

Ikea M. Johnson, Ph.D.
ikea.johnson@salve.edu

Education:

Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, Louisiana State University, August 2018-May 2022

Dissertation: Johnson, Ikea, “The Underground of History: Spirituality as Reflected Through Movement, Community, and the Chaos of Formlessness in Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*” (2022). *LSU Doctoral Dissertations*. 5881.
https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/gradschool_dissertations/5881

Committee members: Dr. Fahima Ife (Chair), Dr. Pallavi Rastogi, and Dr. Femi Euba

M.L.A. with an English concentration, Auburn University-Montgomery, May 2018

B.A. in English (minor: psychology), Auburn University-Montgomery, December 2016

Work Experience:

Assistant Professor of English

Salve Regina University, September 2022-present, Newport, RI

Huel D. Perkins Doctoral Research Fellow

Louisiana State University, August 2018-2022, Baton Rouge, LA

Teaching:

Salve Regina University, Newport, RI

- ENG-340-01: Afrofuturism in Literature and Culture, spring 2024
- ENG 217-01/ENG 217-02: Toni Morrison, fall 2023, spring 2024
- ENG 210-01: Myth and Symbol, fall 2023
- UNV 101-18: Afrofuturism and Spirituality, fall 2023
- ENG 217-01: African American Literature and Afrofuturism, spring 2023
- ENG 315-01/ PEL-299E- P1: The Harlem Renaissance, spring 2023
- ENG 217-01/ENG 217-02: Afrofuturism and Spirituality, fall 2022
- UNV 101-10: Afrofuturism and Memory, fall 2022

Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, LA

- CPLT/ENGL 2202: Introduction to World Literature, fall 2020

Conferences/ Workshops:

Invited speaker/panelist:

“2023 Ikeda Forum | Dialogues of the Heart: The Role of Literature in Fostering Inner Transformation and Peace,” Moderated by Anita Patterson (Boston University); Ikeda Center Cambridge, MA, September 2023

Invited speaker/panelist:

JAC Talk: Afrofuturism with Algernon Miller, “Coming and Going,” Moderated by Bob Dilworth, The Jamestown Arts Center, Jamestown, RI October 2023

Invited Guest Lecturer:

Johnson, Ikea. “What Octavia Butler Can Teach Us About Spirituality, Compassion, and the Future,” November 2022, Salve Regina University, Department of Philosophy, Dr. Craig Condella’s undergraduate Sci-Fi and Philosophy course, Newport, RI

Invited Guest Lecturer:

Johnson, Ikea. “Black Dharma,” September 2019, Louisiana State University, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Dr. Paula Arai’s 4000 level Buddhist Philosophy course, Baton Rouge, LA

Presenter:

Johnson, Ikea. “(Im)material Conditions: Approaching Abjection, Existential Wanderings, and the Door of No Return,” Twentieth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, at University of the Aegean - Rhodes Campus (Greece)

Fellow/Presenter:

Johnson, Ikea M. “Alice Walker’s Buddhist Philosophy in *The Color Purple*,” 10th Harvard International World Literature Institute, Belgrade (Harvard), 2020, (Nominated by Sharon Weltman, Louisiana State University)

Presenter:

Johnson, Ikea M. “Ralph Ellison and Buddhist Recognition in *Invisible Man*,” *Columbus State University*, Dr. Gregory P. Domin Graduate Conference, November 2017, Columbus, GA

Publications:

- Johnson, Ikea M. “Widening the Way: Nonviolence and the Spirit of Empathy for Liberty and Justice,” *Dialogues of the Heart: Daisaku Ikeda, Transnationalism, and American Literature*, edited by Anita H. Patterson (Boston University), in collaboration with the Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning, and Dialogue, Cambridge, MA, 2023 (Invited contributor)
- Johnson, Ikea M. *Black Dharma: Theory and Practice of Buddhism in African American Literature*, Vernon Press, 2024. (Invited publication)
- Johnson, Ikea M. “Towards Poetic Justice:(Im)material Antiquity in the Works of Albery Allson Whitman.” *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics* 44.3 (2021): 33-45. (Indexed in *The Philosopher’s Index*)
- Johnson, Ikea M. “On Compassion and the Sublime Black Body: Octavia E. Butler’s *Parable of the Sower*.” *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*, vol. 43, no. 2, 2020, p. 92+. Gale Literature Resource Center. (Invited contributor)
- Johnson, Ikea M. “Revisiting Recognition: Buddhist Philosophy in Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*.” *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*, vol. 43, no. 1, 2020, p. 101+. *Gale Academic OneFile*. (Indexed in *The Philosopher’s Index*)
—Reprinted in *Children’s Literature Review on The Color Purple by Alice Walker*, Vol. 1, (Editor) Dilgen, Regina, Layman Poupard Publishing for Gale/Cengage Learning, 2022. (Invited to reprint)
- Johnson, Ikea M. “Women and Buddhist Philosophy: Engaging Zen Master Kim Iryop.” *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*, vol. 43, no. 1, 2020, p. 193+. Gale Academic OneFile.
- Johnson, Ikea M. “Buddhist Recognition in Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*.” *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*, vol. 42, no. 2, 2019, p. 85+. Gale Academic OneFile. (Indexed in *The Philosopher’s Index*)
- Johnson, Ikea (2018) “Sacred Spaces,” *Comparative Woman*: Vol. 1, Article 21. DOI: 10.31390/comparativewoman.1.1.19

Awards:

- Emerging Scholar Award - Twentieth International Conference on the New Directions in the Humanities, University of the Aegean - Rhodes Campus, Greece, 2022
 - AUM College of Arts and Sciences Grant, 2016
 - Randall Cobb Grant, Auburn University-Montgomery, 2015
 - Guin Nance Grant, Auburn University-Montgomery, 2015
 - Phi Theta Kappa Grant, Mobile, AL, 2012-2014
 - H.L. Wilson Foundation Grant, Mobile, AL, 2013-2014
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Professional Organizations/Membership:

- Northeast Modern Language Association
 - Omicron Delta Kappa
 - Phi Theta Kappa alumni
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Volunteer/Service:**President:**

Comparative Literature Graduate Student Association, Louisiana State University, 2021-2022, (nominated by previous president and colleagues)

International Conference Panel and Sessions Organizer:

Louisiana State University, Comparative Literature and French Studies Annual Conference, April 2022

International Conference Symposium Organizer:

“On Space and Place,” Louisiana State University Comparative Literature and French Studies Annual Conference, Baton Rouge, LA. April 2022

Editor-in-Chief/Executive Editor:

Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics, 2020-present (Nomination/recommendation letter from Editorial board and founder available upon request)

Invited Guest Editor:

Material/Immaterial discourse— *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*, 2020-2021

Moderator:

The Humanities Amped Fall Conference, “Amplifying Civic Research & Action,” Louisiana State University, 2019

Invited Peer-review:

- *Kritika Kultura*, 2022
 - *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*, 2020
 - *Comparative Woman*, Louisiana State University, 2019
-

Languages:

- Mandarin (reading/writing/translations)
- French (reading/translations)
- Old and Middle English (reading, translations)