

Ikea M. Johnson, Ph.D.

ikea.johnson@salve.edu

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
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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-329: Inklings: Lewis, Tolkien Circle; fall 2025
- 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: Myth and Symbol; fall 2023-2024
- UNV 101-18: Afrofuturism and Spirituality; fall 2023
- ENG 315-01/ PEL-299E- P1: The Harlem Renaissance; spring 2023
- UNV 101-10: Afrofuturism and Memory; fall 2022

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

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

Presenter:

- 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

Speaker/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

Presenter:

- 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

Speaker/panelist:

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

Presenter:

- 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

Fellow/Presenter:

- 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)

Guest Lecturer:

- 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

Presenter:

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

- Johnson, Ikea M. “Sam Without Ātman: *Lord of Light* and Asian Religio-Philosophy” in a special issue of *The Journal of Transnational American Studies* (JTAS), 2025
- 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, 2025
- Johnson, Ikea M. “Widening the Way: Nonviolence and the Spirit of Empathy for Liberty and Justice,” *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, “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
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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
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Professional Organizations/Membership:

- Northeast Modern Language Association
 - The Buddhist Society
 - The Arthur Miller Society (Invited)
 - Omicron Delta Kappa
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Service:

- Invited 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
- Editor-in-Chief/Executive Editor: *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*, 2020-present (Nomination/recommendation letter from Editorial board and founder available upon request)
- 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, French, Old and Middle English (reading/writing/translations)