

# Michael J. Beilfuss

---

Department of English  
Oklahoma State University  
205 Morrill Hall  
Stillwater, OK 74078

michael.beilfuss@okstate.edu  
www.michaeljbeilfuss.com  
(979) 218 8941

## **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:

Visiting Assistant Professor, Oklahoma State University:	2013 – Present
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

Critical Analysis & Writing I, Honors Topic: “Eco-composition”	Composition and Rhetoric Freshman Composition I & II
Critical Analysis & Writing II, Honors Topic: “Nature, Culture, Sustainability”	Introduction to Literature Traditional and Honors
Technical Writing Traditional, Online, Correspondence	American Ethnic Literature American Literature

### Other Experience:

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**

Rhetoric & composition	Multi-ethnic literature
Environmental studies/ecocriticism	Southern & regional literature
Professional & technical writing	American literature

## **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, Winter/Spring 2015. Pp 377-398.
- “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: Inscapes and Instresses in *The Great Meadow*.” *Elizabeth Madox Roberts: Essays of Reassessment & Reclamation*. H.R. Stoneback, Steven Florczyk, eds, Wind Publications, 2008.
- “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, 27-31. Print.

### Reviews:

- Summoning the Dead: Essays on Rash* edited by Randall Wilhelm and Zachary Vernon. *North Carolina Literary Review*. Forthcoming.
- Collared: Politics and Personalities Oregon’s Wolf Country* by Aimee Lyn Eaton. *South Central Review* Forthcoming.
- 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, 73-77. Web. 1 July 2011.

### 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 Swap 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.

"Self, Identity, and Knowledge: Merging the Familiar and the Strange in *The Haunted Mirror*." 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Elizabeth Madox Roberts Society, Harrodsburg and Springfield, 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.

"The Marriage of Elf and Man: Unifying Immortal and Mortal in Tolkien's Mythology." 16<sup>th</sup> Annual SUNY New Paltz Graduate Symposium, New Paltz, NY, May 2004.

## **AWARDS**

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

## **CERTIFICATES & TRAINING:**

*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**

Chair, Sierra Club, Oklahoma Chapter. 2017 – Present.  
Faculty Advisor, OKState Sierra Club. 2016 – Present.  
Faculty Advisor, Oklahoma State University Book Club. 2016 – 2017.  
Peer Review Reader, *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment (ISLE)*. 2015 – Present.  
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.  
English Graduate Student Association, Fund Raising Committee, Texas A&M University 2006 –  
2007.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

National Council of Teachers of English  
Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment  
Modern Language Association  
South Central MLA  
Society for the Study of Southern Literature

## **REFERENCES**

Dr. M. Jimmie Killingsworth  
Department of English  
Texas A&M University  
4227 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843  
send.Killingsworth.CD49D863F1@interfolio.com  
killingsworth@tamu.edu  
(979) 862-8305

Dr. An Cheng  
English Department  
205 Morrill Hall  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK 74074  
send.Cheng.5A222E0FE7@interfolio.com  
an.cheng@okstate.edu  
(405) 744-9470

Dr. Lynn Lewis  
English Department  
205 Morrill Hall  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK, 74074  
send.Lewis.D62B447774@interfolio.com  
lynn.lewis@okstate.edu  
405-744-6267

Dr. William Bedford Clark  
Department of English  
Texas A&M University  
4227 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843  
send.Clark.AF8927D90E@interfolio.com  
wbclark@tamu.edu  
(979) 862-8305