Sean Pears

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(202) 763 8171

*Interests: 19th - 21st Century Literature in the United States; African-American Literature; Poetry & Poetics; Postcolonial Studies; Marxist Criticism; Proletarian Literature; Critical Race Theory; Resistance Writing & Literature; Writing and Composition Studies*

**Education**

PhD, English, University at Buffalo, September 2020

MFA, Poetry, George Mason University, May 2015

BA, English literature, with Honors, University of Chicago, June 2010

**Dissertation**

“Militant Optimists: How Anti-Slavery Poets Reconstructed Citizenship after Appomattox”

Committee: Cristanne Miller (Chair), James Holstun, Carrie Tirado Bramen

**Honors and Awards**

2021 Howard Lumen Circles Fellowship for Teaching Excellence

2018 Humanities Institute Futures of American Studies Dissertation Fellowship

2017 & 2016 Fulbright, Semi-Finalist

2015-2020 University at Buffalo Presidential Fellowship

2014 GMU MFA Written Exam Awarded Honors

2010 Undergraduate Creative Thesis in Poetry Awarded Honors

**Academic Employment**

Georgetown University Prison Justice Initiative – *Adjunct,* Fall 2022-Present

Howard University – *Lecturer*, Fall 2020-Present

University of Nairobi – *Instructor*, Spring-Fall 2019

George Washington University– *Instructor,* Fall 2018

University of Buffalo – *Instructor,* Fall 2015-Spring 2018

George Mason University – *Instructor*, Fall 2013-Spring 2015

**Publications (selected)**

Peer-Reviewed

“In the footsteps of Langston Hughes: Episodic narration and The Making of Class in Alice Childress and Wahome Mutahi’s Newspaper Fiction.” *The Langston Hughes Review.* (forthcoming).

“Militant Reconciliation: Richard Realf and the Poetry of Abolition-democracy.” *English Literary History*. Winter 2022.

“Literary Praxis in the American Anti-Slavery Tradition.” *Nairobi Journal of Literature*. December 2020.

“A Speculative Reading of Black Feminist Resistance in George Washington Cable’s *The Grandissimes*.” *Arizona*

*Quarterly.* Summer 2020.

“‘I, grown shrewder-scan the skies’: Reading Emily Dickinson's Fascicle 33 as a Planetary System.” *The Emily Dickinson*

*Journal*. 26.1. 2017.

Other Essays

“Ambition for Anonymity: Bob Kaufman in the Poetry Collection,” *Launched in Context: Seven Essays on the Archive*.

April 2016.

Edited Collections

*At Buffalo: The Invention of a New American Poetry, 1962-2016*. Editor. Lake Forest College Press (distributed by

Northwestern Press). September 2020.

Book Reviews

“Review of *The Ghosts of Monticello* by Carmen Gillespie.” *Rain Taxi*. Spring 2018.

“Review of *Buck Studies* by Douglas Kearney.” *Colorado Review*. Spring 2018.

“Review of *Trébuchet* by Danniel Schoonebeek.” *Colorado Review*. Summer 2017.

“Her Company: A Review of C.D. Wright’ *The Poet, The Lion…*” *Fanzine.* Spring 2017

“Review of *An Ecology of Elsewhere* by Sandra Meek.” *Colorado Review.* Spring 2017.

“Review of *Selected Poems* by Keith Waldrop.” *Colorado Review*. Fall 2016.

“ko ko thett’s cannibalistic poetics: A review of *The Burden of Being Burmese*.” *Jacket2*. March 2016.

“Review of *Itself* by Rae Armantrout.” *Colorado Review*. Spring 2016.

“Interview with Jill Magi.” *Colorado Review*. February 2016.

“Art in the Age of the Adjunct.” *Colorado Review*. Fall 2015.

“Like a Shock of Doves Come Forgiveness”: TJ Jarrett’s Courageous Confrontation with the Past.” *Denver Quarterly*.

Fall 2015.

“Equipment for the Apocalypse: Rebecca Gayle Howell’s Agricultural Ontology.” *Denver Quarterly*. Summer 2015.

Poems / Nonfiction

“At the Fishouse.” *Santa Fe Writer’s Project Quarterly.* July 2017.

“23andMe.” *George Mason Call and Response Symposium*. Fall 2015.

“Bethel in the Green Mountains.” *George Mason Call and Response Symposium*. Fall 2014.

“Water Wisteria.” *Hour After Happy Hour Review*. Spring 2014.

“Three Stories.” *George Mason Call and Response Symposium*. Fall 2013

“Christmas in July.” *Noman’s Journal*. Summer 2012.

“Love Poem.” *Papaya Juice.* Fall 2010.

**Teaching**

Howard: 100-level First Year Writing, including section reserved for English majors

University of Nairobi: 400-level American Literature course, “Imagining Utopias in the American Tradition” & 400-level

African-American Literature course, “Defining Freedom and Democracy…”

George Washington University: 1020 Writing, “Black Resistance Writing: 1830-2016”

University at Buffalo: 100-level Composition Writing and 200-level Research Writing courses

George Mason University: 100-level composition, 200-level literature, and 300-level creative writing courses

**Other Academic Service**

First Year Writing Committee at Howard University, 2020-2021

Faculty Advisor for *Sterling Notes*, a Howard undergraduate literary arts journal, 2020-2021

Editor of *ythm an audio journal of contemporary poetry*. Winter 2016-present.

Organized, designed, and co-led a workshop on Poetry Performance, with Dean Zofia Burr, Spring 2014

Tutor in Writing Center Fall 2012-Spring 2013

**Presentations (selected)**

Academic

“Richard Realf’s Radical Union Rally Poetry.” C19: ‘Reconstructions.’ Coral Gables, FL. March 29-April 2, 2022.

“Ida B. Wells: Liberatory Analysis from a Distance.” Fourth HBCU Symposium on Rhetoric and Composition.

September 23-25, 2021.

“Literary Praxis in the American Anti-Slavery Tradition.” Value Creating Education and Critical Thinking in a Global

World. University of Nairobi. October 2019.

“*Snow-Bound, Moses*, and Reconstruction Literary Praxis.” Futures of American Studies Institute. Hanover, NH. June

2018

“Whittier, Whitfield and a Christian Byron.” American Language Association. San Francisco, CA. May 2018.

“Tracing the Boundaries of Ecopoetic Criticism In Situ.” NeMLA. Pittsburgh, PA. Panel Organizer. April 2018

“Choral Subject-hood: Charles Wesley’s Hymns and the Lyric Tradition.” NeMLA. Baltimore, MD. March 2017.

“Bob Kaufman in the Poetry Collection.” *Launched in Context* Symposium in Buffalo Poetry Collection. Buffalo, NY.

September 2016.

“Freedom of the Mind Versus Freedom of the Body in Composition in the Prison Classroom.” SUNY Council on Writing

Conference. Albany, NY. March 2016

Creative

“A Throw of Dice.” Group Performance with *ythm* contributor Lytton Smith. Rochester Publication Fair. Rochester, NY.

October 2016.

“Migration and Privilege.” Split this Rock Poetry Festival. Washington, DC. April 2016.

“Letters to My Fifth Cousin (predicted) / Aydan Dimitri Casey / Maternal H / Paternal I2a2a.” NeMLA. Hartford, CT.

March 2016.