Ikea M. Johnson, Ph.D.

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Education:

Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, Louisiana State University, 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.A. in English, Auburn University, May 2018

B.A. in English (minor: Psychology), Auburn University, 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

Courses Taught:

Salve Regina University, Newport, RI

ENG-228 Green Romanticism; fall 2026

ENG-329: Inklings: Lewis, Tolkien Circle; fall 2025, fall 2026

ENG 247-01: Intro to Literary Theory and Criticism; spring 2025

CWP 245-01: Book Publishing in the U.S.; fall 2024

ENG 217-01/02: African American Literature; fall 2022-2025

ENG-340-01: Afrofuturism in Literature and Culture; spring 2024

ENG 210-01/02: Myth and Symbol; fall 2023, spring 2024, spring 2026

UNV 101-18: Afrofuturism and Spirituality; fall 2023

ENG 315-01/ PEL-299E- P1: The Harlem Renaissance; spring 2023, spring 2026

UNV 101-10: Afrofuturism and Memory; fall 2022

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

CPLT/ENGL 2202: Introduction to World Literature; fall 2020

Invited Public Lecture:

Featured Scholar:

"Ancient Waters, Ancient Souls: Reading Langston Hughes' "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" in the Wake." 31st Annual Langston Hughes Community Poetry Reading. Hosted by the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Office of the President, invitation by April Brown (Director). Providence, RI. February 1, 2026. (Audience: 400+).

Panelist:

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

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

Guest Lecturer:

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

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

Conference Presentations:

Johnson, Ikea. "Aquatic Thresholds and Women as Mediums in Toni Morrison's *Love,*" Twenty-Third International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities; Oceanic Journeys: Multicultural Approaches in the Humanities, University of Hawaii, Hilo, USA + Online, 25-27 June 2025

Johnson, Ikea. "Primordial Waters, (Re)birth, and Chaos in Rivers Solomon's "The Deep"," Session: "Afrofuturism and African Futurism: Speculative Fiction of Africa and the African Diaspora," 54th Annual Convention of Northeast Modern Language Association, Niagara Falls, New York, March 23-26, 2023

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), 2022

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

Fellow:

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)

Publications:

Johnson, Ikea M. "The Dialectics of Nonviolence: Buddhist Empathy and African American Liberation Thought". *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, 2026 (Invited contributor)

Johnson, Ikea M. "Convergence of Consciousness: "Binti" and the Synthesis of Hybrid Identities in AI" in *Beyond the Turing Test: What science fiction can teach us about Artificial Intelligence* with editors: Ulf Dalvad Berthelsen, (Aarhus University), Mads Rosendahl Thomsen, (Aarhus University), and Morten Tannert (VIA University College). Routledge, 2026

Johnson, Ikea, "Oceanic Memory; Afrofuturist Reimagining: Exploring Black identity as a passage through literature and state," *Motif* Magazine, January 2025. https://motifri.com/oceanic-memory-afrofuturist-reimagining-exploring-black-identity-as-a-passage-through-literature-and-state/

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.

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:

Book Subvention, Salve Regina University, $2500.00, 2024

Emerging Scholar Award - Twentieth International Conference on the New Directions in the Humanities, University of the Aegean - Rhodes Campus, Greece, 2022

Huel D. Perkins Doctoral Fellowship Award, $80,000.00, Louisiana State University, 2018-2022

AUM College of Arts and Sciences Grant, $800.00, 2016

Randall Cobb Grant, Auburn University-Montgomery, $1500.00, 2015

Guin Nance Grant, Auburn University-Montgomery, $1000.00, 2015

Phi Theta Kappa Grant, $3000.00, Mobile, AL, 2012-2014

H.L. Wilson Foundation Grant, $2000.00, Mobile, AL, 2013-2014

Professional Organizations/Membership:

Northeast Modern Language Association

The Buddhist Society

The Arthur Miller Society (Invited)

Omicron Delta Kappa

Service:

Editor-in-Chief/Executive Editor: *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*, 2020-present
(Nomination/recommendation letter from Editorial board and founder available upon request)

Peer-Reviewer

Contemporary Women's Writings (Oxford Univ. Press)

Committee member

Fulbright Scholarships Committee, Salve Regina University, 2024-Present

Inclusive Reading Club Facilitator (Invited)

All That She Carried: Ashley's Sack and the Journey by Tiya Miles, Salve Regina University, February 2023

Afrofuturism and "The Deep" by Rivers Solomon, Salve Regina University, February 2024

Banned Book Club Committee Member

A Source of Self-Regard: Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* (Student-led presentations), Salve Regina University, October 2023

President (Nominated): Comparative Literature Graduate Student Association, Louisiana State University, 2021-2022, (nominated by Director, 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

Guest Editor (Invited): 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

Languages:

Mandarin, 17th and 18th century French, Old and Middle English