Rebecca A. Krefting

Department of American Studies

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**Education**

Ph.D. American Studies, University of Maryland, College Park, 2010

Fields: feminist comedy studies, performance studies, visual/popular culture, women’s history, cultural studies and studies in race/ethnicity, gender, disability, class and sexuality

M.A. Women’s Studies, Ohio State University, 2004

B.A. English and Psychology, University of Alabama in Huntsville, 2001

**Academic Appointments**

# Director, Center for Leadership, Teaching, and Learning, 2022 - present

# Full Professor, 2022 - present

# Chair of American Studies, 2018- 2021

# Associate Professor, American Studies Department, Skidmore College, 2017 - 2022

# London FYE Program Director, Skidmore College, fall 2017

# Director of Media and Film Studies Program, Skidmore College, 2015 – 2017

Assistant Professor, American Studies Department, Skidmore College, 2011 – 2017

Visiting Assistant Professor, American Studies Department, Skidmore College, 2010 – 2011

Instructor, University of Maryland, College Park, 2005 – 2010

Research Assistant/Program Coordinator, African-American Studies, University of Maryland, 2006 – 2010

Administrative Assistant, Art Gliner Center for Humor Studies, University of Maryland, 2004 – 2006

Instructor, Ohio State University, 2003 – 2004

Research Assistant, Professor Ruby Tapia, Ohio State University, 2002

# Research Publications

Books

*All Joking Aside: American Humor and Its Discontents*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins UP, 2014.

*When Comedy Kills: Racialized and Gendered Violence in the Wake of Laughter.* Monograph in progress.

Book Chapters

“Tribal Tendencies: Technologies Mediating the Art of Stand-Up Comedy.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Screen Comedy*, edited by Peter Kunze and William Costanzo. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2025. Invited to contribute.

“Foreword.” In *Politics of Recognition and Representation in Indian Stand-Up*, edited by Richa Chilana and Rashi Bhargava. NY, NY: Palgrave Mcmillan, forthcoming 2024. Invited to contribute.

"Die gefährliche Ambivalenz humoristischer Invektivität in der Stand-Up Comedy” (Trans. The Dangerous Ambivalence of Comedic Disparagement in Stand-Up Comedy). In *Grenzen der Invektivitaet,* eds. Heike Greschke, Silke Fehlemann, Katja Kanzler, and Gerd Schwerhoff. Frankfurt: Frankfurt University Press, forthcoming 2024. Invited to contribute.

“Comics, Jesters, Satirists, and Hacks: A History of Stand-Up Comedy in the US.” In *Cambridge Companion to Stand-up Comedy*, edited by Oliver Double. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2024. Invited to contribute.

“The History of Moroccan Stand-Up Comedy: From Storytelling to Charged Humor.” In *Punching Up: Stand-Up Comedy Speaking Truth to Power*, edited by Rashi Bhargava and Richa Chilana. London: Routledge, 2022. Co-authored with Mohamed Bassou.

“Maria Bamford: A/Way With Words.” In *Taking a Stand: American Stand-up Comedians as Public Intellectuals*, edited by Peter Kunze and Jared Champion. Oxford, Mississippi: University of Mississippi Press, 2021. Invited to contribute.

“Minority Report: Joking about the Other.” In *Ethics in Comedy: Essays on Crossing the Line*, edited by Steven Benko, 89-98. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Co., 2020. Invited to contribute.

“Savage New Media: Discursive Campaigns For/Against Political Correctness.” In *The Joke Is On Us:* *Political Comedy in (Late) Neoliberal Times*, edited by Julie Webber-Collins, 245-266. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2019. Invited to contribute.

“Dueling Discourses: The Female Comic’s Double-Bind in the New Media Age.” In *Transgressive Humor of American Women Writers*, edited by Sabrina Fuchs Abrams, 231-250. NY, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017. Invited to contribute.

“‘We Are the Baddest Motherfuckers on the Block’: Recruiting Margaret Cho’s Army.” In *Hysterical! Women in American Comedy*, edited by Linda Mizejewski and Victoria Sturtevant, 273-302. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2017. \*Recipient of the Susan Koppelman Award for the Best Anthology, Multi-Authored, or Edited Book in Feminist Studies in Popular and American Culture. Invited to contribute.

“Laughter in the Final Instance: The Cultural Economy of Humor.” In *The Laughing Stalk: Live Comedy and Its Audiences*, edited by Judith Batalion. West Lafayette, IN: Parlor Press, 2012.

“Placing Space: Architecture, Action, Dimension—Pedagogy and Practice.” In *Feminist Practices: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Women in Architecture*, edited by Lori A. Brown. Co-authored by Ronit Eisenbach and Rebecca Krefting. England: Ashgate Publishing Ltd., 2011.

“‘The Taming of the Sun’: Finding the Joke in the Cancer Narrative of a Pedagogue.” In *Disability and the Teaching of Writing: A Critical Sourcebook*, edited by Brenda Brueggemann and Cindy Lewiecki-Wilson. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin’s Press, 2008.

Refereed Articles

“Racial Humor: Context, Community, and Conversations.” *Studies in American Humor*. Vol. 10, No. 1 (Spring 2024). Co-authored by Rebecca Krefting, Raúl Pérez, J Finley, and Vivica Greene. Invited to contribute.

“Hannah Gadsby: Emotional Capital and Affective Economies in Stand-Up.” *European Journal of American Studies*. Special Issue: Funny Women. (March 2024). Invited to contribute.

“Comedy’s Ideological Kerfuffles: From #MeToo to Black Lives Matter.” *Contemporary Political Theory*. Special Issue: The Political Force of the Comedic. Vol. 20, No. 2 (June 2021): 419-446. Invited to contribute.

“Hannah Gadsby Stands Down: Feminist Comedy Studies.” *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*. \*Formerly called *Cinema Journal*. Special Issue – In Focus: What’s So Funny about Comedy and Humor Studies? Vol. 58, No. 3 (Spring 2019): 165-170. Invited to contribute.

“Hannah Gadsby: On the Limitations of Satire.” *Studies in American Humor*. Special Issue: Satire Vol. 5, no. 1 (Spring 2019): 93-102. Invited to contribute.

“A New Economy of Jokes?: #Socialmedia #Comedy.” *Comedy Studies* (Fall 2015). Co-authored by Rebecca Krefting and \*Rebecca Baruc. \*denotes student

“Who Knew Public Scholarship was so Fun(ny)?: Practical Applications Within and Beyond the Academy.” *Reflections: A Journal of Writing, Service-Learning and Community Literacy*. 7, 3 (2008): <http://www.reflectionsjournal.org/catalog/toc.html>.

"Looming Subjectivities and/in Disability Memoir: A Dialogic Review Tapestry." Prose Studies. 27, 1-2 (2005). Co-authored by Elizabeth Miglin, Jill Khoury, Rita Rich, Alana Kumbier and Rebecca Krefting.

“Collective Mistrust of Alarms.” *Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting*. 46, 17 (2002): 1584-1588. Co-authored by James P. Bliss, Laticia Bowens, Rebecca Krefting, Ashley Byler and Anastasia Gibson.

Review Essays/Editorial Remarks

“On Second Thought” (Editorial Remarks). *Studies in American Humor* 4, 6 (2020): 250-251.

*We Killed: The Rise of Women in American Comedy* (Review Essay). *Studies in American Humor* 3, 28 (2014): 68-70.

“Hardly News: The State of Infotainment” (Review Essay). *Studies in American Humor* 3, 19 (2009): 147-157.

Other Writings

“Her Gifts.” *Fast Funny Women*, edited by Regina Barreca, 89-90. Norwalk, CT: Woodhall Press, 2020. \*Recipient of the Gold Award for Humor (Adult Nonfiction) in the 24th annual Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Awards.

“Beck Krefting on Empathic Looking.” *Accelerate: Access and Inclusion at the Tang Museum* 3 (2019): 26-29.

Reprinted Articles

Krefting, Rebecca and Rebecca Baruc\*. “A New Economy of Jokes?: #Socialmedia #Comedy.” *The Routledge Comedy Studies Reader*, edited by Ian Wilke. NY, NY: Routledge, 2019. \*denotes student

**Scholarly/Creative/Media Consultant**

* Editorial Advisory Board, *Queen of Comedy: Phyllis Diller*. Written and directed by Liz Mermin. London and Rome: 4th Act Factual. (forthcoming).
* Guest on “Laughing Matters: Comedy and Accountability.” *#BHeard Town Hall*. Brooklyn: BRIC TV Productions, October 3, 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzGsILsOvOA&feature=youtu.be>
* *Stand up, Stand Out*. DVD. Directed by David Pavlosky. US: DP Media Productions, 2015.
* *3 Still Standing: Even Comedians Get Downsized*. DVD. Directed by Robert Campos and Donna LoCicero. US: Beanfield Productions, 2014.

**Grants/Awards/Fellowships**

Africana Studies and the Humanities at Skidmore: Transnational Explorations in Social Justice, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, $1,185,000, 2022-2024, (Co-PI; awarded)

Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2019-20

Research Initiative Grant (FDG), 2015-16

Full-Year Sabbatical Enhancement Award, 2014-15; 2021-22

Faculty-Student Summer Research Grant Recipient, 2012, 2014, 2023

Faculty Development Grant Recipient, 2013; 2014; 2022

Faculty Commencement Speaker, 2013

Honors Humanities Doctoral Teaching Fellow, 2010

CTE (Center for Teaching Excellence) Lilly Graduate Teaching Fellow, 2009-10

Goldhaber Travel Award to present at Digital Humanities, University of Oulu, Finland, June 25-29, 2008

PAGE (Publicly Active Graduate Education) Fellow, 2007

Nominated for Graduate Assistant Teaching Award, Ohio State University, 2004

**Select Conferences, Presentations and Invited Lectures**

“When Comedy Kills: Racialized Violence in the Wake of Laughter,” Panelist on “Production Cultures of Comedy,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Boston, MA, March 14-17, 2024.

“Racial Humor: Context, Community, and Conversations,” Roundtable Participant, American Humor Studies Association, Saratoga Springs, NY, July 10-12, 2023.

“A Crazy Funny History,” Panelist on “Dark and Funny: Stand-Up Comedy, Addiction and Mental Illness,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Denver, CO, April 12-15, 2023.

“Hannah Gadsby: Emotional Capital and Affective Economies in Stand-Up,” Invited Virtual Speaker, University of Szeged, Hungary, November 10, 2022.

"The Dangerous Ambivalence of Comedic Disparagement in Stand-Up Comedy,"

Invited Speaker, International Symposium: Invectivity. Constellations and Dynamics of Disparagement, Dresden University of Technology, Dresden, Germany, June 2-3, 2022.

“Hannah Gadsby: Emotional Capital and Affective Economies in Stand-Up,” Invited Speaker, Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany, June 1, 2022.

“Call to Action: The Racial Justice Teaching Challenge,” Co-presented with Winston Grady-Willis, AAC&U Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Student Success, March 17-19, 2022.

“New Beginnings: The Funny Thing About History…,” Panelist on “The Power of Laughter: Discursive Communities and the Deconstruction of Social Hierarchies,” Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, January 6-9, 2022.

“On Stage and Off: Emotional Capital in Stand-Up Comedy,” Panelist on “Comedy is a Rebel not an Ideologue,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, October 11-14, 2021.

Works-in-Progress Conference, American Humor Studies Association, co-organizer of four-day virtual conference and roundtable guest along with Jesse David Fox for “Books-in-Progress: A Conversation on Comedy Histories,” July 16, 2021.

“Rage Against the (Funny?) Machine: Hannah Gadsby’s Affective Resistance,” Keynote Speaker, International Symposium: Funny Women, Munich, Germany May 6-8, 2021. \*EU did not allow travelers from the US at this time; I attended and presented virtually.

“Comedy’s Ideological Kerfuffles: From #MeToo to Black Lives Matter,” Invited Speaker, International Symposium, Painful Laughter: Media and Politics in the Age of Cringe, Hannover, Germany, October 14-16, 2020. \*EU did not allow travelers from the US at this time; I attended and presented virtually.

“Charged Humor from Dick Gregory to Black Lives Matter,” Invited Virtual Speaker, Heidelberg University, Tiffin, OH, August 31, 2020.

“Hannah Gadsby on the Limitations of Comedy,” Invited Virtual Speaker, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec Province, Canada, May 16, 2019.

“Hannah Gadsby on the Limitations of Comedy,” Invited Speaker, Columbia College, Chicago, IL, April 11, 2019.

“The Future of Laughing Matters,” Invited Speaker for Plenary Session, American Humor Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, July 12-14, 2018.

“Hannah Gadsby Stands Down: Feminist Comedy Studies,” Panelist on "Breaking Boundaries: Defiant Laughter of Female Humorists," American Humor Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, July 12-14, 2018.

“My Best Friend is Gay…: Rhetorical Strategies for Making Bigotry Laughable,” Panelist at American Literary Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, May 24-27, 2018.

“Minority Report: Crafting Jokes about the Other,” \*Invited Keynote Speaker for Stand-up Comedy as Introspective Anthropology, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark, May 16-19, 2018. \*offered in absentia

“Constructing Others Through Comedy: How We (Can) Joke About Marginalized Identities,” Invited Speaker for American (Jewish) Humor in an Era of Ethnic Sensitivity and Cultural Competence: Intersections of Religion, Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in American Humor, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, April 28-30, 2018.

“Teaching Comedy and Pedagogies of Laughter: Methods, Modes, and Mediatization,” Roundtable for Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, March 22-26, 2017.

“A Spoonful of Sugar: Charged Humor from Dick Gregory to Phoebe Robinson,” Invited Keynote Speaker for Feminism and Controversial Humor Symposium, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, March 9-11, 2017.

“Has Political Correctness Really Killed Humor?” Invited Panelist, sponsored by UCLA and Zócalo Public Square at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA, December 6, 2016.

“Dueling Discourses: The Female Comic’s Double-Bind in the New Media Age,” Invited Keynote for Stand-up Comedy as Social Discourse Colloquium, Young Harris College, GA, November 28, 2016.

“A Spoonful of Sugar: Charged Humor from Dick Gregory to Maria Bamford,” Invited Speaker, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, April 12, 2016.

“Social Media: Public Enemy #1 of Comedy’s Gag Rule,” Panelist at Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, March 30 – April 3, 2016.

“‘So They Say…’: Comedy in the New Media Age,” Invited Virtual Speaker, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, November 24, 2015.

“‘You Just Tweeted WHAT?!’: Race, Gender, and Comedians in the Digital Age,” Invited Speaker, The Cassandra Voss Center, St. Norbert’s College, Da Pere, WI, November 11, 2015.

“Discursive Lies: Social Media and the (Re)production of Gender Hierarchies in Stand-up Comedy,” Panelist at American Studies Association Annual Meeting Toronto, Canada, October 8-11, 2015.

“Merry Bands: Comedy and Tribalism in the New Media Age,” Panelist at International Society for Humor Studies Conference, Oakland, CA, June 29 – July 3, 2015.

“A New Economy of Jokes?: #Socialmedia #Comedy,” Co-panelist with Rebecca Baruc (Class of 2015) at American Humor Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, December 7-10, 2014.

“Just *Kidding*: Women’s Humor as a Call for Justice, 1948-Present,” Panel Moderator at National Women’s Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 13-16, 2014.

“Teaching American Humor: A Humorous (Dis)Course,” Panelist at American Literature Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., May 22-25, 2014.

“Should We Be All Atwitter?: The Impact of Social Media on the Gender Gap in Comedy,” Panelist at Gender Matters: Continuities and Instabilities Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, April 12-13, 2013.

“Hari Kondabolu: Charged Humor in the Age of Modern-Day Minstrelsy,” Working Group: Economies of Popular Entertainment at American Society for Theatre Research Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, November 17-20, 2011.

“Comics and Modern Day Minstrels: (Dis)Membering the Chuckle Effect,” Invited Speaker, Russell Sage College, Troy, NY, February 23, 2011.

“More Than Just a Joke: Charged Humor and the Production of Cultural Citizenship,” Panelist at American Humor Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, December 9-12, 2010.

“Using Podcasts to Develop Student Literacies and Engagement,” Panelist at Lilly-East Conference on College and University Teaching, Washington, D.C., June 3-5, 2010.

“Performing Queer America: The Politics of Lesbian Comedy,” Panelist for the year-long series: In Amerika They Call us Dykes: Lesbian Lives in the 1970s, hosted by The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at City University of New York, NY, NY, March 11, 2010.

“Queering Citizenship through Laughter and Law,” Panelist at quickanddirty V: The DC Queer Studies Graduate Symposium, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, April 17-18, 2009.

“’No Child Left Where?’: Tickling the Underbelly of National Belonging,” Working Group: Childhood Studies Research Group: Mapping Childhood at American Society for Theatre Research Conference, Boston, MA, November 5-9, 2008.

“Exploring the Digital Dissertation,” Panelist and Poster Session at Digital Humanities 2008, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland, June 25-29, 2008.

“Kids Claiming Comic Space: Practical Applications Beyond the Academy,” Panelist at the

Chesapeake American Studies Association Conference: Activating American Cultures: The Politics of Identity, Media, and Public Policy, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, April 4-5, 2008.

“The Comedy Club,” Poster Session and Invited Honoree (PAGE Fellowship) at Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life (Eighth Annual National Conference), Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, September 6-8, 2007.

“Project Kathy: Re-Fashioning the Celebrity Community,” Panelist at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, April 12-16, 2006.

“The Ugly Side of Laughter: Challenging/Creating the Beauty Aesthetic in Comedy,” Panelist at the International Society for Humor Studies Conference, Youngstown, Ohio, June 13-17, 2005.

**Teaching Experience/Courses Taught**

Scribner Seminar 100: *Human Dilemmas*

Scribner Seminar 100: *American Taste*

Scribner Seminar 100 (London FYE): *Comics, Jesters, Satirists, and Hacks: Locating British Humor*

AM 101/101W: *Introduction to American Studies: A Humorous (Dis)Course*

AM 101W: *Introduction to American Studies: Eating in America*

GW 101: *Introduction to Gender Studies*

AM 221: *American Studies: Methods and Approaches*

AM 235: *Post-Apocalyptic Film and Literature*

AM 266: *Themes in American Culture: Diversity in the US*

AM 331: *Critical Whiteness in the United States*

AM 345H/376E: *Disorderly Women* (Honor’s Course)

AM 342: *Black Feminist Thoughts*

AM 351D: *The Funny Thing About History…*

AM 374: *Senior Seminar*

AMST 203: *Popular Culture in America*

AMST 298K: *Women Jokesters and Rebellious Laughter*

AMST 207: *Contemporary American Cultures*

AASD 498K: *Othering the Joke: The Resistant Comedy of Marginalized Women*

ARHU 106: *Comics, Jesters, Satirists & Hacks: American Humor and Its Discontents*

Women’s Studies 367.01: *Women Writers: US Text and Context*

**Service**

*Professional*

Doctoral Dissertations Committee Member:

* Mohamed Bassou – English Studies, Ben M'isk Casablanca University, Morocco (2018-2022)
* Eric Forthun – Media Studies, University of Texas, Austin (2020-2023)
* Samantha Silver – American Studies, George Washington University (2023 – present)

President, American Humor Studies Association (2022-2024)

Vice-President, American Humor Studies Association (2020-2022)

Member, Editorial Board, *Studies in American Humor* (2016-present)

Member, Editorial Board, Humor in America Series, Penn State UP (2015-2023)

Museum of American Humor Advisory Panel (2013-2018)

The Comedy Academy Board Member, Secretary, Silver Spring, Maryland (2008-2013)

External Reviews: Ramapo College (2020); Emerson College (2022)

External Reader for: *Journal of American Culture*, *HUMOR: International Journal for Humor Research*, *Disability Studies Quarterly Journal*; *Social Semiotics*; *Peace and Change: A Journal of Peace Research*, *Social Analysis: International Journal of Social and Cultural Practice*, *Theatre Topics*, Palgrave Macmillan, Bloomsbury, University of Texas Press, Lexington Books, Indiana University Press, and Routledge Press

*Skidmore College*

# Howard Hughes Medical Institute Grant, Working Group on Inclusive and Accessible Teaching and Learning, 2022-present

# Mellon Grant, Africana Studies and the Humanities: Transnational Explorations in Social Justice, 2022-2024 (Co-PI)

# Promotions Committee, 2018 – 2021(Chair – AY 2019-20)

# Gender Studies Personnel Committee, 2016 - 2022

# AVD Grant, IdeaLab Steering Committee, 2016- 2018 (Co-PI, spring 2018)

# COACHE Collaborator (Departmental Representative), 2016-2018

# Mellon Grant, Project VIS Steering Committee Member, 2015-2017

# Gender Studies Advisory Board Member, 2012-2016

# Bias Response Group Faculty Member, 2012-2016

Gender Studies Program Search Committee, 2015-2016

IPPC Subcommittee on Responsible Citizenship, 2012-2014

American Studies Department Search Committee, 2013-14; 2014-15; 2017-18; 2019-20

External Reviewer, Study Abroad Programs in London, 2014; Study Abroad Programs in Prague, 2017

# Media and Film Studies Program Development Committee, 2012-2013

Education Studies Department Search Committee, 2012-2013

Responsible Citizenship Task Force, 2011-2012

*Community*

Co-Director of Comedy Club in the Comedy Academy (non-profit), 2004-2010

This is a nationally renowned after-school program teaching young people to write and perform sketch comedy. An original full-length production is performed each spring.

Workshop Instructor for the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (non-profit), 2005-2006

Workshops: “Clowning Around: The Art of Jokes and Laughter I & II”

Carceral Studies Working Group Activism and Service Coordinator, 2006-2007

Ladyfest Organizer and Coordinator: Produced two all women comedy shows, 2003-2004

Crisis Services of North Alabama, 1996-1998

Community Resource Specialist and volunteer phone counselor

**Additional** Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, Power Point; Publisher; HTML; SPSS-statistics; Camtasia; Audacity; imovie; WordPress

**Skills**: Languages: German (proficient) and Italian (basic)

# References

**Dr. Greg Pfitzer**, Professor, Department of American Studies, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, 12866; W: 518-580-5026 or by email: gpfitzer@skidmore.edu

**Dr. Dan Nathan**, Professor, Department of American Studies, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, 12866; W: 518-580-5023 or by email: dnathan@skidmore.edu

**Dr. Mary Sies**, Associate Professor, Department of American Studies, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 20742; W: 301-405-1361 or by email: marycorbinsies@yahoo.com

**Dr. Linda Mizejewski**, Professor, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH; W:614-292-2467 or by email: mizejewski.1@osu.edu