

Kristen “Kay” R. Barrett

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English Literature , Stanford University PhD Minor in Art & Art History Dissertation: “Dark Flights: Black Women’s Fugitivity in Speculative Narratives”	<i>expected 2027</i>
M.Sc., Intermediality , University of Edinburgh Thesis: “Adaptation, Appropriation, and Anti-Heroes: The Long (Ret)Con of DC’s <i>Watchmen</i> ”	<i>Nov 2022</i>
M.St., English (1830-1914) with distinction, University of Oxford Thesis: “Lovers and Mothers: Black American and Irish Perspectives in the New Woman Movement”	<i>Nov 2021</i>
B.A., English with highest distinction, University of Virginia Minor in Drama	<i>May 2020</i>

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

"Mythologies Uplifted: The New Woman of the Margins in Sarah Grand's <i>The Heavenly Twins</i> and Frances E. W. Harper's <i>Iola Leroy</i> ." <i>Studies in the Novel</i> , vol. 56 no. 4, 2024, p. 397-406, https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/sdn.2024.a948002 .	<i>Dec 2024</i>
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Book Chapters

“Transient Figures: Vampirism and Narratives of Passing in Ryan Coogler’s <i>Sinners</i> .” <i>The Sinners Reader</i> , edited by DeAnna Daniels and Nicole Huff	<i>In Preparation</i>
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SCHOLARSHIPS

Knight-Hennessy Scholarship , Stanford University Largest fully-endowed graduate fellowship in the world; three-year competitive fellowship (70 out of 6,742 applicants) for Stanford graduate students	<i>2022-2026</i>
Marshall Scholarship , University of Oxford & University of Edinburgh Two-year competitive scholarship (46 out of 1000+) for American students to pursue postgraduate study at UK universities; funded by the British government	<i>2020-2022</i>
Jefferson Scholarship , University of Virginia Four-year competitive scholarship (34 out of 1825) for undergraduate study	<i>2016-2020</i>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Stanford University, Department of African and African American Studies
& Department of English – all courses independently designed

AFRICAAM 147: Black Women Visionaries in Afrofuturism *Winter 2027*

ENGLISH 5RA: Race & Technology in the African American Literary Tradition *Fall 2025*

AFRICAAM 146/FILMEDIA 146: The Black Fantastic: Sci-Fi, Horror, and Fantasy in the Black Diaspora *Spring 2025*

Castilleja High School (independent all-girls middle and high school),
English Department

Advanced Topic Senior Seminar: Black Women Writers & Culture *Fall 2025/Fall 2026*

Advanced Topic Senior Seminar: Afrofuturism *Spring 2026/
Spring 2027*

Teaching Assistant

Stanford University, Department of English

ENGLISH 161/COMPLIT 161E: Narrative and Narrative Theory, Instructor: Nichole Nomura *Winter 2024*

ENGLISH 159: James Baldwin & Twentieth Century Literature, Instructor: Michele Elam *Winter 2023*

GRANTS & HONORS

“Decoding Digital Blackface in the Age of Generative AI,” AI in Teaching and Learning at Stanford, Stanford Accelerator for Learning *2026*
Awarded \$3,000 grant to write an academic article and develop a curriculum on the production of digital blackface through generative AI

Academic Achievement Award, Office of Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Black Community Services Center *2026*
For exceptional academic and intellectual achievement through cutting-edge research in a particular field of study

Co-Chair of Colonialism, Post, and Anti, in the Digital Age Workshop, 2024-2025
Stanford Humanities Center

Awarded \$16,000 funding to host leading scholars in Black studies, postcolonial studies, and digital humanities, such as André Brock Jr., Bryan Carter, and Kelly Baker Josephs

Rising Leaders Program, Leading Women Defined 2025

Outstanding Teaching Award, Stanford's Department of African and 2025
African American Studies

Student Organization Leadership Award, Stanford Black Community 2024
Services Center

Andrew Smith Memorial Essay Prize, Stanford Department of English 2023
Best essay written by a 1st year English PhD or Master's Student

INVITED LECTURES & TALKS

"Afrofuturism and Black Ecologies," Stanford Doerr School of Oct 2024
Sustainability, Invited Lecture

"Reflections on Sylvia Wynter and the Question of Technology," Sylvia May 2026
Wynter: Being Human Speaker Series, Stanford Department of English,
Invited Co-Panelist with Tavia Nyong'o

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS

**"The Moral Question of Infanticide in Speculative Black Jan 2027
Motherhood,"** Modern Language Association, Los Angeles, CA

**"Craftian Hauntology: Hannah Crafts' *The Bondwoman's Narrative* Jan 2026
and the Afro-Gothic Novel,"** Modern Language Association, Toronto,
ON

**"'It's Not Supernatural'": Racial Hauntings in Mariama Diallo's Nov 2025
Master (2022),** American Studies Association, San Juan, PR

**"Fanon and Sharpe in Film: Jordan Peele's *Get Out* and Zoe Kravitz's July 2025
Blink Twice as Cinema in/of the Wake,"** Caribbean Philosophical
Association, Fort-de-France, Martinique

**"The Haunted Plantation: Afro-Gothic Geographies in Hannah May 2025
Crafts' *The Bondwoman's Narrative*,"** American Literature Association,
Boston, MA

**"'We Aren't Human': The Superwoman Schema and N. K. Dec 2024
Jemisin's *The Fifth Season*,"** Science Fiction Foundation, Liverpool,
UK

“‘It’s Alive’: Black Monstrosity in Bomani Story’s *The Angry Black Girl and Her Monster*,” Festival of Monsters, University of California-Santa Cruz, CA

Oct 2024

ACADEMIC SERVICE

University & Departmental Service

Diversity & Advocacy Co-Chair, Graduate Student Council *2023-2025*

Elected Humanities representative for the School of Humanities and Sciences; Co-authored a resolution on admissions reform in response to SFFA v. Harvard; Co-founded a working group on free speech with the Undergraduate Senate, Stanford ACLU, and the Associate Vice Provost for Inclusion, Community, and Integrative Learning

Member, Curriculum Committee, Stanford Department of English *2023-2024*

Member, DEI Committee, Knight-Hennessy Scholarship *2022-2024*

Mentorship

Writing Tutor, Stanford-CUNY Summer Research Initiative *Summer 2024*

Trained CUNY undergraduates of underrepresented backgrounds in secondary research and graduate-level analysis as they completed an independent research project

Workshops & Conferences

Founder & Graduate Coordinator of Afrofutures Now *2024-2026*

Workshop, Office of Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Black Community Services Center

Founded a graduate student working group on Afrofuturism theory and praxis; Recruited an interdisciplinary membership spanning History, Computer Science, Law, Education, and Religious Studies; Organized biweekly programming, including discussions of *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler and a workshop with Afrofuturism scholar, Reynaldo Anderson; Collaborated with local Afrofuturism Discovery Academy, led by educator Sherinda Bryant

Organizer, Otherworlds: 2023 Stanford-Berkeley English Graduate Conference *April 2023*

Hosted annual literature conference with English PhD peers at Stanford and Berkeley; Managed outreach and communication with our keynote speakers, Dr. Zamansele Nsele (Berkeley) and sci-fi author Ken Liu

Leadership

Co-Founder, Open Middle Grade + Young Adult, Knight-Hennessy Scholarship *2022-2025*

Keystone research project with Knight-Hennessy Scholarship; Researched and outlined an original middle-grade science fiction novel with interdisciplinary team of story developers and research subject experts; Organized book marketing campaigns for debut authors with independent publishers

President, 2022 Marshall Scholars Cohort *2020-2022*

Founded first orientation program with speaker events and scholar panels to familiarize incoming scholars with social views about race, gender, class, sexuality, and religion in the United Kingdom; Co-founded first mutual aid fund to defray costs-of-living during the pandemic; Co-authored extensive report on the state of the Marshall's inclusivity, summarizing two years' worth of previous scholars' advocacy and identifying five areas of reform

MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association	<i>2025-Present</i>
American Literature Association	<i>2025-Present</i>
American Studies Association	<i>2025-Present</i>
Society for Cinema and Media Studies	<i>2026-Present</i>
Caribbean Philosophical Association	<i>2024-Present</i>
Society for the Study of the American Gothic	<i>2024-Present</i>

REFERENCES

Michele Elam
Senior Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
William Robertson Coe Professor in the Humanities
Dept of English
Dept of African & African-American Studies
Senior Fellow, Institute for Human-Centered AI
Stanford University
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Ramón Saldívar
The Hoagland Family Professor of Humanities and Sciences
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Cultures (by courtesy)
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