

JOSHUA BENNETT
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WORK

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
Professor of Literature and Distinguished Chair of the Humanities, 2023-

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
Professor of English and Creative Writing, 2021-2023
Mellon Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing, 2019-2021

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Junior Fellow, Harvard Society of Fellows, 2016-2019

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
Ph.D. in English, 2016

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
M.A. in English, 2013

University of Warwick, Coventry, UK
M.A. in Theatre and Performance Studies, 2011

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
B.A. in English and Africana Studies, *magna cum laude* with Honors, Phi Beta Kappa, minors in History and Spanish, 2010

FELLOWSHIPS, ACADEMIC HONORS and AWARDS

2023 Winner, Paterson Poetry Prize, *The Study of Human Life*
2023 Longlist, Griffin Poetry Prize, *The Study of Human Life*
2023 Gras Lecture in the Environmental Humanities at George Mason University
2022 Writer in Residence, Thayer Academy
2022 Smith Scholar, The Roxbury Latin School
2021 Guggenheim Fellowship in American Literature
2021 Whiting Award in Poetry and Nonfiction
2021 William Sanders Scarborough Prize, MLA
2021 Russell Ladd Newcomb 1926 Fellowship
2021 Karen E. Wetterhahn Award for Distinguished Creative or Scholarly Achievement
2021 Lorna C. Hill '73 Award for service through support & mentorship of Black students
2021 Editor, Norton Library edition of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
2021 Juror, Scholastic Writing Awards
2021 Juror, National Student Poets Program
2020 Visiting Scholar, Friends Seminary
2019 Mellon Assistant Professorship in English, Dartmouth College
2019 Visiting Writer, University of Pittsburgh
2019 Visiting Lecturer, Chautauqua Institution
2017 Literature Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts
2017 William F. Milton Fund Research Fellowship, Harvard University

2016 Society of Fellows, Harvard University
 2016 Scholar in Residence, Adams House, Harvard University
 2016 Cave Canem Fellowship
 2015 Josephine de Karman Fellowship
 2015 Winner, National Poetry Series
 2015 Porter Ogden Jacobus Fellowship, Princeton University
 2015 Visiting Scholar, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 2014 Dr. Laurence C. Morse *80 Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University
 2014 Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers Conference Fellowship
 2013 Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop Fellowship
 2013 Associate Fellowship, Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics
 2012 Center for Social Difference Graduate Fellowship, Columbia University
 2011 Carl A. Fields Center Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University
 2011 President's Fellowship, Princeton University
 2010 Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Chapter, University of Pennsylvania
 2010 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship
 2009 Marshall Scholarship
 2009 Rhodes Scholarship Finalist
 2009 Harry S. Truman Scholarship Finalist
 2007 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA, ETC.

Public Lectures and Performances

March 2024 "The Bond of Live Things Everywhere" at University of Pittsburgh
 May 2023 "The Bond of Live Things Everywhere" at George Mason University
 November 2020 "Being Property Once Myself" at Smith College
 October 2020 "Being Property Once Myself" at Harvard Graduate School of Design
 September 2020 "Being Property Once Myself" at the Intersections Working Group at Princeton University
 August 2020 "Poetry for the People" at the Humanities Summer Series at Dartmouth College
 July 2020 "And the world can't take it away: Black poetics in a state of emergence" at the Milstein Program at Cornell University's Distinguished Speakers Series
 July 2019 "The Life of the Spoken Word" at Chautauqua Institution
 June 2019 "Nobody Knew Where I Was and Now I Am No Longer There" at the Future of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth College
 February 2019 "Four Horses: Pursuing the Animal in Black Poetics" at the University of Pittsburgh
 February 2018 "The beginning of the end of the world: vermin being and 20th century black eco-poetics" at the University of Pennsylvania
 November 2016 "This Bridge Between Starshine and Clay: black joy aesthetics" at Sarah Lawrence College
 October 2014 "Algorithm & Blues" at the Wilson College Signature Lecture Series at Princeton University
 September 2012 Invited by the Clinton Global Initiative to both perform "Morse Code," an original poem, and introduce President William Jefferson Clinton
 May 2010 Selected to give the Commencement address for the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania
 March 2010 Invited by Harvard University to speak alongside Amiri Baraka at the 2010 Black Arts Festival
 August 2009 Invited by the Adventures of the Mind Conference to perform "Derrick," an original poem, alongside former U.S. Poet Laureates Billy Collins and Rita Dove at the Institute for Advanced Study

July 2009	Cast by Reggie Bythewood to perform “Iron,” an original poem, in the ESPN documentary, <i>One Night in Vegas</i>
May 2009	Invited to perform “Tamara’s Opus,” an original poem, at the White House for President Barack Obama
April 2009	Starred in the HBO Documentary <i>Brave New Voices</i> , an examination of the global youth performance poetry movement, first aired April 11th
February 2009	Invited by Simmons-Lathan Media Group LLC to perform “Vanguard,” an original poem, at the NAACP Image Awards
January 2009	Invited by the Robert Redford Foundation to perform “Ultraviolet,” an original poem, at the Sundance Film Festival

Conference Papers and Presentations

April 2021	“The Beginning of the End of the World” at New Adventures in American Studies Colloquium at the University of California-Berkeley
November 2018	“Other Arks” at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting
October 2018	“Four Horses: Pursuing the Animal in Black Poetics” at Sarah Lawrence College
August 2018	“Underground: Two Inquiries into Black Social Life” at the Memory and Performance in African-Atlantic Futures conference at the University of Leeds
October 2015	“If You Surrender to The Air: Morrison, Birds and The Black Masculine” at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting
March 2015	“Verminsurge: Pestiferous Life in The Work of Richard Wright” at the Food, Literature and the American Racial Diet course session at Princeton University
March 2014	“Nineteenth Century Americanists and Animal Studies—A Roundtable” at the C19 conference
February 2013	“Calling Untame Spirits into Flesh: mapping the intersections of race and animality in Charles Chesnut’s <i>The Conjure Woman</i> ” at the Alien Bodies: Race, Space and Sex in the African Diaspora conference at Emory University
May 2013	“Race and Nature in Nineteenth Century American Literature: A Conversation with Joshua Bennett, Brigitte Fielder, James Finley, Ian Finseth, Jennifer James, and others” at the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Annual Meeting

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICE

July 2022-present	Association of Black Princeton Alumni, Member
July 2022-present	Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni, Member
Sep 2021-present	Rye Country Day School Alumni Executive Board, Member
Dec 2016-present	June Jordan Fellowship, Director
June 2011- present	The Strivers Row, Founder, Program Director

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Fall 2022	Budget Committee, Dartmouth College
Fall 2020	Convergences: A Black Life and Letters Lecture Series, Dartmouth College
Fall 2020	Co-Director, Honors Program in English, Dartmouth College
Summer 2019	Committee on Intellectual and Social Life, Dartmouth College
Spring 2019	Environmental Humanities Faculty Working Group, Dartmouth College

PUBLISHED MATERIALS*Books*

- 2023 Spoken Word: A Cultural History. New York, New York: The Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 304 pages. 2023.
- 2023 Spoken Word: A Cultural History. London, United Kingdom: Square Peg, 304 pages. 2023.
- 2022 The Study of Human Life. New York, New York: Penguin Books. 144 pages, 2022.
- 2020 Being Property Once Myself: Blackness and the End of Man. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. 215 pages, 2022.
- 2020 Owed. New York, New York: Penguin Books. 96 pages, 2020.
- 2016 The Sobbing School. New York, New York: Penguin Books. 91 pages, 2016.

Essays

- 2021 “I will not be taught how to behave” in *Art in America*
- 2021 “Giant Steps” in *Freeman’s*
- 2021 “In Pursuit of the Practice of Freedom” in *Poetry Magazine*
- 2020 “Wherever We Are Gathered” in *Cabinet Magazine*
- 2019 “Revising the Wasteland: black antipastoral & the end of the world” in *19|21*, Milkweed Editions
- 2018 “Another Life: Terrance Hayes and the Poetics of the Un-thought” in *Poetry Magazine*
- 2018 “Revising the Wasteland: black antipastoral & the end of the world” in *The Paris Review*

Articles in Refereed Journals

- 2021 “Lords of Sounds and Lesser Things” in *Callaloo* Vol. 41, No. 2 (29-43)
- 2021 “This That Life Beyond Your Own Life” in *Callaloo* Vol. 41, No. 2 (1-3)
- 2020 “All Things Are Dear That Disappear” in *Propter Nos* Vol. 4, No. 1 (116-128)
- 2019 “Buck Theory” in *The Black Scholar* Vol. 49, No. 2 (27-37)
- 2018 “Beyond the Vomiting Dark: toward a black hydropoetics” in *Ecopoetics: Essays in the Field*, University of Iowa Press
- 2016 “Coming to the Clearing: Contemporary Black Poets in Conversation” in *Callaloo* Vol. 39, No. 2 (277-289)

Published Poetry

- 2023 “Trash,” “Trash” and “Trash” in *Poetry*
- 2022 “Dad Poem X” in *The New Yorker*
- 2022 “Halation” and “Dad Poem” in *Harvard Review*
- 2022 “Benediction” in *The Atlantic*
- 2021 “Dad Poem” and “Dad Poem (The New Temporality)” in *The Yale Review*
- 2021 “Dad Poem,” “Trash” and “The Hurricane Doesn’t Roar in Pentameter” in *Colorado Review*
- 2021 “Moxie” in *Magma*
- 2020 “Abolition,” “Dad Poem,” “Sonnet” and “Systema Naturae” in *The Southern Review*
- 2020 “Dad Poem (Ultrasound #2)” in *Poem-a-Day, Academy of American Poets*
- 2020 “Dad Poem” in *The Wall Street Journal*
- 2020 “Reparation” in *Poetry*

2020 "Dad Poem" in Together in a Sudden Strangeness: America's Poets Respond to the Pandemic

2020 "America Will Be" in African American Poetry: 250 Years of Struggle and Song

2020 "American Abecedarian" in 400 Souls: A Community History of Black America, 1619-2019

2020 "Reparation" in Provincetown Arts

2019 "Owed to Your Father's Gold Chain" and "Trash" in The Kenyon Review

2019 "Summer Job" in Wildness

2019 "Trash" in Puerto Del Sol

2019 "Owed to the Tardigrade," "Trash" and "Trash" in Winter Tangerine Review

2018 "America Will Be" in The Nation

2018 "The Book of Mycah" in Poetry

2018 "The Next Black National Anthem" and "Token Comes Clean" in The Los Angeles Review of Books

2018 "Barber Song" and "Owed to the Plastic on your Grandmother's Couch" in Tin House

2018 "Purple City Byrd Gang" in The Cortland Review

2017 "Frederick Douglass is Dead" in Boston Review

2017 "Metal Poem" and "Mike Brown is a Type of Christ" in American Poetry Review

2017 "X" and "Praise Song for the Table In The Cafeteria Where All The Black Boys Sat Together During A Block, Laughing Too Loudly" in The Kenyon Review

2016 "home force: presumption of death" in The New York Times

2016 "Owed to Pedagogy" in Poetry

2016 "Ode to Long Johns" and "Elegy for Prison" in Boston Review

2016 "Agnosis" and "First Date" in Callaloo

2016 "Ode to Ankle Weights" and "Token Sings The Blues" in The Journal

2016 "When Thy King Was A Boy" in Winter Tangerine Review

2015 "The Sobbing School" and "Aubade With Insomnia" in New England Review

2015 "Preface to a Twenty-Volume Regicide Note" in Guernica

2015 "Flight/Plan" in Women & Performance: a journal of feminist theory

2015 "Samson Reconsiders," "VCR&B," and "On Flesh" in Blackbird

2015 "On Blueness" and "Love Poem Ending With Typewriters" in Beloit Poetry Journal

2015 "In Defense of Passing" and "Still Life With Toy Gun" in World Literature Today

2015 "On Extinction," "Praise House" and "Plural" in Wave Composition

2015 "The Open," "Black History, Abridged," "Flyweight" and "Elegy for The Modern School" in Connotation Press

2015 "Invocation" in Vinyl

2015 "Anthrophobia" and "Hometown Ghazal" in Fjords Review

2015 "On Stupidity," "Taxonomy" and "Tenacious Elegy: Insurgent Life in The Era of Trial by Gunfire with a line from Sylvia Wynter" in Pinwheel

2015 "The Red, White and Blue Seuss" and "The Telekinetic's Day Off" in Tidal Basin Review

2014 "Yoke" and "Masquerade Ball" in Callaloo

2014 "Ode to the 99 Cent Store" and "On Rage" in Transition

2014 "Clench" and "home force: presumption of death" in The Collagist

2014 "Theodicy" in Word Riot

2014 "12 Absolutely True Facts about Richard Wright" in Anti-

2013 "Three Poems for Grandpa's Temper" in Revolution House

2013 "last words of a man overboard" & "Patroiophobia, or, Wolverine's Son Reflects on Questions of The Body" in Muzzle

2013 "Family Reunion" in Clarion

2013 "15 Questions for Jonah on the occasion of his unfortunate tenure inside the belly of a giant fish" & "Didn't Old Pharaoh Get Lost in the Red Sea: theorizing amnesia in Afro-diasporic maritime literature" in Drunken Boat

2012 "Tamara's Opus" in Disability Studies Quarterly

UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS

Essays

2023 “Language Games” in *The Nation*

Articles in Refereed Journals

2023 “Perishable Kingdom” in *Transition* (under review)

Edited Volumes

2024 Minor Notes, Vol. 2. New York: Penguin Publishing Group: Penguin Classics.

2023 Minor Notes, Vol. 1. New York: Penguin Publishing Group: Penguin Classics.

Books

2024 The Earth is a Living Thing. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2024.

2023 Owed. Paris, France: Éditions Globe, 96 pages. 2023.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

MIT

Spring 2023 Reading Poetry

Dartmouth College

Fall 2022 “Introduction to Poetry: Nature Writing”

Fall 2020 “Modern Black American Literature”

Fall 2019 “Black Love and its Discontents”

Fall 2019 “The Practice of Freedom”

Summer 2019 “Contemporary American Poetry”

Spring 2019 “The Black Outdoors”

Columbia University

Fall 2017 “Black Soundings in Contemporary Poetry”

Spring 2016 “Black Soundings in Contemporary Poetry”

Urban Word NYC

Summer 2015

“I Dig Graves When I Laugh: Black Feminist BreakBeat Poetics”

Princeton University

Spring 2015

“Race is Socially Constructed: Now What?”
Teaching Assistant

Fall 2014

“Introduction to African American Studies”
Teaching Assistant

REFERENCES

Dr. William Gleason
Hughes-Rogers Professor of English and American Studies
Princeton University
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