

JANELLE GRAY

School of Arts, Humanities, & Technology
The University of Texas at Dallas
Richardson, Texas 75080

Janelle.Gray@UTDallas.edu | 469-230-8440

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Literature, The University of Texas at Dallas, anticipated graduation May 2024
Dissertation: *Staging Ancestry: Black Theater Aesthetics*
Creative Dissertation: *Under the Bridge*
Committee: Maurine Ogbaa (Chair), Manuel Martinez, Erin Greer, Whitney Stewart, Tiana K. Blair
- M.A. Literature, The University of Texas at Dallas, 2023
- ALM Creative Writing and Literature, Harvard University Extension School, 2021
Thesis: *The Four Selves: Using Character Identity as an Engine for Plot*
Advisor: Catherine Eaton
Creative Thesis Project: *Dub City*, TV series
Graduate Certificates: Social Justice Certificate
- B.A. **Stephen F. Austin State University**, 2006
First Major: Communications
Second Major: Spanish

Research and Teaching Interests: African-American Literature, The Black Aesthetic, Afro-Latin Literature, Afro-Indigeneity, Black Feminist voices, race, representation in the arts, Creative Writing

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

- 2024-2025 **The University of Texas at Dallas**
Dean's Teaching Fellow, Department of Literature
Courses: CR 4307 - Advanced Undergraduate Workshop
Crafting through Culture: Black Literature & Creative Writing Workshop
- 2021-2024 Teaching Associate, Department of Literature

Courses:
Rhetoric 1302 (ENGL 1302)
Literature 2331 Intro to World Literature — The Language of Black Radicalism
- 2017-2018 **Universidad de Sergio Arboleda**, Bogotá, Colombia
Docente de Inglés, Escuela de Idiomas
English Level 1
English Level 2
English Level 3

PUBLICATIONS

Textbooks

Research and Argumentation within Rhetorical Foundations, Co-Author and Editor, Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2024.

Textbooks (In Preparation)

Practical Rhetoric for a Technical World, Gray, Janelle, Contributor, edited by Carie King and Jason Walker, Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2024.

Chapter in Edited Collection (Forthcoming)

“Magical Negroes, Black Foes, and Vanishing Victims: Blackness ‘in the wake’ of TVDU.”
Demystifying Mystic Falls: Race and Racism in The Vampire Diaries Franchise, edited by Deanna Koretsky, 2025.

Creative Nonfiction

“My Fire, My Crown.” *What Doesn't Kill Her: Women's Stories of Resilience*, edited by Kerry Garvin and Elisabeth Sharp McKetta, H&S Books, 2021.

PLAYS PRODUCED

- 2023 *#voiced*
Directed by Tinamarie Ivey
The University of Texas at Dallas
- The Origin of Freedom*
Directed by Gabrielle Kurlander
Commissioned and Produced by Bishop Arts Theater Center
- 2022 *RAGE*
Directed by Tiana Kaye Blair
AT&T Performing Arts Center

PLAYS WORKSHOPPED

- 2024 *Under the Bridge*
Directed by Janelle Gray
All A Gray Area
- 2019 *#voiced*
Directed by DR Mann Hanson
The Margo Jones Theater

AWARDS

- 2024 **Academia**
President’s Teaching Excellence Award for Teaching Assistants, Honorable Mention
The University of Texas at Dallas
- 2018-2021 Dean’s List Academic Achievement Award
Harvard University Extension School
- 2022 **Community**
Dallas Summer Musicals SHero
Broadway Dallas

2021 **Writing Contests**
Screenwriting Fellowship, *Dub City*, Semi-Finalist
Screencraft

Big Break, *Dub City*, Quarterfinalist
Final Draft

2021 **Film**
Best Film, *Nail Gun*
Rack Focus Film Festival

2019 Best Satire, *Red Dots*
Pensacola Comedy Film Festival

Short Film Honourable Mention, *Service Animal*
London Worldwide Comedy Short Film Festival

NOMINATIONS

2024 **Academia**
Victor Worsfold Teaching Award
The University of Texas at Dallas

2023 President's Teaching Excellence Award for Teaching Assistants
The University of Texas at Dallas

2022 Thesis Prize
Harvard University Extension School

2021 **Community**
Michael Shinagel Award for Service to Others
Harvard Alumni Association

2021 **Writing Contests**
TV Writing Fellowship, *Dub City*, Semi-Finalist
Screencraft

Big Break, *Dub City*, Quarterfinalist
Final Draft

2022 **Theater**
Best Play, *RAGE*, Irma P. Hall Award, nominee
DFW Black Arts

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, FUNDING, AND RESIDENCIES

2024 **Academia**
UTD Dean's Teaching Fellowship, includes \$2,000 USD research stipend

2023 The Robert Plant Armstrong Endowed Scholarship, \$2,000 USD

2018-2020 Harvard Extension School Grant, \$9,000 USD

- Arts**
- 2024 Donald Fowler Theater Arts Memorial Fund, for *Under the Bridge*, \$5,000, USD
- 2022 The Arts Community Alliance 2022 Pop-Up Grant for *RAGE*, \$4,000 USD
- 2021 ArtsActivate Office of Arts and Culture for *RAGE*, \$7,000 USD
- Alternate Roots for *RAGE*, \$2,500 USD
- Residencies**
- 2024 Horned Dorset Artists Residency, for *Under the Bridge*, Leonardsville, NY

INVITED TALKS

- 2022 **Dallas College**
Cedar Valley campus
“Telling Your Story: Culturally Focused Creative Writing Workshop”

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers Presented

- 2024 “Some of My Best Friends are Black: Navigating Cinethetic Racism in TVDU,” Pop Culture/American Culture Association in the South Conference, October 2024.
- 2023 “Voicing an Identity: Black Aesthetic and the White Gaze,” Research, Art, Writing Graduate Conference, The University of Texas at Dallas, February 2024.
- “Writing Respectability: Black Women Writers and Self-determination in Victorian United States,” British Women Writers Conference, University of Virginia, May 2023.
- “For Better or Worse: The precarious marriage of respectability politics and Black female radicalism in 1890-1910,” Research, Art, Writing Graduate Conference, The University of Texas at Dallas, February 2023.
- 2022 “The Problematic Relationship between Aesthetics and Black Theater,” End of English Conference, Rice University, Virtual: February 2022

Conference Short Fiction Presentations

- 2023 Short-Story Reading, “The Cost of Freedom,” Research, Art, Writing Graduate Conference, The University of Texas at Dallas, February 2023.

Other Presentations

- 2024 “Staging Ancestry: Black Aesthetics on Stage,” Graduate Speaker Series, The University of Texas at Dallas, March 2024.
- 2020 “Black US-ian Identity Dilemma,” Race in a Polarized America, Harvard University, May 2020.
- 2019 “The Gospelizing of Black Pride: The Many Movements of the Phrase ‘Young, Gifted and Black.’” Race, Gender, & Sexuality in U.S. Popular Music, Harvard University, December 2019

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2024 **First-Year Teaching Orientation Panel (Panelist)**
Bass School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology New TA Orientation
Topic: Advice to New Teaching Assistants and Associates
- Post-Performance Talkback (Panelist)**
UTD's Choir Concert, *I Can't Breathe*
Topic: Police Brutality and Historical Connections revealed in music
- Graduate Speaker Series**
Presentation of my research
Topic: Black Theater Aesthetics
- 2023 **Post-Screening Panel (Panelist)**
Screening the Art of Drag, *Tucked* (2018)
Topic: Film screenings exploring the cinematic representation of the drag arts
- 2022, 2023, 2024 **First-Year Teaching Orientation Panel (Panelist)**
Rhetoric Department Orientation
Topic: Advice to New Rhetoric Teaching Associates
- 2022 **Theater Production Talkback (Panelist)**
UTD's production of *Bent*
Topic: Equity in the Arts
- 2021, 2022 **Introduction to Theater courses (Guest Speaker)**
Topic: Professional Arts Field and Creative

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2013-Present **All A Gray Area**
Consultant/Private Teacher
English as a Foreign Language
Spanish – Level 1 & 2 continuing education

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2023-2024 **Literature Department Core Writing Committee**
Teaching Associate Representative

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2024-Present **The Sine Qua Non, Creative Writing Journal**
Managing Editor - Craft & Theory
- Uptown Players, Theater**
Board Member

EXTRACURRICULAR UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2022-Present **Creative Writing Professionals**
Co-Founder, Co-President

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OUTREACH

- 2024 **Blue Magic - (Tiana K Blair - Workshop/Showcase)**
Juanita Craft Residency
Reading: “Progeny” by Janelle Gray
- Lyceum Workshop Series (Workshop)**
The Writer’s Garret
Workshop: “Ready, Set...Dialogue: Writing for the Stage”
- 2023, 2020 **Lyceum Brown Bag Round Table (Panel)**
The Writer’s Garret
Topic: Accessibility to Craft Courses
- Black Arts Matters (Panel)**
Broadway Dallas
Topic: Race in Theater
- 2021 **Black Narratives in the Arts (Course)**
Commissioned by: Lake Placid Center for the Arts, New York
- 2015 **Spanish 1 (Course)**
Commissioned by: St. Luke Community United Methodist Church

MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2023 Broadway Dallas - Black Art Matters: Black Playwrights Roundtable
<https://youtu.be/SwPgibFVj5s?si=fh7nwgeyIGvaeskD>
- D Magazine*, Author Nikole Hannah Jones Visits Bishop Arts To See the Plays She Inspired
<https://www.dmagazine.com/arts-entertainment/2023/02/author-nikole-hannah-jones-visits-bishop-arts-to-see-the-plays-she-inspired/>
- Janelle Gray Interviewed about *The 1619 Project One-Act Festival*
<https://youtu.be/zgl-ateC-1g>
- NBC – Janelle Gray’s Play Gives Voice To a New Generation
https://www.nbcdfw.com/entertainment/the-scene/___trashed-4/3191960/
- 2022 WFAA - A conversation with the writer of new play, *RAGE*
<https://www.wfaa.com/video/entertainment/a-conversation-with-the-writer-of-new-play-rage/287-5bd53c64-cf79-4740-92b5-8f4e687be5de>
- 2020 Broadway Dallas - Black Art Matters with Janelle Gray
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWeqLSVMPXg>
- 2019 NFSReads, Interview with Author Janelle Gray
<https://www.nfreads.com/interview-with-author-janelle-gray/>
- Voyage Dallas - Conversations with the Inspiring Janelle Gray
<http://voyagedallas.com/interview/conversations-inspiring-janelle-gray/>

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 2023 **Graduate Teaching Certificate**
The University of Texas at Dallas
- 2021, 2020 **Equity and Diversity Conference**
University of North Texas, Denton
- 2014 **Teaching English as a Foreign Language Certification**
TEFL Org

NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Books

- Echoes of the Struggle*. All A Gray Area, 2017.
Emotional Maze. All A Gray Area, 2017.
Echoes of the Struggle Tour Guide. All A Gray Area, 2018.

Poetry

- Mosaic: Pieces in Poetry*. All A Gray Area, 2015

Essay Collections

- Unity, Equality, Accountability: The Echoes Blog Anthology*. Gray, Janelle, editor, All A Gray Area, 2018.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Short Fiction

- “Walk in the Park”
“Progeny”
“Blowing Smoke”
“The Cost of Freedom”
“Our New Life”
“Big City Secrets”

Screenplays

- We, Kin, Resist*
Echoes

Short Films

- Uprising*

Ten-Minute Plays/Monologues

- “The Godmother,” ten-minute play
“The Ancestor,” monologue
“Burden of Proof,” monologue

Television

- Consort*
Dub City

FILM WORK

- First Assistant Director**
- 2023 *St. Clair Bites*
Directed by: Natasha Paris
LunaLuz Productions & Hungry Cat Media
- 2021 *Nail Gun*
Directed by: Eugene Hawkins
Visionline Productions
- 2020 *Pure Hands*
Directed by: Eugene Hawkins
Bewin Productions
- 2019 *Catfest*
Directed by: Natasha Paris
Hungry Cat Media
- Red Dots*
Directed by: Natasha Paris
Too Much Productions & LunaLuz Productions
- First Assistant Camera**
- Service Animal*
Directed by: Natasha Paris

TEACHING AREAS/COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH

The Black Aesthetic
Black Narratives in the Arts
Black Radicalism in Literature
Afro-Latinx Literature
Creating through Culture: Literature & Creative Writing (hybrid course)

REFERENCES

Maurine Ogbaa
Assistant Professor, Literature and Creative Writing
The University of Texas at Dallas
Maurine.Ogbaa@utdallas.edu

Manuel Martinez
Professor, Literature and Creative Writing
The University of Texas at Dallas
Manuel.Martinez1@utdallas.edu

Carie King
Clinical Professor, Director of Rhetoric
The University of Texas at Dallas
Carie.King@utdallas.edu

Tiana Blair
Professor of Practice
Souther Methodist University
TianaKBlair@gmail.com

LANGUAGE

Spanish (conversational)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP/AFFILIATIONS

Alternate Roots
Dramatists Guild
Playwrights' Center
Association of Writers & Writing Programs

PROJECTS DEVELOPED INTO AN ORGANIZATION

2017-2021	Echoes Media Founder and Producer
2020 - 2021	<i>on air with ..., podcast</i>
2018 - 2021	<i>Echoes on air!, podcast</i>
2017 - 2021	The Echoes Blog

ECHOES MEDIA EVENTS HOSTED

2021	<i>Shotguns, Sheets, and Sheep</i> Echoes Media
2020	<i>How To Be a Good Ally</i> Echoes Media
2019	<i>Social Justice Burnout</i> Echoes Media

WEBSITES

www.janellegray.com
www.allagrayarea.com
www.echoesofthestruggle.com