

April Kekuewa Trepagnier
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in English

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Present

Master of Arts in English

Georgia Southern University

May 2025

Thesis Title: “The Elite and the Illicit: Women, Power, and History in Cormac McCarthy’s Border Trilogy” (defended 29 January 2025)

<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/etd/2886>

Committee: Dr. Olivia Carr-Edenfield (Chair), Dr. Lydia Cooper, Dr. Bradley Edwards, Dr. Joe Pellegrino

Bachelor of Arts in English, *summa cum laude*

Georgia Southern University Honors College

May 2023

Thesis Title: “For the Love of Stories: Re-examining Academia’s Responsibility in Presenting Literature in the 21st Century”

<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/honors-theses/886>

Advisor: Dr. Joe Pellegrino

TEACHING AND TUTORING POSITIONS

Instructor of Record

English Composition I, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2025-Present

English Composition II, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2025-Present

English Composition I, Georgia Southern University

2024-2025

English Composition II, Georgia Southern University

2024-2025

Teaching Assistant

Writing in the Workplace, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2026-Present

English Composition II, Georgia Southern University

2023-2024

Intro. to Philosophy, Georgia Southern University

2024

Intro. to Literature and Humanities, Georgia Southern University

2021

Writing Center Tutor

Lane Library, Georgia Southern University

2023-2024

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

Teaching With Generative AI

2026

Online Teaching and Course Design, University of Tennessee

2026

Online Teaching and Course Development, University of Tennessee 2026
Online Teaching and Course Development, University of Tennessee 2026

PUBLICATIONS

2025

“*The Architecture of Blame: The End of Victimhood and the Beginning of Justice.*” *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, Taylor & Francis, 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10508619.2025.2547566>.

“‘I Am the One Who Gets to Say’: Women, Power, and History in Cormac McCarthy’s *All the Pretty Horses*.” *The Cormac McCarthy Journal*, vol. 23, no. 2, 2025, pp. 151–64

“*Professing Darkness: Cormac McCarthy’s Catholic Critique of American Enlightenment* by D. Marcel DeCoste (review).” *The Cormac McCarthy Journal*, vol. 23, no. 1, March 2025, pp. 84–86.

2024

Bearing Witness to the Holocaust: Remembering, Representing, Reframing (public exhibit). Co-Author. 2 Dec. 2024 – 15 Mar 2025, Zach S. Henderson Library, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia.

2022

“The Diner.” *Calliope*, vol. xl, 2022, pp. 28-9.

“Menopausal Momentum.” *Calliope*, vol. xl, 2022, pp. 24-5.

Forthcoming

“*The Final Season: The Perseverance of Pat Summit* by Maria M. Cornelius (review).” *Women’s Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*.

“The Great Western: Sarah Borginnis and the Significance of Women in *Blood Meridian*.” *Blood Meridian at 40*, edited by Jonathan Elmore, et al., co-authored with Lydia Cooper.

“*Sister Sandra: A Black Catholic Nun and the Struggle for Equality in Church and Community* by Theresa Laurence (review).” *American Catholic Studies*.

“Carla Jean: A Character Study.” *The Oxford Handbook: Cormac McCarthy*, edited by Jonathan Elmore, et al.

Revisions Required

“The Complication of a Door: The Effects of Form and Content in Translation in *Tomb of Sand*.” *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies*.

CONFERENCES

“The Elite and the Illicit: Women, Power, and History in *All the Pretty Horses* and *Cities of the Plain*.” Cormac McCarthy Society Conference, Knoxville, TN, Oct. 2024.

“‘I’m the one who gets to say’: Women, Power, and History in Cormac McCarthy’s *All the Pretty Horses*.” *American Literature Association*, Chicago, IL, May 2024.

“Razing the Sanctuary: The Corruption of State and Church in *Measure for Measure*.” *South Central Renaissance Conference*, Savannah, GA, Apr 2024.

“For the Love of Stories: Re-examining Academia’s Responsibility in Presenting Literature in the 21st Century.” *Southern Regional Honors Conference*. Charlotte, NC, Apr 2023.

“Rhetoric Derailed: Considering Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o *Decolonising the Mind: the Politics of Language in African Literature* and Kamau Brathwaite's “Nation Language.” *Southern Regional Honors Conference*. Birmingham, AL Apr 2022.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Researcher

Department of English, University of Tennessee

Department of English, Georgia Southern University

Literary Analysis and Thematic Study

- Conducted detailed literature studies, focusing on power, gender, history, and social issues. Used various approaches to explore how different works reflect and critique cultural and political influences.
- Compared texts across cultures and time periods to understand how ideas about religion, politics, and society shape characters, stories, and broader themes.
- Implemented interdisciplinary research sources to frame literary texts, effectively situating them inside the broader narrative of historical humanity.

Archival Research

- Conducted author-specific archival research covering personal and professional materials.
- Gained experience in using various sources, including archives, libraries, and museums, to catalog and integrate primary source documents.
- Conducted field research abroad and applied effective archival methods to find and analyze historical documents, personal stories, and official records.

Rhetorical and Educational Analysis

- Critically examined how literature is taught and shared in academic settings, focusing on accessibility, teaching methods, and presenting literature that engages a wide audience.
- Compared multiple theories of pedagogy, identifying commonalities and adjustments to test the effectiveness of hybrid styles of instruction in the First Year Writing Curriculum.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Best In-Class Mentor, University of Tennessee, GSE	2026
Chip Arnold Research Award, Cormac McCarthy Society	2024
George K. Brannen English Scholarship	2024
Department of English Award	
Literature – Graduate Level	2024
University System of Georgia Academic Recognition Award,	
University System of Georgia Board of Regents	2023
New Ambassador of the Year, Georgia Southern University	2022
GSU Honors Program Scholarship	
Wexford, Ireland Study Abroad	2022

AFFILIATIONS

Fiction Editor

Grist: A Journal of the Literary Arts

2026 - Present

President

Graduate Student Organization, American Literature Association

2024 - Present

PhD Representative Graduate Students of English	2025 - Present
Member Student Library Advisory Committee, University of Tennessee	2025 - Present
Member Phi Kappa Beta	2023 - Present
President Sigma Tau Delta, Alpha Gamma Rho Chapter	2024 - 2025
Editor <i>Fledge: A Journal of Exceptional First-Year Writing</i>	2020 - 2021 2023 - 2025
Scholar Honors College, Georgia Southern University	2021 - 2023
Ambassador Georgia Southern University	2021-2023

SERVICE

Cormac McCarthy Conference Co-Organizer	2026
Arts and Science Undergraduate Research Judge	2026
Dumpster Treasures Grant Project	2026
Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Judge	2026
Honors College, Graduate School Exploratory Panel	2025

REFERENCES

Dr. Lydia R. Cooper, Professor and Director of Core Curriculum, Seattle University
206-296-5342, lcooperl@seattleu.edu

Dr. Olivia Carr Edenfield, Professor, Georgia Southern University
912-478-0155, carr@georgiasouthern.edu

Dr. Bill Hardwig, Associate Professor, University of Tennessee
865-974-5401, whardwig@utk.edu

Dr. Joe Pellegrino, Associate Professor, Georgia Southern University
912-478-5853, jpellegrino@georgiasouthern.edu