

Simon K. Lewis
English

2013 Distinguished Research Award
2007 Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award



Simon Lewis has been teaching World Literature in the English Department at the College of Charleston since August 1996. A specialist in African literature, particularly South African literature and postcolonial theory, he has published two books: *White Women Writers and Their African Invention* (2003), and *British and African Literature in Transnational Context* (2011). He has also published more than a dozen refereed articles in journals based in South Africa, the US, the UK, Australia, India, and the Netherlands, on writers such as Olive Schreiner, Nadine Gordimer, Moyez Vassanji, Abdulrazak Gurnah, and Dennis Brutus. Together with Lindsey Green-Simms (American University) he recently co-edited a special issue of the *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies* dedicated to new writing from Africa. He frequently reviews articles for scholarly journals, notably *Research in African Literatures* and the *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies*, and he contributes reviews of new books not only to scholarly journals, but in more generally accessible venues such as H-Net listservs and the *Post and Courier*. Professor Lewis has also made interventions in public discourse through letters to the editor, op-ed pieces, and essays published in local newspapers (*Post and Courier*, the *City Paper*), regional newspapers (*Greenville News*), as well as national and international publications (*Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Guardian* (UK), and *Soundings* (UK)).

Since 1998 Dr Lewis has been closely associated with the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World (CLAW) program, serving both as the program's director and as an associate director. Through that association he has promoted scholarship and public awareness of the Carolina Lowcountry in relation to the broader history of the Atlantic World, whether in his own writing, in conference presentations, and public talks, or through convening annual conferences, symposia, lecture series, faculty seminars, etc. He has published two co-edited collections of essays arising from CLAW conferences (on Jewish intellectual emigration from Fascist Europe in the 1930s with Rich Bodek; and on the 1808 banning of the international slave trade with Dave Gleeson); a third collection of essays, coming out of the "Civil War—Global Conflict" conference of March 2011 will appear in spring 2014; and a fourth, arising out of the 2013 African Literature Association conference, should be out by 2015. As series editor Dr Lewis has had a hand in many of the 19 titles in the University of South Carolina's Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World series, including the biennially-awarded Hines Prize volumes. As director or associate director of the CLAW program he has spearheaded a number of city- and state-wide commemorative projects, including commemorations of the banning of the international slave trade; of the

sesquicentennial of the US Civil War; and, in the ongoing Jubilee Project, the coincident 50th and 150th anniversaries of the desegregation of South Carolina's education system and of the Emancipation Proclamation, respectively.

For many years, from 1997-2011, Dr Lewis edited and published the little literary magazine *Illuminations: An International Magazine of Contemporary Writing*, an annual poetry journal that often ran special issues dedicated to poetry from such places as South Africa, Zimbabwe, Haiti, Cuba, and Vietnam.