

Xavier Gerard Lee

Xavier.lee@yale.edu | xgerardlee@gmail.com

Research interests

African-American literature, structural literary studies, philology, creolistics, postmodernity, postcolonial theory & criticism, cultural studies, mass media studies, Black Feminist literary criticism, literature & film, neocolonialism & neoliberalism, comparative diasporic literature, critical theory, Afro-Caribbean literature, Francophone African literature, Anglophone African Literature, creole literatures

Education

BA with High Honors, Swarthmore College, 2017
Honors Comparative literature major, Honors French minor, Black studies course minor

PhD, Yale University (1st year)
Comparative Literature

Honors and Awards

- Awardee, “Highest Academic Achievement Award,” Black Cultural Center, Swarthmore College (2017)
- Second Place, Dorothy Ditter Gondos Comparative Literature Prize, Swarthmore College, May 2017
- Awardee, Fulbright Canada (2017) – *declined*
- Fellow, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (2016)
- Fellow, Moore Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (Summer 2016)

Work Experience

- **Writing Partner**, Center for Teaching and Learning, Yale University, New Haven, CT
September 2017 – present
 - Work closely with two mentees on their writing skills
 - Attending English as Second Language training
 - Learned writing pedagogy skills (proper citation practice, writing a strong thesis statement, learning how to edit a paper, etc.)
- **Library Coordinator**, Black Cultural Center, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA
May 2015 – May 2017
 - Managed and trained 8 employees
 - Facilitated inventory of the library’s 1200-book collection.
 - Organized a donated collection of 50+ texts from Swarthmore professors emeritus
 - Helped develop library collection with the guidance of the McCabe Library staff
 - Trained as a Research & Information Associate to offer general library research assistance
- **Program Coordinator**, Blueprints, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA
August 2016 – May 2017

- Worked directly with the program director to facilitate productive and meaningful programming for the college-bound students of Chester, Pennsylvania
 - Helped develop and facilitate math, literacy and college preparatory curricula
 - Organized impactful Saturday Cultural Institute programming
 - Oversaw a group of 8 mentors
- **Summer Literacy Teacher & Curriculum Developer**, Blueprints III, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA
April 2015 – August 2015
 - Led exercises to facilitate the college application process and to encourage paths of higher education for the underprivileged youths of Chester, Pennsylvania
 - Created a summer program curriculum on the topic of Black representations in popular media for the Summer 2015 session.
 - Taught 20 students the fundamentals of taking a literary and/or sociological approach towards the study of television and film
 - Introduced students to an array of commonly used academic terminology, like stereotyping, racial tropes, visibility, and representation.
- **Information Technology Associate**, Information Technology Services, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA
June 2015 – present
 - Learned the fundamentals of Mac and Windows operating systems, including updating, software installation, maintenance and troubleshooting
 - Learned the basics of customer service
 - Worked with a team of four other students to replace the majority of the computers at Swarthmore College.
- **Digital Initiatives Assistant**, McCabe Library, Swarthmore, PA
September 2014 – December 2014
 - Helped Nabil Kashyap with the creation of the Black Liberation 1969 Database [blacklib1969.swarthmore.edu]
 - Designed web pages and user interfaces
 - Handled original documents from the 1969 occupation of the President's Office by black Swarthmore students.
- **Digital Humanities Intern**, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore, PA
May 2014 – August 2014
 - Used XML to code Quaker manuscripts for relevant metadata
 - Worked with original 17th century archival materials
 - Attended several conferences and events dedicated to digital scholarship

Publications & Presentations

- *Say It Loud! The cultural politics of language in African and African-American Literature*, Undergraduate Thesis in Comparative Literature, Swarthmore College. 2017
- **Academic Presentations**

- *Linguistic Anticoloniality in the Adaptations of Ousmane Sembène*, Migrations of Culture, University of Pittsburgh, March 2017
- *Constructing the Alternatives: Vernacular Narration and Radical Black Female Subjectivity*, Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, July 2016
- [“To Dance is To Live,”](#) *Short film on student dance performances as subversive discourse* Swarthmore College, April 2015
- [Genital Gazes: Voyeurism and Disembodiment in Andy Warhol’s Blow Job and Mario Banana](#), Swarthmore College, December 2016
- *Black Studies at Swarthmore: 1968 – 1970*, Black Liberation 1969 Student Research Panel, Swarthmore College, February 2015

- **Artistic & Journalistic Publications**

Lee, Xavier G. "Johanna / Are You Ashamed of Me." *The Swarthmore Review* [Swarthmore] Sept. 2016: n. pag. Print.

Lee, Xavier G. "Armed and Dangerous." *Visibility Magazine* 1.1 (2016): 26-30. *Intercultural Center*. The Intercultural Center at Swarthmore College, 4 May 2016. Web.

Lee, Xavier G. "Basseterre." *Basseterre*. TimBookTu.com, Summer 2015. Web. 30 Oct. 2016. "Au-dedans," *The Swarthmore Phoenix*, April 2016

"Au-Dedans – The Phoenix." N.p., n.d. Web. 30 Oct. 2016.

Lee, Xavier G. "Déjà Vu." *The Swarthmore Review* (2015): n. pag. Print.

"The BCC: A Hard-Earned Space for Everyone – The Phoenix." N.p., n.d. Web. 30 Oct. 2016.

"The Belly of the Atlantic – The Phoenix."

"Threshold: Thoughts on Senior Fall – The Phoenix."

Skills

- Writing & Editing: Editorial, academic, journalistic, copy-editing
- Programming languages: HTML, HTML5, XML, CSS, PHP, MySQL
- Content Management Experience: Tumblr, Drupal, Omeka, Joomla, Moodle, Wordpress
- Programs: Adobe Photoshop, Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premier, FL Studio
- Conversational and reading fluency in French, reading proficiency in Spanish

Leadership Experience

- Co-President, Swarthmore African-American Student Society (2016-2017)
- Co-Advocate, Achieving Black and Latino Leaders of Excellence (2014 – 2015)
- Treasurer, Swarthmore African-American Student Society (2014 – 2015)
- Copy Editor, *the Swarthmore Review* (2013 – 2014)