

# Michael J. Beilfuss

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## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. English, Texas A&M University	2012
M.A. English, SUNY New Paltz	2005
B.A. Secondary Ed/English, SUNY New Paltz	
Minors: Journalism, Religious Studies	2001

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### Teaching:

Assistant Professor, Missouri Southern State University: 2019 – present  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Oklahoma State University: 2013 – 2019  
Lecturer, Oklahoma State University: 2012-2013  
Graduate Assistant Teacher, Texas A&M University: 2006 – 2012  
Teaching Assistant, SUNY New Paltz: 2002 – 2005  
Professional Tutor, SUNY New Paltz, Educational Opportunity Program: 2004 – 2006

### Courses Taught

American Literature I & II	Introduction to Literature
Studies in American Literature: Southern Literature	Traditional and honors
College Composition I & II	Short Story
American Ethnic Literature	Traditional and online
Composition and Rhetoric	Technical Writing
Critical Analysis & Writing I & II, Honors	Traditional, online, correspondence

### Writing, Publishing, Assessment:

AP Reader, English Literature and Composition, Salt Lake City, UT June 2019  
AP Pilot Standard Setting, English Literature and Composition, Reston, VA, Nov – Dec 2018  
Technical Writing Course Guide, OSU Office of Individual Study, Stillwater, 2018  
AP Reader, English Literature and Composition, Kansas City, MO. June 2018  
Editor & Writer, *OK Sierran*, Sierra Club Newsletter, Oklahoma Chapter. 2015 – 2016  
Editor, “Forgive Us, Wolves: A German Soldier at the Russian Front,” memoir manuscript by Klaus J. Kronenberg, 2008.  
Acquisitions Intern, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX. 2007 - 2008.  
Contributing Writer, Ulster Publishing, Woodstock, N.Y., 2001 – 2002

## **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

American Literature	Environmental studies/ecocriticism
Southern & regional literature	Rhetoric & Composition
Multi-Ethnic literature	Professional & technical writing

## **BOOK PROJECT**

I employ a rhetorical approach to engage a number of the currents in environmental studies, particularly ecopoetics and environmental justice, and their confluence in the literature of the South. The intersection of

individual and social relationships with history and nature in Southern literature provides ample opportunity to investigate the development and maintenance of environmental ethics and values. I argue for the crucial role that narratives play in creating, communicating, and transmitting environmental values. Narratives of place that involve expressions of ownership and belonging can be comforting, and yet in the Southern context with its fraught history of slavery, the narratives can also be troubling and damaging. I look at how expressions of environmental ownership and belonging transcend regional foci and how they relate to understandings of proximity to, and/or distance from, the environment. The relative effects of proximity and distance are intimately connected to the level of empowerment for individuals and groups. These connections provide new ways to interpret the narratives and values generated by interactions with the environment, while also providing avenues to explore how narrative permeates natural and social borders. The book that is taking shape will include chapters that focus on William Faulkner, Elizabeth Madox Roberts, Zora Neale Hurston, Robert Penn Warren, and Cormac McCarthy. I engage critics and philosophers such as Martin Heidegger, Kenneth Burke, James Phelan, Stacy Alaimo, Greg Garrard, and Ursula K. Heise.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### Articles:

- “Rootedness and Mobility: Southern Sacrifice Zones in Ron Rash’s *Serena*.” *Mississippi Quarterly*, vol. 68, no. 3-4, Summer/Fall 2015, pp. 377-389.
- “Ironic Pastorals and Beautiful Swamps: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Troubled Landscapes of the American South.” *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment (ISLE)*, vol. 22, no. 3, 2015, pp. 485-506.
- “Roberts in the Environment.” *The Elizabeth Madox Roberts Society Newsletter*, vol. 16, 2015, p. 4.
- “Kentucky Memories.” *The Elizabeth Madox Roberts Society Newsletter*, vol. 12, 2011, p. 11.
- “Exploring the Self, Exploring the Other: Inscape and Instress in *The Great Meadow*.” *Elizabeth Madox Roberts: Essays of Reassessment & Reclamation*. H.R. Stoneback, Steven Florczyk, eds. Wind Publications, 2008, pp. 186-193.
- “Discovering the Sacred Light of Secular Conditions: Coleridge’s Light of the Imagination in Warren’s Criticism and Poetry.” *Shawangunk Review*, vol. 17, 2006, pp. 38-43.
- “The Marriage of Elf and Man: Unifying Immortal and Mortal in Tolkien’s Mythology” *Shawangunk Review*, vol. 16, 2005, pp. 27-31.

### Reviews:

- Collared: Politics and Personalities Oregon’s Wolf Country* by Aimee Lyn Eaton. *South Central Review* Forthcoming.
- Nature’s Nation: American Art and Environment*. By Karl Kusserow and Alan C Braddock. *ISLE*, vol. 27, no. 2, 2020.
- Summoning the Dead: Essays on Ron Rash* edited by Randall Wilhelm and Zachary Vernon. *North Carolina Literary Review Online*. 2019.
- The Echo of Ice Letting Go*, by Julie Hungville LeMay, and *Ghost Town Odes*, by Matt Schumacher. *Western American Literature*, vol. 52, no. 4, 2018, pp. 475-79.
- Delta Fragments: The Recollections of a Sharecropper’s Son*, by John O. Hodges. *Journal of American Culture*, vol. 37, no. 3, 2014, pp. 354-55.
- Learning the Valley: Excursions into the Shenandoah Valley*, by John Leland. *ISLE*, vol. 18, no. 3, 2011, pp. 686-88.
- Clear Cutting Eden*, by Christopher Rieger. *Arkansas Literary Review*, vol. 1, no.1, 2011, pp. 73-77.

### Encyclopedia Entries:

- Encyclopedia of the Environment in American Literature*. Eds. Geoff Hamilton and Brian Jones. McFarland, 2013.
- Jack Kerouac, *The Dharma Bums*
  - Leo Marx, *The Machine in the Garden*
  - Elizabeth Madox Roberts, *The Great Meadow* and “Life and Works”
  - Jean Toomer, *Cane*
  - Robert Penn Warren, “Life and Works”

### Other:

- “Ecocriticism and Southern Studies Bibliography.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature, Emerging Scholars Organization. Web 2015.

### **CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

- “Deep Creek Satori.” South Central Modern Language Association 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Tulsa OK, October 2017.
- “A Blossoming Pear Tree and the Swamp by the River: Pastoral, Trauma, and Mobility in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” South Central Modern Language Association 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Tulsa OK, October 2017.
- “‘True news of man down here’ The Subatomic, Subaltern, and Subterranean Sublime in Cormac McCarthy’s *Suttree*.” ASLE Eleventh Biennial Conference, Moscow, ID, June 2015.
- “Southern Migrations: Wilderness, Pastoral, and Urbanity in Cormac McCarthy’s *Suttree*.” ASLE Tenth Biennial Conference, Lawrence, KS, May 2013.
- “Environmental Justice and Justice for the Environment: The Appeals of History and Ecopoetics in John Graves’s *Goodbye to a River*.” 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Western Literature Association, Lubbock, TX, November 2012.
- “*Brother to Dragons*: Portrait of the Poem as the Maker of the Poet.” Robert Penn Warren Circle Meeting, Bowling Green and Guthrie, KY, April 2011.
- “‘Use It Well’: Progress, Reciprocal Ownership, and the Environment in *Go Down, Moses*.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, December 2009.
- “Canned Peaches in the Waste Land: The Mystery and Ecology of Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association 2008 Annual Conference, Louisville, KY November 2008.
- “‘Country you could walk into’: Mystical Enthymemes in Hemingway’s Early Short Stories.” 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Hemingway Society Conference, Kansas City, MO, June 2008.
- “‘Honey of Life in Her Heart’: Ecological Immersion in *The Time of Man*.” American Literature Association 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, May 2008.
- “Inscape, Instress, and Matter: Gerard Manley Hopkins and Bishop Berkeley in the Writings of Elizabeth Madox Roberts.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association 2007 Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 2007.
- “Outside the Circle at 38,000 Feet: Warren’s ‘Pathological Flinch,’ Attraction, Reaction, and Conversation with Emerson.” Robert Penn Warren Circle Meeting, Bowling Green and Guthrie, KY, April 2007.
- “Sensuality and Religion in Arturo Islas’s *The Rain God*.” Intersecting Identities, Graduate Student Colloquium, College Station, TX, February 2007.
- “Berk’s Story and Place in *The Great Meadow*: The Thinking and Eating Parts.” 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Elizabeth Madox Roberts Society, Harrodsburg, KY, April 2006.
- “Yearning as a Way of Life: Moon Imagery in Warren’s Criticism and Poetry.” Warren at 100: The Past and the Future, Bowling Green, KY, April 2005.
- “Collocating Krishna, Buddha, and Christ: The Mystic Vision in T.S. Eliot’s *Four Quartets*.” ‘Fools by

Heavenly Compulsion': Literary Depictions of Belief and Non-Belief, Bronx, NY, February 2005.  
"What's in the Water?: From Polluted Harbors to Pure Streams in *In Our Time*." 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Hemingway Society Conference, Key West, FL, June 2004.

### **AWARDS**

Outstanding Chapter Chair. Sierra Club, Oklahoma Chapter. 2017-2019.  
Visiting Assistant Professor Travel Award. Department of English, Oklahoma State University.  
Fall 2017  
Visiting Assistant Professor Travel Award. Department of English, Oklahoma State University.  
Spring 2015  
Travel to Conference Grant. The Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University. Spring 2010.

### **CERTIFICATES & TRAINING:**

Oklahoma Teaching Certificate – Standard Certification, English #437957  
Critical Thinking Workshop, Oklahoma State University, Provost's Initiative: Focus on General Education, University Assessment and Testing & Committee for the Assessment of General Education: 2015-2016.  
Diversity Workshop, Oklahoma State University, Provost's Initiative: Focus on General Education, University Assessment and Testing & Committee for the Assessment of General Education: 2014-2015  
Preparing Online Instructors, Oklahoma State University, Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence: Fall 2014

### **SERVICE**

Peer Review Reader, University of Mississippi Press. 2018 - Present  
Peer Review Reader, *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment (ISLE)*. 2015 – Present.  
American Literature Search Committee, English and Philosophy Department, MSSU, 2019-2020.  
Chair, Sierra Club, Oklahoma State Chapter. 2017 – 2019.  
Faculty Advisor, OKState Sierra Club. 2016 –2019.  
EcoHouse Living Learning Program Task Force Committee, Oklahoma State University. 2018  
Faculty Advisor, Oklahoma State University Book Club. 2016 – 2017.  
Secretary, Sierra Club Executive Committee, Oklahoma State Chapter. 2016.  
Panel Chair, "Fyodor? Meet Cormac." ASLE Eleventh Biennial Conference, Moscow, ID June 2015.  
Introduction to Literature Textbook Committee, Oklahoma State University, 2014-2015  
Advisory Board and Peer Review Reader, *Arkansas Literary Review*, 2010 – 2011.  
Organizer & Panel Chair, "The Preservation of Place: Regionalism and Ecological Conservation." South Atlantic Modern Language Association 2010 Annual Conference, Atlanta, Ga. November 2010.  
Guest Lecturer for Dr. Nicholas Lawrence, American Literature: Colonial to American Renaissance, Texas A&M University, April 2010: "Character and the *Rights of Man* in Herman Melville's *Billy Budd*" and "Poetry and Experience in Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*."  
Department of English Executive Committee, Graduate Student Representative, Texas A&M University 2008 – 2009.  
English Graduate Student Association, Co-President, Texas A&M University 2007-2008.  
Organizer and Panel Chair, "Elizabeth Madox Roberts: Romanticism, Ecology, and Poetic Realism." American Literature Association 19th Annual Conference, San Francisco, Ca. May 2008.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & CERTIFICATIONS**

Modern Language Association

South Central MLA

Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment

Society for the Study of Southern Literature

National Council of Teachers of English