

Gerald Early

Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters
African and African American Studies Department
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Interests

19th and 20th century African American and American literature
American and African American children's literature
African Americans and War, specifically African Americans and the Korean War
American popular culture particularly popular music and sports
Conservatism in American Society

Education

Ph.D. in English literature, 1982, Cornell University (Major subject: 19th century American literature and 19th and 20th century Afro-American literature)

M.A. in English literature, 1980, Cornell University

B.A. in English literature, cum laude with distinction, 1974, University of Pennsylvania

Experience (Academic Appointments)

Fall 2016-present – Chair, African and African American Studies Department

Fall 2014-Spring 2016--Director, African and African American Studies Program, Washington University

Fall 2003-Spring 2012 – Director, Center for the Humanities, Washington University (formerly known as the International Writers Center)

Fall 2005-Spring 2007 – Director, Center for Joint Projects in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Washington University (now called the Center for Programs)

Spring 2001-Fall 2003 – Director, International Writers Center, Washington University

Fall 2000-Spring 2002 – Co-Director, American Culture Studies Institute, Washington University

Spring 1996-present – Merle S. Kling Professor of Modern Letters, Washington University

Fall 1992-Spring 1999 – Director of the African and African American Studies Program, Washington University

Fall 1990- 1996 – Director of the American Culture Studies Program, Washington University

Fall 1990 – (Full) Professor of English and African and Afro-American Studies, Washington University

1988-1990 – Associate Professor of English and African and Afro-American Studies, Washington University

1984-1988 – Assistant Professor of English and African and Afro-American Studies, Washington University.

Fall 1982-1984 – Assistant Professor, Black Studies, Washington University

Spring 1982 – Instructor, Black Studies, Washington University

Editorships and Literary and Academic Boards

2013-present – Executive Editor, *The Common Reader*, an online and print journal of Washington University (Themed issues published online twice yearly; mixed content issues published online monthly; print annual of the best of The Common Reader) commonreader.wustl.edu

Chairman, Publication Committee, Washington University (I was assigned by the Chancellor to start a new interdisciplinary journal for the university under the auspices of the Office of the Provost; I am in charge of hiring staff for the journal, creating an editorial board and a budget, and leading the Publication Committee in designing both the form and the content of the journal. I will serve as the publication's initial editor.) 2012-2013

Member, Publication Committee, *Daedalus: the Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, 2009-present

Publisher, Washington University's Undergraduate Research Journals, *Slideshow* (the journal of the Honors Undergraduate Fellowship Program) and *The Inquiry* (the journal of the Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program), 2002-2012, both under the supervision of the Center for the Humanities

Editor, *Belles Lettres: A Literary Review*, the bi-annual publication of the Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis

Member, Advisory Board, *The Antioch Review*, 1994-present

Member, Board of Trustees, *Missouri Historical Society*, 2000-present

Member, Board of Governors, *Negro Leagues Baseball Museum*, Kansas City, 2002-present

Member, Board of Trustees, *Negro Leagues Baseball Museum*, Kansas City, 1999-2002

Member, *American Studies Association Council*, 1996-1999

Member, *Jazz Study Group, Columbia University*, organized by Robert O'Meally, 1993--2002

Board of Advisory Editors, *Gateway Heritage*, the magazine of the Missouri Historical Society, 1995-2002

Board of Advisory Editors, *American Quarterly*, Journal of the American Studies Association, 1993-1996

Board of Advisory Editors, *American Studies*, University of Kansas, 1993-present

Board of Advisory Editors, *Nine: A Journal of Baseball History and Social Policy Perspectives*, 1994-present

Board of Advisory Editors, *Journal of Sport History*, 1996-present

Contributing Editor, *Hungry Mind Review*, 1990-2000

Contributing Editor, *Civilization Magazine*, 1994-1998

Contributing Editor, *U. S. News and World Report*, 1998-2000

Series Editor, Dark Tower Series of African American Literature, Ecco Press, 1990-1998

Books that have been republished under my editorship for this series:

The Life and Loves of Mr. Jiveass Nigger by Cecil Brown

Tragic Magic by Wesley Brown

A Drop of Patience by William Melvin Kelley

Blueschild, Baby by George Cain

Board of Advisory Editors, *The Oxford Companion to African-American Literature*

Awards and Honors

2018 Tradition of Literary Excellence Award (Given by the University City Municipal Arts and Letters Commission)

2018 Excellence in Civic Engagement Leadership Award (Given by the Royal Vagabonds, Inc, an African American civic group)

2013 Bronze Star and Plaque, the St. Louis Walk on Fame (The St. Louis Walk of Fame, a nonprofit enterprise founded by Joe Edwards in 1988, honors individuals from the St. Louis area who have made major national

contributions to the cultural heritage of the United States with embedded plaques located in the Delmar Loop. Currently, about 200 St. Louisans have been so recognized.)

2012 Lifetime Achievement Award, St. Louis American Foundation

(The St. Louis American is the leading African American newspaper of St. Louis. Its awards program is the largest and the most prestigious of the local minority community.)

2009 Lifetime Achievement in the Arts, Webster Groves Arts Commission

2008 Excellence in the Arts Award, Arts and Education Council, St. Louis, Missouri

2007 Distinguished Service to Education Award, Harris-Stowe State University

2006 Phi Beta Kappa Evelyn and William Jaffe Medal for Distinguished Service to the Humanities, awarded triennially

Grammy Award Nomination, 2001, Best Album Liner Notes, *Rhapsodies in Black: Music and Words of the Harlem Renaissance*, Rhino Records

Grammy Award Nomination, 2000, Best Album Liner Notes, *Yes I Can: The Sammy Davis, Jr. Story*, Rhino Records

“The Frailty of Human Friendship,” originally published in the ***Hungry Mind Review***, 1997, republished in ***The Anchor Essay Annual: The Best of 1998***, edited by Phillip Lopate, (New York: Anchor/Doubleday Books, 1998), pp. 239-248.

Arthur Holly Compton Faculty Award, Washington University, 1997

Elected Member to the ***American Academy of Arts and Sciences***, 1997 (Class 4, Section 3, Philology and Criticism)

“Understanding Afrocentrism or Why Blacks Dream of a World Without Whites,” first published in ***Civilization***, July-August 1995, republished by Houghton Mifflin in ***Best American Essays of 1996***, Geoffrey Ward and Robert Atwan, editors

Distinguished Faculty Award, Washington University, 1995

“Life With Daughters: Watching the Miss America Pageant,” in ***The Best American Essays, College Edition***, edited by Robert Atwan, Houghton Mifflin, 1995, pp. 411-429

1994 National Book Critics' Circle for Criticism for ***The Culture of Bruising*** (Ecco Press)

“Their Malcolm, My Problem: On the Abuses of Afrocentrism and Black Anger,” first published in ***Harper's***, December 1992, republished by Ticknor and Fields in ***Best American Essays of 1993***, Joseph Epstein and Robert Atwan, editors

Publications (Books and Selected Articles and Essays)

"How Innocence became Cool: Vince Guaraldi, Peanuts, and How Jazz Momentarily Captured Childhood" in Andrew Blauner (ed.) *The Peanuts Papers: Charlie Brown, Snoopy & the Gang, and the Meaning of Life*, forthcoming, Library of America, Fall 2019

"I'm a Loser" in Andrew Blauner (ed.), *In Their Lives: Great Writers on Great Beatles Songs*, Blue Rider Press, 2017, pp. 31-48

"Why Ferguson Was Ready to Explode," *Time*, August 14, 2014, <http://time.com/3111727/ferguson-missouri-michael-brown-hyper-segregated/>

"Miles Davis in the Ring" in *Miles Davis: The Complete Illustrated History*, Voyageur Press, 2012, pp. 188-191

A Level Playing Field: African American Athletes and the Republic of Sports (Alain Locke Lecture Series), Harvard University Press, 2011

"The Ethics of Reading a Grammar Book: Five Notes on the Black American as the Stranger Abroad," in *Die Ethik der Literatur: Deutsche Autoren der Gegenwart*, edited by P.M. Lützeler and Jennifer Kapczynski, Wallstein Verlag, 2011

"The Madness in the American Haunted House: The New Southern Gothic and the Young Adult Novel of the 1960s: A Personal Reflection," in *On Harper Lee: Essays and Reflections*, edited by Alice Hall Petry, University of Tennessee Press, 2007

"On Literature and Childhood," *Daedalus* 133:1 (Winter 2004)

One Nation Under a Groove: Motown and American Culture, revised and expanded edition, University of Michigan Press, 2004

"The 1960s, African Americans, and the American Comic Book," in *The Rubber Frame: Essays in Culture and Comics*, edited by D.B. Dowd and M. Todd Hignite, Washington University in St. Louis, 2004

This is Where I Came In: Black America in the 1960s, University of Nebraska Press, 2003 (three invited lectures delivered at the University of Nebraska as part of their Abraham Lincoln Lectures Series)

One Nation Under a Groove: Motown and American Culture, Ecco Press, 1995

Daughters: On Family and Fatherhood, Addison-Wesley, Spring 1994

The Culture of Bruising: Essays on Literature, Prizefighting, and Modern American Culture, Ecco Press, Spring 1994 (collection of essays on boxing, literature, music, and culture; winner of the 1994 National Book Critic's Circle Award)

Tuxedo Junction: Essays on American Culture, The Ecco Press, January 1990

Publications (Edited Works)

The Cambridge Companion to Boxing, Cambridge University Press, 2019 (including original essays on boxing by Elliott Gorn, Randy Roberts, Wil Haygood, Rebecca Wanzo, Rosalind Early, Tony Gee, Ben Cawthra, Adam Chill, Byron J. Nakamura, Carlo Rotella, Troy Rondinone, Benita Heiskanen, Adeyinka Makinde, Kasia Boddy,

Leger Grindon, Colleen Aycock, Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Scott D. Emmert, Mark Scott, Michael Ezra, Lewis A. Erenberg, Louis Moore, Steven A. Riess, and Cathy van Ingen)

Matthew Calihman and Gerald Early (ed.), *Approaches to Teaching Baraka's Dutchman*, The Modern Language Association of America, 2018

Guest editor, *Daedalus: Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, special issue, "Race in the Age of Obama" (Winter 2011). Contributors include Eric Sundquist, Clarence Walker, Farah Jasmine Griffin, Tommy Shelby, Jeffrey Ferguson, David Hollinger, James Alan McPherson, et al.)

Best African American Fiction, 2010, guest editor Nikki Giovanni, Bantam Books, 2010 (compilation of the best fiction by writers dealing with African American characters. I served as series editor, selecting the guest editor, providing the guest editor with selections, providing annotations when necessary.)

Best African American Essays, 2010, guest editor Randall Kennedy, Bantam Books, 2010 (compilation of the best essays by writers dealing with African American themes.)

Best African American Fiction, 2009, guest editor E. Lynn Harris, Bantam Books, 2009

Best African American Essays, 2009, guest editor Debra Dickerson, Bantam Books, 2009

The Sammy Davis, Jr. Reader, Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2001 (a compilation of articles about and interviews with the famed entertainer, from the 1950s to the 1980s)

Miles Davis and American Culture Missouri Historical Society Press, distributed by University of Missouri Press, 2001 (with original essays by John Gennari, Ingrid Monson, Waldo E. Martin, Jr., Eric Porter, Martha Bayless, Farah Jasmine Griffin, William Howard Kenney, Eugene B. Redmond, and Benjamin Cawthra as well as interviews with Ron Carter, Quincy Jones, Clark Terry, Ahmad Jamal, and Joey DeFrancesco)

Ain't But A Place: An Anthology of African American Writings About St. Louis, Missouri Historical Society Press, distributed by University of Missouri Press, 1998 (with selections from works by Ntozake Shange, Eddy Harris, Dick Gregory, Chuck Berry, Tina Turner, Bob Gibson, Archie Moore, William Wells Brown, Lucy Delany, Roy Wilkins, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston, Quincy Troupe, Miles Davis, Josephine Baker, Curt Flood, Jackie Joyner-Kersee, Nathan Young, Herman Dreer, Julius Hunter, W. E. B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, Eugene Redmond, and others)

The Muhammad Ali Reader, paperback edition, Rob Weisbach Books, 1998

The Muhammad Ali Reader, Ecco Press, 1998 (with essays by Jackie Robinson, Tom Wolfe, Jose Torres, Gay Talese, Joyce Carol Oates, Ishmael Reed, Gordon Parks, Norman Mailer, Pete Hamill, George Plimpton, Irwin Shaw, and others on the former heavyweight champion)

Body Language: Writers on Sports, Greywolf Press, 1998 (featuring commissioned essays by Anthony Walton, James McPherson, Wayne Fields, Jonis Agee, David Foster Wallace, and others)

Lure and Loathing: Essays on Race, Identity, and Ambivalence of Assimilation, Allen Lane: Viking Press, 1993 (with essays by Molefi Asante, Toni Cade Bambara, Ella Pearson Mitchell, Kenneth R. Manning, Nikki Giovanni, Stanley Crouch, Itaberi Njeri, James McPherson, Glenn Loury, Wanda Coleman, Michael S. Harper, Wilson J. Moses, Stephen Carter, and Henry Louis Gates)

Speech and Power: The African-American Essay and Its Cultural Content from Polemics to Pulpit, Vol. 2,
Ecco Press, 1993 (collection of essays by black American writers from the turn of the century to the present)

Speech and Power: The African-American Essay and Its Cultural Content from Polemics to Pulpit, Vol. 1,
Ecco Press, 1992 (collection of essays by black American writers from the turn of the century to the present)

"My Soul's High Song": The Selected Writings of Countee Cullen, Voice of the Harlem Renaissance,
Doubleday, January 1991 (annotated collection of Cullen's work with introduction and bibliography)