**EMILY E. BERNARD**

English Department
University of Vermont
400 Old Mill
94 University Place
Burlington, VT 05405

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D., American Studies, Yale University, May 1998
B.A., cum laude, American Studies, Yale College, 1989

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

Julian Lindsay Green and Gold Professor in English, January 2018-.
Interim Director, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Program, University of Vermont, Burlington, Fall 2013-Spring 2016.
Professor, Department of English, University of Vermont, Burlington, Fall 2001-present.
Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Humanities, Penn State-Harrisburg, Fall 2000- June 2001.
Assistant Professor, Department of Afro-American Studies, Smith College, Fall 1997- June 2001.

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

2020 Andrew Carnegie Fellow
LA Times Christopher Isherwood Prize for Autobiographical Prose for *Black is the Body: Stories from My Grandmother's Time, My Mother's Time, and Mine*
Notable Essay, Best American Essays 2018, for "Interstates."
Recipient, Julian Lindsay Green and Gold Professorship in English, January 2018.
Nominee, National Magazine Award for "Interstates," November 2017.
Fellow, MacDowell Colony, June 2015.
Notable Essay, Best American Essays 2015, for "Black is the Body."
Notable Essay, Best American Essays 2014, for "Mother on Earth."
2014-2015 Creation Grant, Vermont Arts Council.
Outstanding Service and Leadership Award, ALANA (Asian Latino African Native American) Community of the University of Vermont, May 2014.
First Runner-Up, 2014 Neil Shepard Prize in Creative Nonfiction for "Mother on Earth," Green Mountains Review.
First Runner-Up for "Black is the Body," Spring 2015 contest, Creative Nonfiction.
UVM Dean's Lecture Award, 2013.
Notable Essay, Best American Essays 2012, for "The Refuge of the Classroom."
Winner, 2010 NAACP Image Award for Michelle Obama: The First Lady in Photographs (with Deborah Willis), New York: Norton, 2009
Alphonse Fletcher Sr. Fellow, 2009-2010
James Weldon Johnson Senior Research Fellow in African American Studies, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University, 2008-09
Best African American Essays (2009) for "Fired"

Best of Creative Non-Fiction (2008) for "Figurines"
Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award, 2007
Outstanding Faculty Woman Award, 2007
Best American Essays 2006, for "Teaching the N Word"
Nominee, Pushcart Prize XXXI: Best of the Small Presses, for "Teaching the N Word"
Nominee, National Magazine Award for "Teaching the N Word"
Some of My Best Friends selected for Books for the Teen Age, The New York Public Library, 2006
Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, 2005-2006
Award for Outstanding ALANA Faculty Member, 2005
Recognition as Outstanding Professor by the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council, 2005
Recognition by the Class of 2003 for Valuable Contributions to the Students of the University of Vermont
W. E. B. Du Bois Non-Resident Fellow, Harvard University, 2000- present
W. E. B. Du Bois Resident Fellow, Harvard University, 1999-2000
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 1999-2000
Grants from Committee on Faculty Compensation and Development, Smith College, Fall 1997; Spring 1998; Fall 1998; Spring 1999
Nominee, Prize Teaching Fellowship, 1995
Beinecke Summer Research Fellowship, 1994
Dorothy Danforth Compton Fellowship, 1990-1996
Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, 1990-1993
Norman Holmes Pearson Prize for Best American Studies Senior Essay, 1989

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

The Choices They Made: Seven Lives. New York: Knopf, 2023. (forthcoming)
Black is the Body: Stories from My Grandmother's Time, My Mother's Time, and Mine. New York: Knopf, February 2019.
Introduction to Passing by Nella Larsen. Penguin Classics: New York, 2018.
Carl Van Vechten and the Harlem Renaissance: A Portrait in Black and White, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012.
Michelle Obama: The First Lady in Photographs (with Deborah Willis), New York: W. W. Norton, 2009.
Some of My Best Friends: Writings on Interracial Friendship. (Editor) New York: Amistad/HarperCollins, August 2004.
Remember Me to Harlem: The Letters of Langston Hughes and Carl Van Vechten (1925-1964). (Editor) New York: Knopf, Inc., 2001.

**Essays**

"From the stranger in me to the stranger in you," Image: Art, Faith, Mystery, September 2020.
"I Can't Sleep," Yale Review, June 2020.
"Stereopticon: Twelve Ways of Looking at My Mother," Yale Review, December 2019/January 2020.

"Parenting While Black," Harper's, December 2019.
"A Family Affair," O the Oprah Magazine, October 2019.
"Nothing New Under the Sun: Ann Petry's *The Street* and *The Narrows*," Yale Review, April 2019.
"People Like Me" (excerpt), Harper's Magazine, December 2018.
"Witnesses for the Future," The New Republic, July/August 2018.
"White Friend," Boston Globe Magazine, March 12, 2017.
"Interstates," The American Scholar, Spring 2017.
"The Value of Clarity," in The American Scholar, "Teaching Lessons" series, August 15, 2016.
"Black is the Body," Creative Nonfiction, Spring 2015.
"Fixing Things: What Louise DeSalvo Has Taught Me About Writing," to be reprinted in Personal Effects: Essays on Memory, Culture, and Women in the Work of Louise DeSalvo, October 2014.
"Useful," in The American Scholar, "Writing Lessons" series, March 10, 2014.
"Mother on Earth," Green Mountains Review, fall 2014.
"Fixing Things: What Louise DeSalvo Has Taught Me About Writing," reprinted in Personal Effects: Essays on Memory, Culture, and Women in the Work of Louise DeSalvo (Critical Studies in Italian America). New York: Fordham University Press, 2014.
"Scar Tissue," The American Scholar, Autumn 2011.
"The Refuge of the Classroom," Oxford American, August 2011.
"Fixing Things: What Louise DeSalvo Has Taught Me About Writing," Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal. Volume 40, Issue 5, 2011.
"The Essence of Cool: Michelle Obama," Avalon, Winter 2011.
"The Riddle of Race," Principles of Prejudice, a collection of essays about the election of Barack Obama. Volume 45, Issue 1-2, 2011.
"Rednecks for Obama," Oxford American, Spring 2009.
"Figurines," The Best of Creative Non-Fiction, Vol 2, July 2008.
"Fired," American Scholar, Spring 2007.
"Teaching the N Word," American Scholar, Fall 2005.

**Fiction**

"What Happens Next," Ploughshares, Spring 2013.

**Online Publications**

"The Purpose of a House," newyorker.com, June 25, 2020.
"Fortress" in "Being a Black Academic in America" (series), chronicle.com, April 18, 2019.
"How a Group of Healers in Peru Helped Me Discover a Miracle—Within Myself," oprahmag.com, March 13, 2019.
"But What Will Your Daughters Think?" lithub.com, January 30, 2019.
"Between the World and Me: Black American Motherhood," theatlantic.com, July 28, 2015
"Few black people in Hollywood suites," www.progressive.org, February 11, 2015.
"Michelle Obama: Committed to Women's Work," Women's Voices for Change (online

publication), January 17, 2014.
"'The Color Purple' continues to inspire," www.progressive.org, April 23, 2013.
"'Django Unchained' represents a triumph of style and substance," www.progressive.org, February 25, 2013.

**Book Reviews (Since 2009)**

Review of Isabel Wilkerson, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent*. O the Oprah Magazine. August 2020.
Review of Adrienne Brodeur, *Wild Game*. O the Oprah Magazine. September 2019.
Review of Imani Perry, *Looking for Lorraine: The Radiant and Radical Life of Lorraine Hansberry*. Book Post. August 2019.
Review of Toni Morrison, *The Source of Self-Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations*. O, The Oprah Magazine. April 2019.
Review of Farah Jasmine Griffin, *Harlem Nocturne: Women Artists and Progressive Politics During World War II*. The Crisis Magazine. Winter 2014.
Review of Tanner Colby, *Some of My Best Friends are Black: The Strange Story of Integration in America*. The Wilson Quarterly. Summer 2012.
Review of Ralph Richard Banks*, Is Marriage for White People?* The Wilson Quarterly. Autumn 2011.
Review of Mark M. Smith, *Camille, 1969: Histories of a Hurricane*. The American Scholar. Summer 2011.
Review of Clare Corbould, *Becoming African Americans: Black Public Life in Harlem (1919-1930)*. Journal of Southern History. Winter 2010.
Review of Caroline Goeser, *Picturing the New Negro: Harlem Renaissance Print Culture and Modern Black Identity*. Modernism/Modernity. Spring 2009.

**SPECIAL INVITATIONS (since 2009)**

Keynote, NetSci Conference, Jericho, Vermont, May 29, 2019.
Judge, Vermont Book Award (Nonfiction), 2017.
Facilitator, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* discussion, Peace & Justice Center, Burlington, VT, September 13, 2017.
Judge, Personal Essay, 2015-16 Creative Writing Contest, League for Innovation, Delta College, Saginaw, Michigan.
Facilitator, Discussion of *Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates*, Arts Riot, Burlington, VT, May 11, 2016.
Facilitator, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* discussion, Peace & Justice Center, Burlington, VT, November 5, 2015; August 24, 2016.
Judge, 2015 PEN Literary Awards, PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography 2014-15
Peer Review panelist in American Literature, National Endowment for the Humanities, July 2014.
"Becoming Black: A Meditation on Racialization," Dean's Lecture, University of Vermont, March 11, 2014.
Speaker, Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, Harvard University, April 3, 2014.
Panel Participant, "Liberty and the Color Line in the Post-Civil War Period," Liberty

Fund, February 6-9, 2014.
Presentation at Bestsellers Café, Medford, Massachusetts, March 9, 2013.
Presentation at Association of Writers and Writing Programs, Boston, Massachusetts, March 7, 2013.
Speaker in "Endeavors" series, Yale University, December 2, 2012.
Presentation, Fletcher Free Library, Burlington, Vermont, November 14, 2012.
Speaker, Dart Center of Journalism and Trauma, Columbia University School of Journalism, November 9, 2012.
Speaker, Boston Book Festival, October 27, 2012.
Speaker, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland, October 9, 2012.
Panelist, "Let's Talk About Race," ECHO Center, Burlington, Vermont, October 6, 2012.
Presentation at Fisk University, September 26, 2012.
Speaker, Boston Book Festival, September 23, 2012.
Instructor for "Writing Biography," a Master Class at the Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library, Yale University, May 9-13, 2011.
Featured Speaker, Martin Luther King Day Series, Marlboro College, Marlboro, Vermont, February 21, 2011.
Featured Speaker, Fletcher Free Library, Burlington, Vermont, November 1, 2010.
Featured Speaker, Women of Color Leadership Retreat, Sponsored by the ALANA Student Center, Davis Center, UVM Campus, December 12, 2009.
Featured Speaker, "Michelle Obama: The First Lady in Photographs," panel with Deborah Willis, December 1, 2009, Studio Museum, Harlem, New York.
Featured Reader, "An Evening Without…Giving Voice to the Silenced," presented by the ACLU of Vermont and PEN New England, Norwich, Vermont, September 30, 2009.
Peer Review Panelist for NEH Fellowships in American Studies, Washington, D. C., July 21, 2009.
Featured Interview, Catalogue for "Jazzonia and the Harlem Diaspora," curated by Diana Rodriguez and Judith Waring, CHELSEA space, London, England, July 1-August 1, 2009.
External Examiner, "The Word in the World: 'Fallen Preachers' in Zora Neale Hurston's Jonah's Gourd Vine and Flannery O'Connor's The Violent Bear It Away" (dissertation), Department of English, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Canada, June 30, 2009.
Panelist, "Black Writing in the Age of Obama," McNally Jackson Books, New York, New York, April 29, 2009.
Panelist, "Liberty and Slavery in the Work of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs," sponsored by Liberty Fund, Indianapolis, Indiana, April 2-5, 2009.

**INVITED LECTURES AND READINGS (since 2009)**

"Writing about Race and the Difference it Makes," University of the West Indes, Montserrat, November 16, 2019.
"Black Women Writers on Art, Love, and Freedom: A Personal Journey," San Diego State University, San Diego, California, April 16, 2019.
"Ta-Nehisi Coates: We Were Eight Years in Power," First Wednesdays (Vermont

Humanities Council), Brownell Library, Essex Junction, Vermont, February 6, 2019.

"What Do We Mean When We Talk about Black Art?: Why the Harlem Renaissance Still Matters," Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio, November 8, 2018.

"My Own People: Identity, Intersectionality, and the Saving Grace of Friendship," Denison University, November 7, 2018.

"'In This Here Place': Being at Home in Toni Morrison's Beloved," Thetford Academy, Thetford, Vermont, February 27, 2018; February 28, 2017.

"Four Saints in Three Acts: Gertrude Stein, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Politics of Race and Representation, The Photographers' Gallery, London, October 25, 2017.

"Carl Van Vechten and the Harlem Renaissance: White Friends, Black Movements, and the Curious Complexities of Interracial Intimacy," Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Speaker Series, Julliard, New York, New York, January 19, 2017.

"The Vision of Carl Van Vechten," Fisk University, Carl Van Vechten Gallery, Nashville Tennessee, October 20, 2016.

"Between the World and Me: Ta-Nehisi Coates on What It Means to Be an American," Keynote Summer Reading Lecture, Skidmore College, September 12, 2016.

"'In This Here Place': Being at Home in Toni Morrison's Beloved," Norwich Congregational Church, Norwich, VT, February 3, 2016.

"Century's Son: Robert Stepto the Storyteller," Festschrift for Professor Robert B. Stepto Yale University, October 30, 2015.

"Delicious to the Ear: Maya Angelou and the Mother Tongue," Vermont Humanities Council (Bronwell Library, Essex Junction, VT, February 4, 2015; Brooks Memorial Library, Brattleboro, VT, January 7, 2015.

Speaker, Lunchtime Series, Hutchins Institute for African and African American Culture, Harvard University, April 3, 2014.

"Carl Van Vechten and the Harlem Renaissance: A Black Story with a White Face," American Studies Association, Washington, D. C., November 21-24, 2013.

"The Harlem Renaissance," Elder Enrichment Program, Burlington, Vermont, November 4, 2011.

"Some of My Best Friends," Vermont Humanities Council, Middlebury, Vermont, November 2, 2011.

"An Evening Without… Giving Voice to the Silenced," Big Picture Theater, Waitsfield, Vermont, September, 2011.

"Going Public as an Author," New Jersey City University, Jersey City, New Jersey, March 16, 2011.

"Carl Van Vechten and the Harlem Renaissance," Marlboro College, Marlboro, Vermont, February 12, 2011.

"'Why Can't I Say It, Too?' Race and Racist Language in the Classroom," Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, February 9, 2011.

"A Story About an Encounter with a Knife: A Work in Progress," Plenary Lecture, "The Pursuit of Knowledge," Honors College, University of Vermont, October 7, 2010, and October 1, 2009.

"The Van Vechten Paradox: The Harlem Renaissance, A White Man, and His Black Story," Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, June 1, 2009.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**
Editorial Advisor, *Image*
Contributing Editor, *American Scholar*
Member, PEN; PEN New England