papers on Language and Literature* 45.3 (Summer 2009): 298-324.

Chapters in Books

“Historicizing the Future: Teaching Historical Consciousness in Octavia Butler’s Fiction.” *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Octavia E. Butler*. Ed. Tarshia L. Stanley. New York: MLA, 2019.

“Can Empathy Be Taught?: David Foster Wallace’s Literary Ethics.” *Approaches to Teaching the Works of David Foster Wallace*. Eds. Stephen J. Burn and Mary K. Holland. New York: MLA, 2019.

“Wallace, Spirituality, and Religion.” *The Cambridge Companion to David Foster Wallace*. Ed. Ralph Clare. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2018, pp. 190-203.

Reviews, Entries, Essays, and Public Writing

Deep Reading: Practices to Subvert the Vices of Our Distracted, Hostile, and Consumeristic Age, by Rachel B. Griffiths, Julie Ooms, and Rachel M. De Smith Roberts, in *Christianity Today* (January/February 2025).

Reading Genesis, by Marilynne Robinson, in *Christianity Today*, May 8, 2024.

Our Hearts Are Restless: The Art of Spiritual Memoir, by Richard Lischer, in *Biography* 46.2 (2023): 458-460.

“The Air We Breathe is Holy,” in *Los Angeles Review of Books Quarterly* 39 (Fall 2023).

“The Theologian and the Poet,” in *The Buechner Review* (September 2023).

“Yearning for Strength: Christianity and Critical Theory,” in *American Book Review* 44.1 (Spring 2023).

An American Martyr in Persia: The Epic Life and Tragic Death of Howard Baskerville, by Reza Aslan, in *Los Angeles Review of Books*, March 26, 2023.

“The Bible as God’s Word—and Also as Great Literature,” *False Dichotomies in the Church* Series in *The Biblical Mind* (August 2021).

“Reading the Bible like a Poem, Not an Instruction Manual,” Interview in *Christianity Today* (May/June 2021).

David Foster Wallace’s Balancing Books: Fictions of Value, by Jeffrey Severs, in *American Literary History Online Reviews* Series XXII, March 2, 2020.

“Postmodernism and Thing Theory,” in *Stanford Arcade* “Thing Theory in Literary Studies” (August 2019).

“Toni Morrison’s America,” in *The Gospel Coalition*, August 10, 2019.

“Postcritique,” entry for *Bloomsbury Handbook to Literary and Cultural Theory*, Ed. Jeffrey Di Leo Bloomsbury Academic, 2018.

So Much Blue, by Percival Everett, in *Los Angeles Review of Books*, May 3, 2018.

“How Should We Read Now?” a review of *Critique and Postcritique*, by Elizabeth S. Anker and Rita Felski, in *symplokē* 25.1-2 (2017).

“Introduction to Focus: Postcritique,” in *American Book Review* 38.5 (July/August 2017).

Public Things: Democracy in Disrepair, by Bonnie Honig, in *Los Angeles Review of Books*, June 12, 2017.

L’Heure Bleue or The Judy Poems, by Elisa Gabbert, in *The Critical Flame*, January 24, 2017.

“The Last -ism?,” in *OUPblog* Oxford Academic, August 31, 2016.

The Limits of Critique, by Rita Felski, in *Los Angeles Review of Books*, December 27, 2015.

Postmodernism, Traditional Cultural Forms, and African American Narratives, by W. Lawrence Hogue, in *American Book Review* 37.1 (November/December 2015).

The Dog, by Joseph O'Neill, in *American Book Review* 36.5 (July/August 2015).

Alien Phenomenology, or What It's Like to Be a Thing, by Ian Bogost, in *SubStance* 44.3 (Issue 138 2015).

"The Passing of the Voting Rights Act," in *First Things* Online (August 6, 2015).

From Modernity to Cosmodernity: Science, Culture, and Spirituality, by Basarab Nicolescu, in *symplokē* 23.1-2 (2015).

I'd Walk with My Friends If I Could Find Them, by Jesse Goolsby, in *Consequence Magazine*, May 29, 2015.

My Life as a Foreign Country, by Brian Turner, in *Consequence Magazine* 7 (Spring 2015).

Fives and Twenty-Fives, by Michael Pitre, in *Consequence Magazine*, December 3, 2014.

Material Difference: Modernism and Allegories of Discourse, by William Melaney, in *symplokē* 22.1-2 (2014).

Dust, by Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, in *The Critical Flame* (July 2014).

Post-Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Just-In-Time Capitalism, by Jeffrey Nealon, in *American Book Review* 34.4 (May/June 2013).

Fetishism and Its Discontents in Post-1960 American Fiction, by Christopher Kocela, in *South Atlantic Review* 76.3 (Summer 2011).

Séance: Poems, by Janice Moore Fuller, in *International Poetry Review* 34.2 (Fall 2007).

AWARDS

Christianity Today's Books of the Year, Award of Merit. Category: Beautiful Orthodoxy, 2022.

Summer Research Grant. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2020.

Excellence in Teaching Award. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2015.

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. UNCG College of Arts and Sciences, 2011-2012.

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award. UNCG English Department, 2011-2012.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"The Ghosts that We Knew: Jesmyn Ward's Anti-Secular Realism." American Comparative Literature Association Conference. May 2025.

"Neither Fact nor Fiction: The Book of Jonah as a Work of Truth." Southwestern Conference on Christianity and Literature. University of Dallas, November 2024.

"The Exvangelical Memoir: Leaving the Faith as Radical Politics." Modern Language Association. Washington D.C., January 2022.

"Expanding the Postsecular: Strong Religion and Progressive Vision in Contemporary American Fiction." Northeast Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, March 2021.

“From Metafiction to Metareading: Making Moral Readers.” International Conference on Narrative. New Orleans, March 2020.

“Octavia E. Butler’s Historical Consciousness.” Modern Language Association. Seattle, January 2020.

“The Geographical Hermeneutics of the Contemporary.” American Comparative Literature Association. Washington, D.C., March 2019.

“What Has Postcritique to Do with Postsecularism?” Modern Language Association. Chicago, January 2019.

“Periodization as Tragedy.” American Comparative Literature Association. Los Angeles, March 2018.

“Postcritical Butler.” OEB Literary Society Conference. Atlanta, February 2018.

“Have We Ever Been Postmodern(ism)?” Modernist Studies Association. Amsterdam, August 2017.

“Civil Rights in the American West: Percival Everett’s *Watershed* and the Dakota Access Pipeline.” American Literature Association. Boston, May 2017.

“Historicizing the Future: Teaching Historical Consciousness in Octavia Butler’s Fiction.” Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, January 2017.

“Reframing the Humanist Logic of Neoliberal Freedom.” American Comparative Literature Association. Cambridge, March 2016.

“Butler Beyond Critique.” Octavia Butler: Celebrating Letters, Life, and Legacy. Atlanta, February 2016.

“Rethinking *-isms*.” American Literature Association. Boston, May 2015.

“Backward-Looking Futures: Horizons of Change in Octavia Butler’s *Parable of the Sower*.” American Literature Association. Washington, D.C., May 2014.

“Idealism and Materialism: Approaches to U.S. Hegemony in Teju Cole’s *Open City*.” American Comparative Literature Association. New York, March 2014.

“Material Jazz: Reconstructing the Social in Toni Morrison’s *Jazz*.” Society for Comparative Literature and the Arts. Greensboro, October 2013.

“‘What the Hell is Water,’ LBJ?: Pedagogical Empathy in the Short Fiction of David Foster Wallace.” American Literature Association. Boston, May 2013.

“The Collapse of Otherness: Julia Alvarez’s Remaking of the Social.” American Comparative Literature Association. Providence, March 2012.

“DeLillo’s Uncollected Short Fiction.” American Literature Association. Boston, May 2011.

“Who Is My Neighbor?: Theory, Theology & Community in the 21st Century.” American Comparative Literature Association. New Orleans, April 2010.

“Narrative and Community in Jhumpa Lahiri’s *The Namesake*.” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900. Louisville, February 2010.

“Counternarratives: Benjamin and the Reproduction of Terror in DeLillo’s *White Noise* and *Falling Man*.” American Comparative Literature Association. Cambridge, March 2009.

“Children of Terror: Elementary Performances of Terror in DeLillo Before and After 9/11.” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900. Louisville, February 2009.

“Boroughs and Neighbors: Traumatic Solidarity in Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*.” American Literature Association Symposium on Fiction. Savannah GA, October 2008.

“Death Angel Samaritan: Unlikely Passage in Bernard Malamud’s ‘Idiots First.’” College English Association. St. Louis, March 2008.

“Appropriating 19th Century Narrative: Ishmael Reed’s *Flight to Canada* and the Slave Narrative Tradition.” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900. Louisville, February 2008.

“Textual Structure and the African Diaspora in Caryl Phillips’s *The Atlantic Sound*.” College English Association. New Orleans, April 2007.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Reading the Bible with Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength.” C.S. Lewis Institute. Virtual Lecture, November 2024.

“Enjoying the Bible.” C.S. Lewis Institute. Virtual Interview, May 2024.

“Literary Artistry and Biblical Authority.” Taylor University Honors Symposium. Upland, IN, April 2024.

“Enjoyment in Action.” Space City Fellows Program. Virtual Lecture & Discussion. City Church, Houston, November 2023.

Keynote and Breakout Sessions. Charlotte Mason Institute Conference. Wilmore, KY, June 2022.

“Reading with Our Guts.” Space City Fellows Program. City Church, Houston, December 2021.

“Meaning is More than Message.” Southeastern Symposium. Online, April 2020.

“The Politics of Postcritique.” Reading in the Age of Trump. Mainz, Germany, May 2019.

“Out of Place: White Spaces.” Trinity College of Florida. April 2019.

“Literary Studies and Sufficiency.” Sufficiency of Scripture Symposium. Center for Faith and Culture – Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Wake Forest, March 2019.

“How (NOT) to Talk About Race.” Panel Discussion, MLK50. Memphis, April 2018.

“How the Logic of Periodization Shapes Reception.” Mid-South Americanist Group. University of Memphis, April 2018.

“Reading and the Good Life.” Wisdom Forum. SEBTS. March 2018.

“How Education Shapes More than Our Minds: Alumni Speak about Intellectual Formation.” Celebrating 50 Years of Graduate Education in English at University of North Carolina at Greensboro, October 2016.

“Writing Habits and Publishing.” Library Talks Panel. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2015.

“Postwhat?!: Literature and Representation After 9/11.” Core Lecture Series. Ashby Residential College, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2011.

“Understanding the Profession and Applying to Ph.D. Programs.” Writing Into the Profession Graduate Student Conference, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2009, 2010, 2011.