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## **EDUCATION**

Certificate in Grant Writing, April 2014 University of Illinois, Chicago

Ph.D., English, May 2013 Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

M.A., English, May 2008 DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois

B.A., English Education, May 2004 Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**PUBLICATIONS** 

Muslim American Literature

Organized and occasionally led workshops on faculty training for over 20 participants

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY

# Introduction to Writing Poetry (1 section)

2011

Co-facilitated and Co-taught a class on writing poetry. Led classroom discussions weekly on modern poetry, William Carlos Williams, Postmodernism, and poetry techniques

### HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Eisenhower High School, Blue Island, Illinois Substitute taught all subjects while obtaining MA in English 2005-2008

Polytechnic High School, Sun Valley, California

2004-2005

"Junior Miss Takes the Stage: Following Judy Graves from the *New Yorker* to Film." Midwest Popular and American Culture Association (mpcaaca). DeKalb, Illinois. October, 2011.

"Huckleberry Finn: An Insignificant Character of Great Consequence." International Conference on Arts and Humanities. Honolulu, Hawaii. December, 2009.

#### RESEARCH INTERESTS

"Brides, Department Stores, Westerns, and Scrapbooks: the 'everyday lives' of Teenage Girls in the 1940s" investigates the influence of specific social discourses of the 1940s (the rise of the bridal industry, an obsession with anything Western related, the newly minted teenage section of the department store, and scrapbook making) on young women moving into and out of adolescence in the 1940s. Through an in depth study of four novels (Carson McCullers's *The Member of the Wedding*, Jean Stafford's *The Mountain Lion*, Sally Benson's *Junior Miss*, and Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*) using Michel de Certeau's concept of "strategies" and "tactics," the trope of the maturation arc is revealed and critiqued. The teenage protagonists of these novels all develop tactics to cope with the strategy that is the maturation arc. Each author manipulates the trope of the maturation arc in order to expose the gap between expectations of teenage girls and their true "everyday lives" as defined by de Certeau. This dissertation helps reveal why we study literature; the "tactics" these teenage girls develop, and their varying degree of success in utilizing them, helps readers to imagine a more nuanced understanding of history.

Committee members: Angela Sorby (chair), Amy Blair, and Krista Ratcliffe

#### HONORS AND AWARDS

Milwaukee Magazine's "dissertation worth reading" title, 2013
Marquette University English Department Fellowship Recipient, 2011-2012
McCabe Award for Teaching Excellence Finalist, 2011
Graduate and Professional Student Research Travel Grant, Marquette University, 2009
Klingler College of Arts and Sciences RCM Graduate Travel Grant, Marquette University, 2009
E-Teaching Certificate, Marquette University, 2011
Preparing Future Faculty Certificate, Marquette University, 2011