CURRICULUM VITAE

Nghana tamu Lewis Professor English Department and Africana Studies (504) 782-6564 <u>nlewis2@tulane.edu</u> <u>www.nghanalewis.com</u>

EDUCATIONAL RECORD

BA	1994	English, Tulane University, <i>magna cum laude</i> (with honors)
MA	1996	English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
PhD	2001	English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
JD	2007	Loyola University College of Law, New Orleans
MJS	2025	Duke University, Bolch Judicial Institute

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE & APPOINTMENTS

2001-2005	Assistant Professor, Department of English, Louisiana State University
2005-2008	Assistant Professor, (jointly appointed) English Department and African &
	African Diaspora Studies Program, Tulane University
2009-2025	Associate Professor, (jointly appointed <i>with tenure</i>) English Department and
	Africana Studies Program, Tulane University
2009-2010	Adjunct Professor, Teacher Preparation and Certification Program, Tulane
-	University
2010-2014	Suzanne & Stephen Weiss Presidential Fellow & Associate Professor
-	(Endowed), English Department and African & African Diaspora Studies
	Program, Tulane University
2011-	Adjunct Professor, Department of Psychology, Tulane University
2011-2014	The Louise and Leonard Riggio Professorship (Endowed), Social
-	Innovation & Social Entrepreneurship Program, Tulane University
2013-	Affiliated Faculty, School of Law, Tulane University
2025-	Professor, English Department and Africana Studies, Tulane University
UNIVERSITY A	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Director , African & African Diaspora Studies Program, Tulane University
Interim Chair, Social Innovation & Social Entrepreneurship Program, Tulane
University
Director , Undergraduate Studies, English Department, Tulane University
Associate Chair, English Department, Tulane University

OTHER PROFESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

2005-	Executive Director , The ESSENCE Program (www.theessenceprogram.org)
2009-2012	Independent Contractor, Public Defender Office, 40th JDC, St. John the
	Baptist Parish, Felony Division
2012-	Founder and Chair, Black Women's Health Conference Task Force
	(www.theblackwomenshealthconference.com)
2017-2019	Instructor, New Orleans Police Department Training Academy

2021-	District Judge , 40 th Judicial District Court, St. John the Baptist Parish
2022-	Founder and Director, Political Economy & Access to Justice Judicial
	Education Seminar (www.peajjes.com)
2022-2023	Chief District Judge , 40 th Judicial District Court, St. John the Baptist Parish
2025-	

PUBLICATIONS

Books

1. Entitled to the Pedestal: Place, Race, and Progress in White Southern Women's Writing, 1920-1945. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2007.

2. Black Women's Health in the Age of Hip Hop & HIV/AIDS: A Narrative Remix. Columbus: The Ohio State University Press, 2025.

Refereed Journal Articles

1. "'We Must Speak with the Same Weapons': Re-Inscribing Resistance in Zora Neale Hurston's *Dust Tracks on a Road.*" *CLA Journal* 45.3 (March 2002): 311-328.

2. "She'll Take Her Stand: Gwen Bristow's Neoagrarianism and Visions of Modernity." *Mississippi Quarterly* 61.1 (Winter 2002-03): 77-104.

3. "In a Different Chord: Interpreting the Relations among Black Female Sexuality, Agency, and the Blues." *African American Review* 37.4 (Winter 2003): 599-609.

4. "Mythic Consciousness, Cultural Politics: The Early Novels of Caroline Gordon." *Southern Quarterly* 42.2 (Winter 2004): 115-134.

5. "We Shall Pave the Way: Toward an Aesthetics of Civil Rights Politics in Willa Cather's *Sapphira and the Slave Girl* and Lillian Smith's *Strange Fruit.*" *Arizona Quarterly* (Winter 2004): 33-64.

6. "The Rhetoric of Mobility, the Politics of Consciousness: Julia Mood Peterkin and the Case of a White Black Writer." *African American Review* 38.4 (Winter 2004): 535-57.

7. "Neo-Slave Drama: Narratives of Resistance in Alice Childress's *Wedding Band*." *Journal of American Drama and Theatre* 17.1 (Winter 2005): 79-95.

8. (with Sika Dagbovie) "Out of *EDEN*: The Emergence of Olympia Vernon and Black Woman Love." *Mississippi Quarterly* 59.4 (Fall 2006): 505-521.

9. "You Sell Your Soul Like You Sell a Piece of Ass': Rhythms of Black Female Subjectivity and Sexuality in Me'Shell Ndgeocello's *Cookie: The Anthropological Mixtape.*" *Black Music Research Journal* 26.1 (Winter 2006): 111-130.

10. "Truth, Lies, and Racial Consequences in Ernest Hemingway's: *True at First Light: A Fictional Memoir.*" *Comparative American Studies* 4.4 (2006): 459-470.

11. "After *Brown*: Poverty, Politics, and Performance in New Orleans Public Schools." *Louisiana History* 48.2 (Spring 2007): 157-191.

12. "Facts and Fiction: Literary Instructions on Public School Integration in Ernest Hill's *Satisfied* with Nothin'." Law and Literature 20.1 (Spring 2008): 115-126.

13. "An Issue of Environmental Justice: Understanding the Relationship among HIV/AIDS Infection in Women, Water Distribution, and Global Investment in Rural Sub-Saharan Africa." *Black Women, Gender, and Families* 3.1 (Spring 2009): 39-64.

14. "After Katrina: Poverty, Politics, and Performance in New Orleans Public Schools." *Loyola Journal of Public Interest Law* 11.2 (Spring 2010): 285-318.

15. "Plantation Performance in Langston Hughes' *Mulatto*." *CLA Journal* 55.3 (March 2012): 279-295.

Book Chapters

1. (Invited) "There Was No Place for Cholly's Eyes to Go: (Black-on-Black) Crime & (Black Male) Displacement in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*." In *Interpreting Exile: Displacement and Deportation in Biblical and Modern Contexts*. Edited by Brad E. Kelle, Frank Ritchel Ames, and Jacob L Wright. Atlanta, GA: Society of Biblical Literature Press, 2011. 423-440.

2. (Invited) "Prioritized: The Hip Hop (Re)Construction of Black Womanhood in *Girlfriends* and *The Game*." In *Watching While Black: Centering the Television of Black Audiences*. Edited by Beretta Smith-Shomade. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2012: 157-171.

3. (Invited) "Race & Ethnicity: Africans." *Ernest Hemingway in Context*. Edited by Debra Moddelmog and Suzanne del Gizzo. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012: 315-322.

4. (Invited) ""Trying to Find Relief': Seeing Black Women through the Lens of Mental Health and Wellness in *Being Mary Jane* and *Insecure.*" In *Watching While Black Rebooted: The Television and Digitality of Black Audiences*. Edited by Beretta Smith-Shomade. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. 2023. 91-105.

Works in Progress

1. Black Women's Mental Health and Wellness: A Black Popular Culture Redux (under contract, Palgrave MacMillan)

2. Strange Bedfellows: Black Women's Narrative, Bruen, and the Right to Bear Arms (in progress)

3. "Won't Somebody Please Think of the Children?": A Model for Adequately Accounting for the Costs and Benefits of Juvenile Justice in the State of Louisiana (in progress)

INVITED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, SEMINARS

- **2002** Plenary Session Commemorating 21st Anniversary Publication of Anne Goodwyn Jones' *"Tomorrow is Another Day."* Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference, Lafayette, LA
- **2004** "There Was a Conspiration Formed Amongst the Negroes to Massacre All the White People': Black Resistance, White Response in Louisiana, 1795-1850." One-Day Conference, Urbana, IL
- **2005** "The State of Southern Studies in the 21st Century." Plenary Session, Southern States Communication Association Convention. Baton Rouge, LA
- **2006** "Progress without Due Process? The Illicit Intent of the No Child Left Behind Act." Florida Atlantic University. Boca Raton, FL
- **2007** "Writing Entitled to the Pedestal: Place, Race, and Progress in White Southern Women's Writing." Louisiana Book Festival. Baton Rouge, LA
- **2008** "African American Women Writers: Colonial to the Present." Southeastern Louisiana University. Hammond, LA
- **2009** "Encounter in Louisiana: Readings in Literature and Culture." East Jefferson Regional Library. Metairie, LA (Sponsored by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities)
- **2009** "There Was No Place for Cholly's Eyes to Go: (Re)Centering the Black Male Perspective in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*." War in Ancient Israel Section, Society of Biblical Literature Conference. New Orleans, LA
- **2009** "Black Women's Health in the Age of Hip Hop & HIV/AIDS." Society of Young Black Public Health Professionals Lecture Series, New Orleans, LA
- **2009** "After Katrina: Poverty, Politics, and Performance in New Orleans Public Schools." Reconstructing Education in New Orleans: Post-Katrina: Lessons in Education Reform. Loyola University College of Law, New Orleans, LA

- "From Individuals to Nation States: What Motivates, Sustains, and Discourages Care-Giving and Care Receiving." American Psychological Association, Division IX, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Biennial Convention, New Orleans, LA
- **2010** Panel Discussion Commemorating the 50th Anniversary Publication of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mocking Bird*. Sponsored by HarperCollins. Latter Library, New Orleans, LA
- "I'm Just a Bad Bitch!": Sexual Empowerment, Sexual Risk, and the Paradoxes of Black Girl Identity in Sister Souljah's *The Coldest Winter Ever*. Common Ground Sixth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences. University of New Orleans. New Orleans, LA
- "Pipe Bending: The Paradoxical Effects of School Choice in Post-Katrina New Orleans." National Lawyers Guild. New Orleans, LA
- "Transnational Perspectives on the Future of the Gulf South." One-Day Conference Sponsored by the United Kingdom Arts & Humanities Research Council and New Orleans Center for the Gulf South. New Orleans, LA
- "Prison Isn't Just for Prison Anymore: Re-Entry Louisiana Style." National Association of Women Judges Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA
- "The Judge as Public Servant." National Association of Women Judges Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA
- 7 (Panelist) "Making Lemonade: Race, Gender, and the Deep South in Beyoncé's Visual Album." New Orleans, LA
- "I Need Help, Dog: Common Sense Approaches to Meeting People Where They Are." Louisiana Families in Need of Services (FINS) Conference. Virtual, March 16, 2021
- "Reasonable Efforts' from the Perspective of the Judiciary." Together We Can Conference Virtual, November 3-5, 2021
- "Reasonable Efforts' from the Perspective of the Judiciary." Louisiana State Bar Association Judicial College Summer School. Destin, FL.
- **2023** "The Cost(s) of (No) Consequences: Measuring Efficiency and Efficacy in Administering Juvenile Justice in the State of Louisiana—A View from the 21st Century." 42nd Annual Louisiana Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice. New Orleans, LA.
- 2023 "Getting Back to Basics: Understanding and Applying Cultural Competency in the Development and Implementation of Prevention-Intervention Youth Services and Programs." 42nd Annual Louisiana Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice. New Orleans, LA.
- 2023 (Panel Chair) "Anti-Racism and the Humanities." New Orleans, LA.
- "A Tale of Three Influences: My Roots/Routes (in)to Black Women's Health, Hip Hop, and HIV/AIDS." League of Women Voters of New Orleans. New Orleans, LA.
- **2024** "Anatomy of a Criminal Law Case: From Screening to Disposition." 40th Judicial District Bar Association CLE Conference.
- Black Women's Health in the Age of Hip Hop & HIV/AIDS: A Narrative Remix. LIT Java Coffee & Books, Pearland, TX.
- Black Women's Health in the Age of Hip Hop & HIV/AIDS: A Narrative Remix. Community Book Center, New Orleans, LA.
- Gordon J. Gamm Comparative Law and Justice Symposium: Voter Emancipation Deferred, New Orleans, LA.
- (Panelist) National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Women in Policy and Politics Luncheon, New Orleans, LA.
- Strange Bedfellow: Black Women's Narrative, Bruen, and the Right to Bear Arms. Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

2025 (Panelist) "ARSTM Book Café: Recent Monographs and Directions in the Field." National Communication Association, 111th Annual Convention, Denver Colorado.

OTHER LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, SEMINARS

- **1996** "We Must Speak with the Same Weapons': Rhetorical Discourse and Resistance in Zora Neale Hurston's *Dust Tracks on a Road*." Michigan State University Fall Festival of the American Arts and National Conference. Lansing, MI
- **1997** "In a Different Chord: Interpreting the Relations among Black Women, Sexuality, Agency and the Blues." University of Kentucky's 1997 Connections Conference. Lexington, KY
- **1998** "De/Stabilizing 'Race': Mulatto Representation and the Politics of Passing in Late Nineteenth Century American Literature." Louisiana State University Conference. Baton Rouge, LA
- **1998** "The Pulpit and the Pen: Discursive Media and Eighteenth Century Black Personalities." National Conference of the National Association of African American Studies and National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies. Houston, TX
- **1998** "To Set the Record Straight: (Re-) Envisioning Self-Formation and 'Dialogical' Exchange in Harriet Jacobs' *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl.*" National Conference of the National Association of African American Studies and National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies. Houston, TX
- **2000** "Songs in the Key of Life': Orchestrating Community and the Postmodern Condition of Black Culture in Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon* and Randall Kenan's *A Visitation of Spirits*." The College Language Association Convention. Washington, D.C.
- **2000** "She'll Take Her Stand: Neoagrarianism and Visions of Modernity in Gwen Bristow's *Plantation Trilogy.*" Southern Women Writers Conference. Mt. Berry, GA
- **2001** "Oral Formations of Self and Black Womanism in 'It's Good to Remember' and *Song of Solomon.*" The College Language Association Convention. New Orleans, LA
- **2001** "The Blues We're Singing: Langston Hughes and Billie Holiday." Modern Language Association Convention. New Orleans, LA
- **2002** "The Politics of Mobility, the Rhetoric of Consciousness: Julia Mood Peterkin and the Case of a White Black Writer." Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Lafayette, LA
- **2002** "She Married an Agrarian: the Life and Early Novels of Caroline Gordon." Michigan State University Narrative Conference. Lansing, MI
- **2003** "Neo-Slave Drama: Narratives of Resistance in Alice Childress' *Wedding Band.*" The College Language Association Convention. Washington, D.C.
- **2003** "'All I Really Want,' 'Sweet Love/Thing,' is to be 'Happy': Rhythms of Contemporary Black Female Blues and Sexuality." International Conference on Directions in the Humanities. Rhodes, Greece
- **2004** "Facts and Fiction: Literary Instructions on Public School Integration." Patterson Conference. Washington, D.C.
- **2004** "'You Sell Your Soul Like You Sell a Piece of Ass': Rhythms of Black Female Sexuality in Me'Shell Ndegeocello's *Cookie: The Anthropological Mixtape*." Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Pittsburgh, PN
- **2004** "The Problem with the 'Other': (White) Male Gaze and (Black) Racial Desire in Ernest Hemingway's *True at First Light*." Hemingway Society Conference. Key West, FL
- **2004** "Plantation Performance in Langston Hughes' *Mulatto*." 120th Annual MLA Convention. Philadelphia, PA

- **2005** "Subjective Notions: Interracial Resistance in Early Louisiana." Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Conference. Baton Rouge, LA
- **2005** "Who Took the Rap? Revisiting bell hooks' Perspective on Gangsta Rap Culture." College Language Association Convention. Athens, GA
- **2005** "'Am I My Brother's Keeper?': Black Criminology in Suzan-Lori Parks' *TopDog/Underdog*." Caribbean Philosophical Association Convention. Puerto Rica, USA
- **2006** "The Meaning's in the Metaphor: Racial Constructivism in Paul Haggis's *CRASH*." College Language Association Convention. Birmingham, AL
- **2006** "The Spectacle of Hate in Olympia Vernon's *A Killing in this Town.*" African Literature Association. Accra, Ghana
- **2006** "Is Young Black America Dying Slowly? An Empirical Analysis of the Interstices between Hip Hop Culture and the HIV/AIDS Epidemic and the Development of Interventionist Models for Filling the Gaps." Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Atlanta, GA
- **2007** "And Is This Difference of No Importance?: Teaching American History to Leave No Child Behind." Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Charlotte, NC
- **2009** "From Pleading to Prophesying: The Purifying Performance of Mary J. Blige." PCA/ACA National Conference, New Orleans, LA
- **2009** "When a (Black) Man Loves a (Black) Woman: The Cool Way Barack and Michelle (Re)Define Black (Man-Woman) Love." American Studies Association Conference, Washington, DC
- 2009 'The Slave Trade—The Business: Activist Narrative and Comtemporary Human Trafficking in Bernardine Evaristo's *Blonde Roots.*" 25th Annual Symposium on African American Culture & Philosophy, Purdue University, Bloomington, IN
- **2012** "Before & After Katrina: Black Education in New Orleans." Imagining America Conference, New York City, NY
- **2012** "Cunt Buckets" and "Bad Bitches": Black Girl Identity Formation in *PUSH* and *The Coldest Winter Ever*." 97th Annual ASALH Convention, Pittsburgh, PA
- **2014** "On Whose Ground Did Trayvon Stand? Theorizing the Relationship between Black Male Identity and Stand Your Ground Laws." PCA/ACA National Conference, Chicago, IL
- **2019** "21st Century Black Health & Wellness: The Cardi B "Remix." 104th Annual Meeting & Conference of Association for Study of African American Life & History, Charleston, SC
- **2022** "'Trying to Find Relief': Black Women's Mental Health & Wellness in Mara Brock Akil's *Being Mary Jane*." 36th Annual MELUS Conference. New Orleans, LA
- **2022** "From the Bench: Reflections from a Black Hip Hop Feminist Jurist." 2022 National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN
- **2025** "Guardian of Progress: Bernette Joshua Johnson." Elevating the Visibility of Primary Sources for Black History. New Orleans, LA

Poster Presentations

- **2012** "Combating Stigmatizing Attitudes among New Orleans Youth through the HIV/AIDS Music Project: A Pilot Case Study." 19th International AIDS Conference. Washington, DC
- **2025** *"Won't Somebody Please Think of the Children?": A Model for Adequately Accounting for the Costs and Benefits of Juvenile Justice in the State of Louisiana.* Tulane Research, Innovation, and Creativity Summit, New Orleans, LA

RESEARCH-RELATED FUNDING

<u>External</u>

- **2005** Louisiana Board of Regents Education Enhancement Grant, "Encouraging Student Scholarship and Excellence through Native-Centered Education," \$87400
- **2007** Woodrow Wilson Foundation Early Career Fellowship, "After Katrina: Poverty, Politics, and Performance in New Orleans Public Schools." \$30000

<u>Internal</u>

- 2006 Council on Research Grant, \$4000
- 2010 Center for Public Service Community Based Research Grant, \$4000
- 2010 Newcomb Center for Research on Women, \$5000
- 2011 Monroe Fellowship, New Orleans Center for the Gulf South, \$10000
- 2023 SLA Book Subvention Grant, \$5000
- 2024 SLA Faculty Research Grant, \$5000
- 2025 Newcomb Institute Grant, \$5000
- **2025** SLA Faculty Research Grant, \$5000

OTHER FUNDING SUPPORT

<u>External</u>

- 2007 Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Teacher Institute for Advanced Study, \$36222
- 2008 United Way Community Investment Grant, \$1100
- 2008 River Region Arts & Humanities Council Grant, \$1000
- **2009** Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Teacher Institute for Advanced Study, \$35568 (award rescinded due to state budget cuts)
- 2009 Louisiana Public Defender Board Scholarship, \$5000
- 2009 Houma Regional Arts Council, \$2660
- 2021 United Way of Southeast Louisiana, Black Women's Health Conference, \$5000
- **2021** Louisiana Supreme Court, \$75000 (allocated to the 40th Judicial District Court for The Literacy Clinic (www.theliteracyclinic.net)
- 2021 Murphy Institute, The Literacy Clinic, \$3000
- **2022** State of Louisiana, \$75000 (allocated to the 40th Judicial District Court for The Literacy Clinic)
- 2022 Murphy Institute, The Literacy Clinic, \$108000
- **2022** Murphy Institute, Political Economy & Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar (peajjes.com), \$40000
- **2023** Office of Juvenile Justice, State of Louisiana, \$119000 (allocated to the 40th Judicial District Court for "Respect Is Just a Minimum: A Prevention-Intervention Program for At-Risk Youth in St. John the Baptist Parish; contract renewed in 2024 and 2025 \$150,000)
- 2023 State of Louisiana, \$80000 (allocated to the 40th Judicial District Court for The Literacy Clinic)
- **2023** Murphy Institute, Political Economy & Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar, \$60000
- **2024** Murphy Institute, Political Economy & Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar, \$58000
- 2025 Murphy Institute, Political Economy & Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar, \$60000

<u>Internal</u>

- 2009 Deep South Regional Humanities Grant, \$4000
- 2009 Service-Learning Course Development Grant, \$4000
- 2009 Service-Learning Faculty Scholar Grant, \$5000
- 2009 (with Michael Cunningham) Service-Learning Planning Grant, \$5000
- 2009 Newcomb College Institute Good Neighbors Grant, \$10000
- **2010** (with T.R. Johnson and Molly Travis) English Department Service-Learning Course Development Grant, \$4000
- 2010 William L. Duren '26 Professorship, \$4000
- 2010 Suzanne and Stephen Weiss Presidential Fellowship, \$20000
- 2011 Music Rising New Orleans Center for the Gulf South Grant, \$3000
- 2013 Conference Planning Grant, New Orleans Center for the Gulf South, \$5590
- **2014** Newcomb College Institute Grant, Black Women's Health Conference (bwhconference.com), \$5000
- 2018 Carol Lavin Bernick Faculty Grant, \$12000
- 2021 Center for Public Service, Course Development Grant, \$4000
- 2021 Newcomb College Institute, Black Women's Health Conference, \$15000
- 2023 Newcomb College Institute, Black Women's Health Conference, \$12500
- 2023 Carol Lavin Bernick Faculty Grant, Black Women's Health Conference, \$5000
- 2023 SLA Conference & Symposium Fund, Black Women's Health Conference, \$3800

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

College Language Association (lifetime member)

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Federalist Society

5th Circuit Louisiana Judges Association

- 4th and 5th Circuit Louisiana Judges Association
- Louisiana District Judges Association
- Louisiana Retired Teachers Association/St. John the Baptist Chapter
- Louisiana State Bar Association
- Modern Language Association
- Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale (founding member)
- National Association of Women Judges
- National Bar Association
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Tulane Inns of Court, American Inns of Court

HONORS, AWARDS, & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **2007** "Drum Major of Education Award," Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School for Science and Technology, New Orleans, LA,
- **2008** Roddy Richard Lifetime Achievement Award for Commitment to Serving Louisiana Youth, Roddy Richard Foundation and Louisiana Youth Seminar
- 2013 New Orleans Magazine Top Female Achievers

- 2018 Mortar Board Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2018
- 2018 Pro Bono Hero, Louisiana State Bar Association/Louisiana Bar Journal
- **2020** NAACP Award for Education & Representation
- 2023 Delton Arceneaux Award, Rotary Club
- 2025 Community Award, School of Liberal Arts, Tulane University