

# CURRICULUM VITAE

**Merrill Cole**  
**Professor of English**  
**Advisor, Interdisciplinary Minor in Queer Studies**  
**Western Illinois University**

Department of English  
1 University Circle  
Macomb, IL 61455-1390  
M-Cole@wiu.edu

700 N. Briarwood Dr.  
Macomb, IL 61455  
309-255-7793  
merrillcole@fastmail.fm

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*The Other Orpheus: A Poetics of Modern Homosexuality*. New York: Routledge, 2003.  
Reprint, 2017.

### Book Translations

*Quertext: Queer Voices from German-Speaking Europe*. Ed. Gary Schmidt and Merrill Cole. Intro. Gary Schmidt. Trans. Gary Schmidt, Merrill Cole, Simone Boissonneault, and Zaia Alexander. New York: Madison: U of Wisconsin P, 2021.

Berber, Anita and Sebastian Droste. *Dances of Vice, Horror, and Ecstasy*. Intro. and Trans. Merrill Cole. Newcastle, U.K.: Side Real P, 2012.

### Contributions to Books

"The Queer Repression of Jacques Lacan." *After Lacan*. New York: Cambridge UP, 2018: 95-114.

"Modernist Poetry." *Cambridge History of Gay and Lesbian Literature*. Ed. Ellen McCallum and Mikko Tuhkanen. New York: Cambridge UP, 2015: 378-401.

"The Orient of Critique: Ambivalence about the East in Wilde and Gide." *Indiscretions: At the Intersection Between Queer and Postcolonial Theory*. Ed. Murat Aydemir. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2011: 53-74.

"The Purloined Mirror." [On Edgar Allan Poe's "The Assignment."] *Short Story Criticism, Vol. 54*. Detroit: The Gale Group, 2002: 210-18.

“Nat Turner’s Thing.” *The Psychoanalysis of Race*. Ed. Christopher Lane. New York: Columbia UP, 1998: 261-81.

### Essays and Articles

“Uncapture This Image.” [On Hannah Höch and David Wojnarowicz.] *South Central Review* 32:1 (Spring 2015: Special Issue: *Dada, Surrealism, and Colonialism*, ed. Martine Antle and Katharine Conley): 23-42.

“Symptom or Inspiration? H.D., Freud, and Question of Vision.” *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 10:2 (Spring 2010).

“Remaking Sense: Gertrude Stein and the Names of the Father.” *Women’s Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 38:1 (January 2009): 84-99.

“Backwards Ventriloquy: The Historical Uncanny in Djuna Barnes’s *Nightwood*.” *Twentieth-Century Literature* 52:4 (Winter 2006): 391-412.

“Jouissance of the Commodities: Rimbaud against Erotic Reification.” *Genders* 32 (Fall 2000).

“Admiration’s Double Labor: Phaedrus in the Mirror.” *American Imago* 57:2 (Summer 2000): 121-40.

“Mythological Desire and the Male Lesbian: Reading Baudelaire’s *Femmes Damnées*.” *New Comparison* 27/28 (Spring/Autumn 1999): 139-49.

“Empire of the Closet.” [On T. S. Eliot’s *The Waste Land*.] *Discourse* 19.3 (Spring 1997): 67-91.

“The Purloined Mirror.” *Literature Interpretation Theory* 8.2 (Spring 1997): 135-51.

### Poetry

“Meditation with Medieval Plague Paintings.” *New York Quarterly*, forthcoming 2023.

“The Secret Outside.” *Interim: A Journal of Poetry and Poetics*, forthcoming 2023.

“My Censored Tumblr.” [Hybrid.] *The Thought Erotic*, forthcoming 2023.

“As If the Snow Belonged to Spring.” *Mollyhouse* 5 (February 2023).

“Dance.” *Pine Cone Review: Glissade, Special Issue on Dance* (November 2022).

“Hinge.” *Lotus-eater Magazine* 15 (May 2022).

- “Linear A.” *Lotus-eater Magazine* 15 (May 2022).
- “Man Shot First.” *Denver Quarterly* 56:1 (2021): 48.
- “Defense Mechanism.” *Metro Weekly* (July 29, 2021): 37; *Spoon River Poetry Review* 42.1 (Summer 2017): 39-40.
- “Shut Set.” All Accounts and Mixture. *Cutbank Literary Journal* (November 15, 2019).
- “Kublai Khan in Transylvania.” *The Main Street Rag* 23:2 (Spring 2018): 48; *Creative Resistance* (July 2017).
- “Lynxes.” *The Good Men Project* (September 2017).
- “Johnny in Lights.” *Spoon River Poetry Review* 42.1 (Summer 2017): 36-37.
- “The Hip Poet.” *Spoon River Poetry Review* 42.1 (Summer 2017): 38.
- “This Fabulous Shadow.” *Women’s Studies Quarterly* 45:1&2 (Spring/Summer 2017): 190-191.
- “Warm Brother.” *HIV Here & Now* (20 November 2016).
- “Dirty Bits” *concīs* (Winter 2016); *Dark Sky Magazine* (March 2010).
- “Lex Talionis.” *The Good Men Project* (November 2015).
- “Objective Correlative.” *Creative Resistance* (March 2014); *The Good Men Project* (October 2014).
- “How the Nightingales Lost Their Hands.” *HIV Here & Now* (7 June 2015); *Poetic Diversity* (April 2013).
- “The Mystery of Statistics.” Featured Poet. *Poetic Diversity* (November 2013).
- “Pirate.” Featured Poet. *Poetic Diversity*. (November 2013).
- “Edema.” *Bellevue Literary Review* 13:2 (Fall 2013): 78.
- [“The Emir’s robe stained”]. *Haiku Journal* 15 (May 2013).
- “Yellow Yo-Yo.” *Occupy Wall Street Poetry Anthology* (2011).
- “Candy Man.” *Trickhouse* 9 (Summer 2010).
- “‘Afterthought, Afterthought,’ the Children Chant.” *Action, Yes* 1:10 (Summer 2009).

- “Corporate-Administered Culture.” *Action, Yes* 1:10 (Summer 2009).
- “Encore Performance.” *Action, Yes* 1:10 (Summer 2009).
- “His Horns.” *Action, Yes* 1:10 (Summer 2009).
- “The Mannequin’s Rumor.” *Action, Yes* 1:10 (Summer 2009).
- “Mouth Marks.” *New Writing: The International Journal of the Practice and Theory of Creative Writing* 3:2 (November 2006): 123.
- “The Exam.” *Literatures of North Queensland [LiNQ]* 13:1 (May 2005): 41.
- “The Sequin Said It.” *LiNQ* 13:1 (May 2005): 42.
- “Zero’s Hold.” *LiNQ* 13:1 (May 2005): 43.
- “The Player.” *New Writing* 1:1 (2004): 44.
- “Too Tied to Luck.” *Aught* 13 (2004).
- “Archaic Torso of Barbie.” *BlazeVOX* 2K4 (Summer 2004).
- “Clarity’s Pleats.” *BlazeVOX* 2K4 (Summer 2004).
- “Refrain.” *BlazeVOX* 2K4 (Summer 2004).
- “Forlorn Hors d’Oeuvres.” *English Studies Forum* 1:1 (Spring 2004).
- “Chamber Fugue.” *Postcards for Pottersville. Volume 2*. Pottersville Press: Panama City, FL, 2003: 92.
- “The Marble Crotch.” *Postcards for Pottersville. Volume 2*. Pottersville Press: Panama City, FL, 2003: 93.
- “Bring Us More Ice.” *Curare* 1:3 (Fall 1994): 43.
- “Lucinda.” *Curare* 1:3 (Fall 1994): 43.

## **Fiction**

- “Waterfall.” *Open Minds Quarterly* 16:4 (Winter, 2015): 18-20.
- “A Gray Princess.” *Bewildering Stories* 532 (July 2013).

## Nonfiction

“The Blond Sheep.” *Mayday Magazine* 10 (Fall 2016).

“Eighty Euros.” *The Round Up Writers Zine* 2-2 (January, 2015): 9-10.

“Proof of Love.” *Gay Flash Fiction* (December 2014).

## Translation

Berber, Anita and Sebastian Droste. “Astarte.” *Berlin the Wicked City*. [Game.] Hayward, CA: Chaosium, Inc., 2018: 156.

Berber, Anita and Sebastian Droste. *Dances of Vice, Horror, and Ecstasy*. Selections. Intro. and Trans. Merrill Cole. *Action, Yes* 1:10 (Summer 2009).

## Blogs

“Don’t Self-Flagellate about White Privilege. Do Something!” *The Huffington Post* (January 20, 2015).

“Pride and Prejudice and Publication.” *H\_angm\_n Books* (September 19, 2014).

“Vision Written in Gasoline: M. L. Smoker’s “The Necessary Bullet.” *Montevidayo* (August 26, 2011).

“The Escaped Cock? Male Homoeroticism in D.H. Lawrence’s Poetry.” *Montevidayo* (August 22, 2011).

“WikiLinks and David Wojnarowicz: A Perspective from Berlin.” *The Huffington Post* (Front Page, January 11, 2011).

## LECTURES, CONFERENCE PAPERS, AND PANELS

“Surrealism and the Real of Slavery: An Intervention with Kara Walker.” The Geopolitics of Contemporary Surrealisms panel. International Society for the Study of Surrealism Conference, online, November 2021.

“Toward Revolution.” Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Macomb, IL, October 2018.

“The Drowned Dead Dreaming Backwards: Poetry and the Unconscious.” Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Macomb, IL, April 2018.

“Your Humanity, the Real One.” The Last Lecture Series. Macomb, IL, April 2015.

“Your Humanity, the Real One.” TEDx talk. WIU, Macomb, IL, April 2015.

“The Queer Event.” Poetry & Revolution panel. Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference (MSA), Boston, MA, November 2015.

Organizer. Poetry and Revolution panel. MSA. Boston, MA, November 2015.

“The Present Beside Itself.” Modernism, Affect, and Revolution seminar. MSA. Boston, MA, November 2015.

“Meeting ‘Kublai Khan in Transylvania.’” What Are You Reading? 2. MSA. Boston, MA, November 2015.

“‘Their Buttons Be Disclosed’: Illegibility in Wallace Thurman’s *Infants of the Spring*.” Marginal Masculinities panel. MSA, Pittsburgh, PA, November 2014.

“Haunted by Pocahontas: Native America in Hart Crane’s *The Bridge*.” Hart Crane’s Figures of Marginality panel. American Studies Association Conference, Washington, D.C., May 2014.

“No Ditto in Dada.” The Dada App panel. MSA, Brighton, U.K., August-September 2013.

Panel Organizer. The Dada App. MSA, Brighton, U.K., August-September 2013.

“The Uncanny Orient of Weimar Berlin.” Dada, Surrealism, and Colonialism panel. Association for the Study of Dada and Surrealism. Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention, Boston, MA, 2013.

“The Queer Lyric.” Poetry/Ethics panel. MSA Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV, October 2012.

“Queering the Occupation.” Preoccupied Conference. Berlin, Germany, June 2012.

“Queer Is A Foreign Language.” Queerness in Translation panel. Translation Studies panel. MLA, Seattle, WA, January 2012.

“No Rectification or There about It: Gertrude Stein’s Improper Names.” The Poetry of Names: Onomastic Investigations into the Work of Gertrude Stein panel. American Name Society. MLA, Seattle, WA, January 2012.

“Lust Murder Sex Dolls and Other Weimar Monstrosities.” Gender and Literary Genre in the European Avant-Garde (1900-1950). Université de Paris 13, Paris, France, January 2011—unable to attend.

- “The Escaped Cock? Questioning Male Homoeroticism in D. H. Lawrence’s Poetry.” Queering Lawrence panel. D. H. Lawrence Society of North America. MLA, Los Angeles, CA, January 2011—read *in absentia*.
- “Vision Written in Gasoline: M. L. Smoker’s ‘The Necessary Bullet.’” Native American Poetic Visions panel. MLA, Los Angeles, CA, January 2011—unable to attend.
- “Bidart’s Talisman: The Object-Cause of Desire in ‘A Coin for Joe.’” Poetics of HIV: Modernism Revisited panel. American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2010.
- “Indecent Political Propositions: Hannah Höch’s Queer Photomontages.” Dada and Surrealist Queerness panel. Association for the Study of Dada and Surrealism. MLA, Philadelphia, PA, December 2009.
- Respondent. Que(e)rying Sex: Intersectionalities and Pluralities—The Outb(l)ack panel. Division of Black Studies. MLA San Francisco, CA, December 2008.
- “Lust Murder Sex Dolls and Other Weimar Monstrosities: Anita Berber, Sebastian Droste, and Hannah Höch in Inflation-Era Berlin.” The Grotesque in Modern Poetry panel. MSA, Nashville, TN, November 2008.
- Chair and Panel Organizer. Expatriate American Women Modernists Revisited. MSA, Nashville, TN, November 2008.
- “The Lacanian Real in Literary Language.” What Is Literary Language? panel. Division of Linguistic Approaches to Literature. MLA, Chicago, IL, December 2007.
- “Against Nostalgia.” Queer Love panel. Division on Gay Studies in Language and Literature. MLA, Philadelphia, PA, December 2006.
- “Backwards Ventriloquy: The Historical Uncanny in Djuna Barnes’ *Nightwood*.” Modern History: Constructions of the Past in American Literary Modernisms panel. Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA) Annual Convention, Philadelphia, March 2006.
- “Cyborg Poetics.” The Poetic Line in the Age of New Media panel. Division on 20th-Century American Literature. MLA, Washington, D.C., December 2005.
- “Outside Our Images: The Aesthetics of AIDS in David Wojnarowicz’s *Close to the Knives*.” AIDS and Representation panel. Division of Gay Studies in Language and Literature. MLA, Philadelphia, December 2004.
- “The Orient of Critique: Homoerotic Ambivalence about the East in Wilde and Gide.” Reevaluating Modern Identity: Sex and Gender panel. MSA, Vancouver, October 2004.

“Perversion’s Permanent Target: Memory in Djuna Barnes’ *Nightwood*.” Lesbian Literature: Reconsidering Literary History and Theory panel. NEMLA, Central Connecticut State University, Hartford, March 2001.

“Imagination athwart the Norm: David Wojnarowicz’s Illicit Ethics.” Queer Ethics? panel. NEMLA, State University of New York at Buffalo, April 2000.

“Mythological Desire and the Male Lesbian: Reading Baudelaire’s ‘Femmes Damnées.’” The British Comparative Literature International Conference, “Legenda,” Reading and Writing Myth, University of Lancaster, Lancaster, U.K., July 1998.

“Empire of the Closet.” Multicultural Organization of Students Actively Involved in Change (MOSAIC) Conference, UW, April 1997.

“Romancing the Family.” Emerging Voices Student Conference, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, November 1995.

## READINGS

Poems from Johnny in Lights. On demand video. International Society for the Study of Surrealism Conference, November 2021.

Trans and Queer Poets on Gender. Panel organizer and Reader. OutWrite Conference. Facebook Live, 8 August 2021, [https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=170372925189681&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=170372925189681&ref=watch_permalink), accessed 8 August 2021.

“Merrill Cole Reads.” *SPECTRA National Poetry Month Reading 2020*. YouTube, 9 April 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ol82F3ALGU4>, accessed 9 April 2020.

Poetry Reading. Festival of Language. Off-Site. Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) Conference, Minneapolis, MN, April 2015.

Poetry Reading. a reading eXperiment. Off-Site. AWP, Minneapolis, MN, April 2015.

Poetry Reading. MLA Offsite Reading. MLA, Seattle, WA, January 2012.



## EDUCATION

### University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

Joint-Ph.D., August 1999, Department of English, and the Program in Theory and Criticism of the Department of Comparative Literature

Ph.D. Committee Chair: Leroy Searle  
 Dissertation: *The Erotics of Masculine Demise*  
 Major Field: Literary and Cultural Theory  
 Major Period: Twentieth-Century Poetry  
 Minor Period: Nineteenth-Century Poetry  
 Special Topic: Queer Theory and Studies

### Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

M.F.A. in Poetry, May 1993, Department of English

Committee Chair: Phyllis Janowitz  
 M.F.A. Thesis: *The Spectacle of Control*

### New College of the University of South Florida, Sarasota, Florida

B.A. in Literature, May 1990

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Western Illinois University Faculty Summer Stipend (to study in Germany), 2012.

Fulbright Senior Research Award to Germany, 2010-11.

Western Illinois University Faculty Summer Stipend (to study in Germany), 2008.

University of Washington Graduate School Chester Fritz Scholarship for International Exchange to France, 1998.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES

German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Greek, and Latin.

## TEACHING INTERESTS

• Poetry • Queer Studies & Theory • Comparative Literature • Modernism •  
 Psychoanalysis • Cultural Studies • Creative Writing •

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Professor, Western Illinois University (WIU), from 2007**

English 699: Graduate Thesis  
 English 620: Graduate Independent Study (Lacan)  
 English 610: Modernist Perversion  
 English 549: Queer Reading Practices  
 English 536: Queerness & Normativity (also taught as Liberal Arts & Sciences 503)  
 English 500: Theory & Practice of English Studies  
 English 485: Advanced Poetry Writing  
 English 476: Senior Seminar: The Harlem Renaissance  
 English 409: Independent Study: The Beat Movement  
 English 401G: Major Authors: Thought and Vision: The H.D. Seminar  
 English 385: Intermediate Poetry Writing  
 English 376: Professional Development Seminar  
 English 368: Studies in Literary Theory  
 English 359: LGBT Topics in Literature  
 English 355: Myths, Legends, & Literature  
 English 335: Studies in American Poetry  
 Honors 301: Queer Multiculturalism  
 English 300: The Short Story  
 English 299: Critical Methods of Reading and Writing  
 English 285: Introduction to Creative Writing  
 English 280: College Writing II: Applied Representational Analysis  
 English 275: Introduction to Queer Studies  
 English 228: Introduction to British Literature  
 English 202: Introduction to Drama  
 English 200: Introduction to Poetry  
 Queer Studies 100: Introduction to Queer Studies  
 English 100: Introduction to Writing

Lehrbeauftragter, Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig, DE, 2010

Part-Time Lecturer, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ, 2004 to 2007

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, 2004 to 2007

Adjunct, Community College of Philadelphia (CCP), PA, 2004 to 2007

Adjunct, Delaware County Community College, Marple Township, PA, Fall 2006

Instructor, Jefferson Community College, Louisville, KY, Spring and Summer 2004

Adjunct Faculty, Gulf Coast Community College, Panama City, FL Fall 2002 & Fall 2003

Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota, Morris, MN, 2001 to 2002

Acting Instructor, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 1999 to 2001

Teaching Assistant, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 1995 to 1999

Teaching Assistant, Cornell University, 1991 to 1992

## SERVICE

Chair, University Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression (UCOGOGIE), from 2020.

Member, UCOSOGIE 2020-15. Chair, Sexuality Studies University-Wide Minor Subcommittee, University Committee on Sexual Orientation (UCOSO), and University Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression (UCOSOGIE), WIU, 2015-12.

Secretary, University Committee on Sexual Orientation (UCOSO), WIU, 2009-10; 2011-13.

Co-Chair, UCOSO, WIU, 2007-09.

Executive Board Member, University Professionals of Illinois, 4100 Chapter (UPI), from 2018.

Member, Membership Committee, UPI, from 2018.

Member, Contraction Action Committee, UPI, 2017-18.

Member, UPI, from 2007.

Co-Chair, University Diversity Council (UDC), from 2020.

Member, UDC, from 2013.

Advisor, Interdisciplinary Minor in Queer Studies, WIU, from 2015.

Member, Academic Advisory Board, Jewish Voice for Peace, from 2015.

Faculty Advisor, WIU College Democrats, 2016-20.

Member, Coordinating Committee, Department of English, WUI, 2016-17.

Member, Graduate Committee, Department of English & Journalism (E&J), WIU, 2014-15.

Organizer, Fred Ewing and Lola Austin Case Writer-in-Residence, E&J, WIU, 2009, 2011, 2013-14.

Minority Health Month Planning Committee, WIU 2012-13.

Chair, English Committee, E&J, WIU, 2011-12.

Member, Undergraduate Committee, E&J, WIU, 2009-10.

Search Committee Member, Fiction Writer Search, E&J, WIU, 2008-09.

Search Committee Member, American Fiction Search, E&J, WIU, 2007-08.

Amnesty International OUTfront Coordinator for Philadelphia, 2006-2007.

Queer Issues Subcommittee of the Student Services Committee at the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM), 2001-02.

Faculty Advisor, Equality Student Organization, UMM, 2001-02.

Health Global Access Project (HealthGAP Coalition) member, 1999-2000; Official Observer at the Seattle World Trade Organization Convention, representing the Health Global Access Project, 1999.

UW Queer Curriculum Committee, 1997.

Cornell University A.I.D.S. Advisory Committee, 1991-1992.

## REFERENCES

Martine Antle, Professor of French and Francophone Studies  
School of Languages and Cultures  
University of Sydney  
Room 506, Brennan MacCallum Building A18  
NSW 2006 Australia  
martine.antle@gmail.com

Kate Conley, Dean of Arts & Sciences  
Professor of French and Francophile Studies  
College of William & Mary  
P.O. Box 8795  
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795  
757-221-2470; kconley@wm.edu

Jonathan Eburne, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and English  
Pennsylvania State University  
446 Burrowes Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
814-863-0968; eburne@psu.edu