

## **TED ATKINSON**

Associate Professor of English, Mississippi State University

Editor, *Mississippi Quarterly*

Email: TAtkinson@english.msstate.edu

Phone : (662) 325-3069

Faculty webpage : <http://www.english.msstate.edu/faculty/atkinson.html>

---

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., English, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 2001

M.A., English, Mississippi College, Clinton, MS, 1996

B.A., Journalism, English minor, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, 1990

### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Editor <i>Mississippi Quarterly</i>	2013-present
Associate Professor of English Department of English Mississippi State University—Starkville, MS	2012-present
Assistant Professor of English Department of English Mississippi State University—Starkville, MS	2009-2012
Assistant Professor of English Department of English and Foreign Languages Augusta State University—Augusta, GA	2005-2009
Assistant Chair Department of English and Foreign Languages Augusta State University—Augusta, GA	2008-2009
Temporary Instructor of English Department of Languages, Literature, and Communications Augusta State University—Augusta, GA	2003-2005
Adjunct Instructor of English Department of Languages, Literature, and Communications Augusta State University—Augusta, GA	2002
Instructor of English, Postdoctoral Appointment Department of English Louisiana State University—Baton Rouge, LA	2001-2002

Graduate Teaching Assistant Department of English Louisiana State University—Baton Rouge, LA	1997-2001
Instructor of Literature Lagniappe Studies Unlimited Division of Continuing Education Louisiana State University—Baton Rouge, LA	1998-2001
Adjunct Instructor of English Department of English Mississippi College—Clinton, MS	1996-1997
Adjunct Instructor of English Department of English Hinds Community College—Raymond, MS	1997
Graduate Teaching Assistant Department of English Mississippi College—Clinton, MS	1994-1996

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

### Book

*Faulkner and the Great Depression: Aesthetics, Ideology, and Cultural Politics*. University of Georgia Press, 2006. Reissued as an e-book, 2010.

### Essays and Encyclopedia Entries

#### *Published:*

“Faulkner on the Mississippi: Popular Currents of Realism in *If I Forget Thee, Jerusalem*.” *Southern Quarterly* 52.3 (2015): 46-62.

“Class Fantasies, Hollywood Liberalism, and the Bush Doctrine in Film Adaptations of “Two Soldiers” and *All the King’s Men*.” *Faulkner and Warren*. Cape Girardeau, MO: Southeast Missouri State University Press, 2015. 46-55.

“Mississippi (and Bensonhurst) Burning: Fantasies of Containment, Racist Enjoyment, and the Real of Social Evil.” *A History of Evil in Popular Culture: What Hannibal Lecter, Stephen King, and Vampires Reveal About America*. Vol. 1. Ed. Sharon Packer and Jody W. Pennington. Praeger Press, 2014. 1-13. (invited essay)

“Defying the Cultural Logic of Southern Exceptionalism in *Absalom, Absalom!* and *Song of Solomon*.” *Faulkner and Morrison*. Ed. Robert W. Hamblin and Christopher Rieger. Southeast Missouri State University Press, 2013. 53-71.

“‘Blood Petroleum’: *True Blood*, the BP Oil Spill, and Fictions of Energy/Culture.” *Journal of American Studies* 47.1 (2013): 213-29.

“William Faulkner.” *EAS: Encyclopedia of American Studies*. Johns Hopkins University Press. <<http://eas-ref.press.jhu.edu/>>.

“The Impenetrable Lightness of Being: Miscegenation Imagery and the Anxiety of Whiteness in Faulkner’s *Go Down, Moses*.” *Faulkner and Formalism: Returns of the Text (Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha, 2008)*. Ed. Annette Trefzer and Ann J. Abadie. University Press of Mississippi, 2012. 129-43.

“Southern Agrarians.” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History*. Ed. Scott E. Casper and Joan Shelley Rubin. Oxford University Press, 2013. (invited entry)

“Hellhound on His Trail: Faulknerian Blood-guilt and the Traumatized Form of Lewis Nordan’s *Wolf Whistle*.” *Southern Literary Journal* 44.1 (2011): 19-36.

“Cultural Context: *Absalom, Absalom!*.” *Critical Insights: Absalom, Absalom!* Ed. David Madden. Salem Press, 2011. 63-78. (invited essay)

“Seeing Red in the Free State of Jones: Confederates, Communism, and the Cold Civil War in *Tap Roots*.” *Studies in American Culture* 33.1 (2010): 1-15.

“Redeeming Depravity: The Legacy of Southwestern Humor in Caldwell’s *Tobacco Road* and Brown’s *Father and Son*,” *Studies in American Humor* 17.3 (2008): 117-29.

“The State.” *A Companion to William Faulkner*. Ed. Richard C. Moreland. Blackwell Publishing, 2007. 220-35. (invited essay)

“The Ideology of Autonomy: Form and Function in *As I Lay Dying*,” *Faulkner Journal* 21.1-2 (2005-2006): 15-27. (invited essay)

“Testing the Limits of Tragedy: History and Ideology in John Faulkner’s *Dollar Cotton*.” *Mississippi Quarterly* 54.4 (2001): 527-539.

“Aesthetic Ideology in Faulkner’s *Mosquitoes*: A Cultural History.” *Faulkner Journal* 17.1 (2001): 3-18. (invited essay)

*Forthcoming:*

“Long Faulkner: Charting Legacy on a Civil Rights Continuum.” *Fifty Years after Faulkner*. University Press of Mississippi.

“Labor.” *Keywords for Southern Studies*. Ed. Scott Romine and Jennifer Rae Greeson. University of Georgia Press. (invited essay)

“Literary Mississippi and the New Southern Studies.” *Writing in the Crooked Letter State: A History of Mississippi’s Literature*. Ed. Lorie Watkins. University Press of Mississippi. (invited essay)

“Natasha Trethewey’s Joe Christmas and the Reconstruction of Mississippi Nativity.” *Faulkner and the Black Literatures of the Americas*. University Press of Mississippi.

## Review Essays and Reviews

“Faulkner.” *American Literary Scholarship* (2011). Ed. Gary Scharnhorst. Duke University Press, 2013. 173-87. (invited review essay)

Review of *The Intellectual in Twentieth-Century Southern Literature* by Tara Powell. *Journal of American Studies* 47.1 (2013): 287-88.

Review of *American Cinema and the Southern Imaginary*, edited by Deborah Barker and Kathryn McKee. *Journal of Southern History* 78 (2012): 788-89.

“Faulkner.” *American Literary Scholarship* (2010). Ed. David Nordloh. Duke University Press, 2012. 191-98. (invited review essay)

Review of *Cotton’s Queer Relations: Same-Sex Intimacy and the Literature of the Southern Plantation, 1936-1968* by Michael P. Bibler. *Mississippi Quarterly* 64.1-2 (2011): 17-20.

“Faulknerscapes.” Review essay on *Faulkner and the Southern Landscape* by Charles S. Aiken; *Becoming Faulkner: The Art and Life of William Faulkner* by Philip Weinstein; and *The Global Faulkner: Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha, 2006*. *Studies in the Novel* 42.5 (2010): 471-78.

“The Fascist-Haunted South.” Review of *The Fourth Ghost: White Southern Writers and European Fascism, 1930-1950* by Robert H. Brinkmeyer, Jr. *H-Southern Lit*. May 2009. <<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=24653>>.

Review of *Reading Faulkner: Introduction to the First Thirteen Novels* by Richard Marius. *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 105.2 (2007): 341-343.

Review of *Faulkner and His Contemporaries: Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha, 2002*. *Arkansas Review* 36.1 (2005): 55-56.

Review of *Faulkner’s County: The Historical Roots of Yoknapatawpha*, by Don H. Doyle. *Civil War Book Review* 4.2 (2002): n.p.

Review of *The Internationale*, a documentary by Peter Miller. *Film and History* 31.2 (2001): 62.

Review of *Natural Aristocracy: History, Ideology, and the Production of William Faulkner* by Kevin Railey. *Modern Fiction Studies* 47.2 (2001): 473-75.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

### Conference Papers and Panels

“Inundated Labor in Faulkner and Hurston.” Faulkner and Hurston Conference. Center for Faulkner Studies. Southeast Missouri State University. Cape Girardeau, MO. October 2014.

“The State of Southern Studies II: The Editors’ View.” St. George Tucker Society Meeting. Atlanta, GA. July 2014.

“Conversation with Editors and Publishers.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference. Arlington, VA. March 2014.

“Natasha Trethewey’s Joe Christmas and the Reconstruction of Mississippi Nativity.” Faulkner and the Black Literatures of the Americas. Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference. University of Mississippi. Oxford, MS. July 2013.

“Progressive Snacking: Southern Food Styling and American Postracial Hunger in *The Help*.” “We All Declare for Liberty”: Biennial Southern American Studies Association Conference. Charleston, SC. February 2013.

“Poor Man’s Fight: Class Fantasies, Hollywood Liberalism, and the Bush Doctrine in Film Adaptations of ‘Two Soldiers’ and *All the King’s Men*.” Faulkner and Warren Conference. Southeast Missouri State University. Cape Girardeau, MO. October 2012.

“Long Faulkner: Charting Legacy on a Civil Rights Continuum.” Fifty Years after Faulkner. Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference. University of Mississippi. Oxford, Mississippi. July 2012. (invited panelist)

“‘Same Damn Corners’: Alternative Education in Baltimore from Frederick Douglass to *The Wire*.” Urban Landscapes in Southern Literature. Society for the Study of Southern Literature. American Literature Association Conference. San Francisco, CA. May 2012.

“Mississippi (and Bensonhurst) Burning: Reinventing the Closed Society in Fantasies of Containment.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference. Nashville, TN. March 2012.

“Reading Faulkner in 3D: Spatial Desires, Image Culture, and *Go Down, Moses*.” Faulkner and the Media Ecology Conference. Modernism Studies Centre in Australia. University of New South Wales. Sydney, Australia. November 2011. Invited by conference organizers. Participation via Skype.

“‘There Will Be Blood’: *True Blood*, the BP Oil Spill, and the Southerly Flows of Global Capitalism.” 2011 Southern American Studies Association Conference. Atlanta, GA. February 2011.

“Publish or Perish?: A Roundtable for Graduate Students on Academic Publishing.” Southern American Studies Association Conference. Atlanta, GA. February 2011.

“Defying the Cultural Logic of Southern Exceptionalism in *Absalom, Absalom!* and *Song of Solomon*.” Faulkner and Morrison Conference. Southeast Missouri State University. October 2010.

“Seeing Red in the Free State of Jones: Confederates, Communism, and Political Projections in *Tap Roots*,” Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference. New Orleans, LA. April 2010.

“Seeing Red in the Free State of Jones: Confederates, Communism, and the Cold Civil War in *Tap Roots*,” Mississippi Philological Association Conference. University of Southern Mississippi. Hattiesburg, MS. February 2010.

“Discord in the Segregated Self: Reworking Freedom Songs in Anne Moody’s *Coming of Age in Mississippi*.” Panel: *Music, Resistance, and “the Long Civil Rights Movement*. Organizer: Susan V.

Donaldson, College of William and Mary. Modern Language Association Convention. Philadelphia, PA. December 2009.

“The Impenetrable Lightness of Being: Miscegenation Imagery and the Anxiety of Whiteness in Faulkner’s *Go Down, Moses*.” Plenary paper. 2008 Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference. University of Mississippi. Oxford, MS. July 2008.

“Redeeming Violence: Postmodern Masculinity in Larry Brown’s *Father and Son*.” American Literature Association Conference. Boston, MA. May 2007.

“Stand By Your Man: Southern Fried Gender Trouble in *Sordid Lives*,” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association in the South Conference. Savannah, GA. October 2006.

“‘A New Order of Things’: Faulkner’s *The Unvanquished* and New Deal Politics.” Panel: *The Political Faulkner*. Organizer: Noel Polk, Mississippi State University. Modern Language Association Convention. Philadelphia, PA. December 2006.

“Re-forming the ‘Cracker’: Humor and Labor Politics in *As I Lay Dying* and *Tobacco Road*.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference. Birmingham, AL. April 2006.

“Interrogating Frames: Autobiography Exposed in Welty’s *One Writer’s Beginnings*.” Southern Women Writers Conference. Berry College. Rome, GA. September 2005.

“Simply Profound Gestures: The Politics of Race, Religion, and Community in Ernest Gaines’s *A Lesson Before Dying*.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference. Chapel Hill, NC. March 2004.

“‘It aint on a balance’: *As I Lay Dying* and the Cultural Politics of the Great Depression.” Panel: *Faulkner and the '30s*, sponsored by the William Faulkner Society. Modern Language Association Convention. Philadelphia, PA. December 2004.

“Faulkner’s Burning Barns: The Cultural Politics of Rural Dissidence in the Great Depression,” Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference. University of Mississippi. Oxford, MS. July 2004.

### **Public Lectures and Presentations**

“Midcentury Faulkner: Public Performances of a Worldly Mississippian.” Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. Natchez, MS. February 2015.

“Mississippi Bound: Locating the Closed Society in American Culture.” Critical Readings Series. University of Southern Mississippi. Hattiesburg, MS. September 2014.

“Guts and Glory: Michael Shaara’s *The Killer Angels* and Civil War Visual Culture.” Starkville Reads. Starkville, MS. July 2013.

“The Found Cause: Faulkner’s Citizen Soldiers and the Democratic Revival.” Keynote address. Faulkner Heritage Festival. Ripley, MS. November 2012.

Publishing Panel. Lipsey Lecture Series. Mississippi College. Clinton, MS. March 27, 2012.

“Where Is the Voice Coming From?” Maroon Edition. Mississippi State University. Participant in roundtable discussion on Eudora Welty in the Civil Rights era. November 2011.

“Images of Mississippi: The Politics of Cultural Representation.” Brown Bag Luncheon Series. The Center for the Study of Southern Culture. University of Mississippi. October 2011.

“Critical Perspectives on *The Optimist’s Daughter*.” Maroon Edition. Mississippi State University. September 2011. Presentation on Welty’s novel from the perspective of southern literary studies.

“Mississippi, USA: Representing the State of a Nation.” Brandon Public Library. Brandon, MS. July 2010.

“Seeing Red in the Free State of Jones: Confederates, Communism, and the Cold Civil War in *Tap Roots*.” College of Arts and Sciences Research Showcase. Colvard Student Union. Mississippi State University. October 2009.

“‘Cinema in Words’: Imagery and Activism in the Work of John Dos Passos.” Presentation on the literature and painting of Dos Passos in conjunction with the exhibition *The Art of John Dos Passos*. Morris Museum of Art. Augusta, GA. October 2007.

“Dear Scott, Dear Zelda.” Presentation on the lives and letters of Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald in conjunction with the exhibition *Zelda by Herself: The Art of Zelda Fitzgerald*. Morris Museum of Art. Augusta, GA. October 2006.

“Through Eudora’s Eyes.” Presentation on Eudora Welty’s fiction and photography in conjunction with the exhibition *Passionate Observer: Eudora Welty among Artists of the Thirties*. Morris Museum of Art. Augusta, GA. October 2005.

## TEACHING AND ADVISING

### Courses Taught

#### Mississippi State University

Realism for the People in American Literature and Culture, 1935-1945 (graduate seminar)  
Deep Souths: Floods in Southern Literature and Culture (graduate seminar)  
American Novel after 1900: Fictions of History (graduate/undergraduate)  
Contemporary Literature: Beyond the Southern Gothic (graduate/undergraduate)  
Studies in Southern Literature: The Global American South (graduate seminar)  
Special Topics in English: The U.S. Civil War in Literature and Film (graduate/undergraduate)  
Survey of Contemporary Fiction: Postsouthern Turns (graduate/undergraduate)  
Special Topics in English: The South in Literature and Film (graduate/undergraduate)  
Southern Literature: Southern Geographies (graduate/undergraduate)  
Studies in Southern Literature: Literary Mississippi (graduate seminar)  
Selected Novels of the Southern Renaissance (graduate/undergraduate)  
Advanced Composition (undergraduate)  
American Literature after 1865 (undergraduate)  
Mississippi Writers (undergraduate)

### Other Institutions

Major American Authors: Faulkner and Morrison  
Special Topics in American Literature: The 1930s  
Survey of American Literature, 1865 to the Present  
Southern Literature  
American Politics in Film  
Grant Writing  
Introduction to Drama  
Introduction to Fiction  
World Humanities II (literature, art, and music)  
English Composition I  
English Composition II  
English Composition I: Service Learning  
English Composition II: Writing Across the Curriculum  
Basic Composition  
Basic Writing Skills  
Developmental English  
Humor in Southern Literature (Continuing Education)  
Modern American Short Fiction (Continuing Education)  
Short Fiction of the Modern South (Continuing Education)  
Literature and Culture of the Irish Literary Renaissance (Continuing Education)  
Survey of World Literature: Contemporary Short Fiction (Continuing Education)

### **Advising**

#### Mississippi State University

Member, M.A. thesis committee, Antoinette Hayden, scheduled defense in 2016  
Member, M.A. thesis committee, Lisa Gooden-Hunley, scheduled defense in 2016  
Major professor, M.A. thesis, Natalie Nations, 2011-2012; recipient of the 2013 Master's Thesis Award in Fine Arts and Humanities presented by the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools  
Major professor, M.A. thesis, Elizabeth Coggins, 2012  
Major professor, M.A. thesis, Kate Salter, 2012  
Member, M.A. thesis committee, Lisa Fulgham Scheibner, 2013  
Member, M.A. thesis committee, Seth Dawson, 2010  
Member, M.A. thesis committee, Margaret Henderson, successfully defended, 2010  
Member, Advising Team, English Department, 10 undergraduate English major advisees, 2010-present

#### Augusta State University

Honor's thesis advisor, Honor's College, 2006-2007  
Undergraduate Advisor, 2005-2009

### **AWARDS**

Humanities Researcher of the Year, College of Arts and Sciences, Mississippi State University, 2012  
Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, Department of English, Mississippi College, 2012  
Participant, David Carlisle Hull Faculty Leadership Program, 2011-2012



## SERVICE AND ORGANIZATIONS

### Mississippi State University and Community

Member, Board of Governors, Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, July 2015-present  
Member, Starkville Reads Board, Starkville Public Library, Starkville, MS, 2013-present  
Member, Mississippi Equality Regional Board Member for the Golden Triangle, 2014-present  
Member, Search Committee, Dean of Arts and Sciences, 2012  
Arts and Sciences Representative, Teacher Education Council, College of Education, 2012  
Member, Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, elected to three year term, 2010  
Member, Curriculum Committee, Department of English, 2009-present  
Member, Advising Team, Department of English, 2010-present  
Member, Search Committee, Online Instructor of Professional Writing, Department of English, 2010  
Co-organizer, "Turning South: Civil War, Civil Rights, and Cultural Memory," symposium sponsored by the Department of English and the African American Studies Program, 2011  
William Winter Scholar, Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, 2011

### Augusta State University

Member, Faculty Policies Committee, 2008-2009  
Chair, Upper-Division/Graduate English Curriculum Committee, Department of English and Foreign Languages, 2008-2009  
Member, Assessment and Retention Committee, Department of English and Foreign Languages, 2008-2009  
Chair, Graduation Portfolio Evaluation Committee, Department of English and Foreign Languages, 2008-2009  
Member, Upper-Division/Graduate English Curriculum Committee, Department of English and Foreign Languages, 2003-2009  
Member, Lyceum Culture Series Programming Committee, 2007-2009  
Member, Curriculum Committee, Pamplin College of Arts and Sciences, 2005-2007  
Judge, Young Literary Scholars Competition, Augusta State University, 2003-2006  
Coordinator, Programs for Morris Museum of Art Exhibitions, English Club, 2005-2007

### **Professional Affiliations and Service**

President, William Faulkner Society, elected to three-year term in 2015  
Executive Committee, MLA Southern United States Forum, elected to five-year term in 2013  
Vice President, William Faulkner Society, 2012-2015  
Secretary-Treasurer, William Faulkner Society, 2009-2012  
Member, Finance Committee, Society for the Study of Southern Literature, 2011-present  
Reader, *Faulkner Journal*, *College Literature*, *Studies in American Culture*, *Twentieth-Century Literature*, University of Tennessee Press, Louisiana State University Press  
Member, Modern Language Association, 2006-present  
Member, Society for the Study of Southern Literature, 2004-present  
Member, Southern American Studies Association, 2010-present  
Member, Bibliography Committee, Society for the Study of Southern Literature, 2004-2006  
Member, Eudora Welty Society, 2012-present