

Tangela L. Serls, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Instruction
Department of Women's and Gender Studies
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EDUCATION

- 2017 **Ph.D., English/Literary Studies**, University of South Florida, Tampa FL
- 2014 **Graduate Certificate, Women's and Gender Studies**, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- 2010 **M.Ed., English Education**, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, FL
- 2008 **B.A., English/Literature**, Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, GA

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- 2022-present **Associate Professor of Instruction**
Department of Women's and Gender Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- 2018-2022 **Assistant Professor of Instruction and Undergraduate Director**
Department of Women's and Gender Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- 2017-2018 **Visiting Instructor and Interim Undergraduate Director**
Department of Women's and Gender Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- 2011-2016 **Instructor of Record**
Department of English, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- 2010-2011 **Visiting Assistant Professor**
Department of English, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, FL

COURSES TAUGHT

- WST 2250 The Female Experience in America
- WST 3015 Introduction to Women's (and Gender) Studies
- WST 4262 Literature by Women of Color of the Diaspora
- WST 4930 Black Feminisms
- WST 4925 Women's and Gender Studies Senior Capstone
- AML 3604 African American Literature
- ISS 3420 Interdisciplinary Approaches to Disability Studies
- LIT 3374 The Bible as Literature (TA)
- LIT 2000 Introduction to Literature
- LIT 2010 Introduction to Fiction
- ENC 1101 Freshman Composition I
- ENC 1102 Freshman Composition II

MAJOR FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Black feminist theories; Black women writers; Afrodiasporic writers; Cultural and literary studies; Black feminist pedagogies; Disability studies; Community and coalition building; Diversity; Access

GRADUATE THESIS COMMITTEES

- 2024 Member, Master's Thesis. Natasha Joseph. College of Arts and Sciences. Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- 2024 Member, Master's Thesis. Megs Peterson. College of Arts and Sciences. Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- 2023 Member, Doctoral Dissertation. Chazman McKoy. College of Arts and Sciences. Department of Communication
- 2023 Member, Doctoral Dissertation. Anayah Walker. College of Education. Department of Teaching and Learning
- 2023 Member, Master's Thesis. Deborah Omontese. College of Arts and Sciences. Department of Women's and Gender Studies
- 2022 Questioner, Graduate Thesis. Marlon Wilson. College of Art and Art History

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS COMMITTEE

- 2023 Chair, Undergraduate Honors Thesis. Chizobam Ugboaja. Department of Women's and Gender Studies.
- 2020 Reader, Undergraduate Honors Thesis. Sabeedah Ravat. Department of Women's and Gender Studies.

RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCES

- 2024- **Special Advisor to the College of Arts and Sciences Dean**
University of South Florida
- 2023-2024 **Special Advisor to the College of Arts and Sciences Dean on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion**
University of South Florida
- 2014-2016 **Undergraduate Academic Advisor**
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- 2013-2014 **Collaborative Grant Writer**
University Area Community Development Center, Tampa, FL
- 2013-2016 **Copy Editor**
ABO: Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts, 1640-1830
- 2012-2013 **Writing Consultant and Tutor**
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- 2009-2010 **Writing Consultant and Tutor**
Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL
- 2006-2008 **Writing Consultant and Tutor**
Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, GA

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Book Chapters

- 2022 "Girlfriend Epistemology in *The Color Purple*," *Navigating Women's Friendships in American Literature*, Eds. Kristi Branham and Kelly Reames. London, United Kingdom: Palgrave Macmillan, 85-103.
- 2021 "Black Girl Magic: Beauty, Brilliance, and Coming to Voice in the Classroom," *Teaching Brilliant and Beautiful Black Girls*, Eds. Shemariah J. Arki, et.al. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Publishers, 2021. 404-409.

- 2014 “You Speak Ebonics Right!?: My Struggle to Come to Voice as a Woman of Color Within the Academy” (with Yakini Kemp), *Claiming a Seat at the Table: Feminism, Underserved Women of Color, Voice and Resistance.*, Ed. Sonja Brown Givens and Keisha Edwards Tassie. Plymouth, UK: Lexington Books, 2014. 81-90.

PRESENTATIONS

Academic Conferences

- 2023 “Re-Imagining Blackness and its Sensibilities: An Analysis of Saidiya Hartman’s ‘Litany for Grieving Sister.’” WGS South, Virtual Conference. March 2023.
- 2021 Moderator—“Hip Hop, Identity, and the US South: A Dialogue with Drs. Aisha Durham and Regina Bradley,” Southeastern Women’s Studies Association, Virtual Conference. March 2021.
- 2020 “Cultivating Our Intellectual Legacies: Toward an Understanding of Girlfriend Epistemology,” College Language Association, The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, April 2020. Conference canceled due to COVID19.
- 2020 Moderator—“#MuteRKelly: Transforming Passion to Activism: A Conversation with Kenyette Tisha Barnes,” Southeastern Women’s Studies Association, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL March 2020. Conference canceled due to COVID19.
- 2019 “Teaching Through The Thorns: My Experience as a First Year Instructor,” Southeastern Women’s Studies Association, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, March 2019.
- 2018 “The Inspiring Brilliance of Black Girl Magic,” College Language Association, DePaul University, Chicago, IL, April 2018.
- 2016 “Lovers and Friends of the Spirit: A Critical Examination of Celie and Shug’s bond in *The Color Purple*,” College Language Association, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX, April 2016.
- 2015 “From Friend to Pariah: Nel and Sula’s Unorthodox Friendship,” College Language Association, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, April 2015.
- 2014 “The Amalgamation of Problem Spaces in Andrea Levy’s *Long Song*,” College Language Association, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, March 2014.
- 2013 “Politics of Color and Class in Caribbean Literature,” College Language Association, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, April 2013.
- 2012 “Staying in a Woman’s Place: The Postcolonial Woman’s Memoir,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Research Triangle Park, Durham, NC, November 2012.
- 2012 “She’s Just Got to be Free: Sethe’s Journey to Self-Love and Self-Acceptance,” College Language Association, Spelman College, Atlanta, GA, March 2012.

Other Presentations: Department of Women’s and Gender Studies

- 2018-2023 WGS New Graduate Student Orientation: Co-presented with Dr. Milton Wendland on “Tips for GAs”
- 2021 Speaker, WGS Brown Bag: A Discussion on Black Feminist Pedagogies
- 2021 Invited Guest, Journey to the PhD: Kitchen Chat featuring Drs. Wendland and Serls
- 2019 “Living History: A Discussion of Michelle Obama’s *Becoming*”
- 2019 WGS Careers and Alumni Panel: Planned and executed the panel with the WGS Project Coordinator
- 2019 Latinx Feminists You Should Know!: Planned and executed the event with Dr. Price-Herndl
- 2019 LGBTQ+ Identities in Cultural Context Pre-College Summer Program; Canceled due to COVID19
- 2018 “Tea With Dr. Tangela” An invitation of community among Women of Color hosted by the WGS chapter of Triota National Honor Society.

Other Presentations: University of South Florida

- 2023 Presenter, Women’s History Month Podcast, Dean of Students Ambassadors
- 2023 Panelist, USF Institute on Black Life Conference, Panel: “Reimagining Art, Literature, and

- History through Blackness”
- 2023 Presenter, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Town Hall Discussion: Teaching in Florida’s Political Climate
- 2023 Keynote speaker for the Dr. King Commemorative Brunch, Office of Multicultural Affairs
- 2022 Co-presenter, Humanities and Hops, hosted by the USF Humanities Institute
- 2022 Panelist, Real Talk: “Demystifying and Re-Imagining Social Justice: Lessons from the Humanities and Arts”
- 2022 Week-long Guest Lecturer, HSC: Sex, Health, and Decision Making. USF College of Public Health. April 12th and 14th 2022.
- 2022 Co-panelist, “International Women’s Day Event: Highlighting USF’s and Our Community’s Unsung Heroes,” Council of Academic Advisors, Multicultural Academic Advising Committee
- 2022 Co-presenter, “From Bystander to Ally and Advocate: Addressing Inequities in Higher Education,” Black Employee Steering Committee’s Enlightenment Series
- 2022 Speaker, Moment of Silence and Reflection for the Dr. MLK Luncheon, Office of Multicultural Affairs
- 2021 Keynote speaker for the Audre Lorde Luncheon and Lavender Graduation, Office of Multicultural Affairs
- 2021 Panelist, “Real Talk: Women of Color in Politics: Embodiment and Emotional Taxation,” Department of Housing and Residential Education
- 2021 Panel moderator, USF Institute on Black Life Conference
- 2021 Co-presenter, “Bias and Its Implications,” Black Employee Steering Committee’s Enlightenment Series
- 2020 Keynote speaker for the Audre Lorde Luncheon, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Declined because of COVID19
- 2020 Presenter, Tunnel of Oppression Facilitation Training, Department of Housing and Residential Education
- 2020 Presenter, “Talking Over Tots with Dr. T: A Conversation with Greek Village Students,” Department of Housing and Residential Education
- 2020 Panelist, “FalcuTEA: Tips for Navigating the Graduate School Process,” Department of Housing and Residential Education
- 2019 Panelist, “Real Talk: Money, Community, and Friendship Among Womyn of Color,” Department of Housing and Residential Education
- 2019 Presenter, “Sippin’ With Serls: A Discussion on Cultural Appropriation,” Department of Housing and Residential Education
- 2018 Panelist, “From Marsha to Roxanne: A Faculty and Student Panel on Navigating the Intersections of Sexuality, Gender Identity, and Race.” Collaboration between Stonewall Suites LLC, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and Residential Education
- 2018 “Beauty and Brains Panel” Hosted by the National Society of Black Engineers. Declined because of scheduling conflict.
- 2018 Panelist, “International Studies Society Lived Activism Panel”

Other Presentations: Community

- 2023 “Reimagining Blackness, Disability Justice, and Resistance: Celebrating Black History Month with Dr. Serls,” San José Evergreen Community College
- 2021 “Gender Bias and its Implications,” Home Shopping Network
- 2018 Preparing for College” Presentation to AVID students at Clermont Middle School
- 2018 Empowerment and Motivational Presentation for students at Sumter Prep Academy (April 2018 and November 2018)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

2023-2024	Recipient, Certificate of Excellence in High-Impact Practices, Office of High Impact Practices and Undergraduate Research, University of South Florida
2023-2024	Academic Partner of the Year, Department of Housing and Residential Education, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
2023-2024	Leadership in Service Award, USF Black Faculty and Staff Association, University of South Florida
2023-2024	C.O.B.A. Bulls Captain, USF Committee on Black Affairs—Presidential Advisory Committee, University of South Florida
2022-2023	Advisor of the Year, Office of Multicultural Affairs, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
2022-2023	Recipient, USF Ambassadors Faculty Recognition Award
2022-2023	Faculty Learning Community Co-facilitator, “Decolonizing Social Science and Humanities Courses: a Pedagogical Shukūk.”
2022-2023	Principal Investigator, Greater Good: Humanities in Academia Grant, Florida Humanities, Project Title: “Freedom in Creativity: Building Meaning and Bridging Difference Through the Humanities.” \$8,000 awarded University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
2021-2022	Faculty Partner of the Year, Department of Housing and Residential Education, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
2021-2022	Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
2021-2022	Principal Investigator, Greater Good: Humanities in Academia Grant, Florida Humanities Council, Project Title: “Re-Imagining the Humanities: Cultivating Attitudes of Anti-Racism and Allyship.” \$5,000 awarded
2021-2022	Inaugural Humanities Institute Faculty Fellow University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
2020-2021	Faculty Pride Award, Committee on Issues of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity University of South Florida, Tampa FL
2019-2020	Lifetime Achievement Award, The USF Section of the National Council of Negro Women University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
2016, 2017	Jack B. Moore Memorial Scholarship University of South Florida, Tampa FL
2012-2016	Conference Presentation Grant Program University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
2010	Outstanding English/Education Graduate Student Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, FL
2009-2010	Dr. James H. Ammons Fellowship Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, FL
2008-2009	State University System (SUS) Fellowship Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, FL
2008	Valedictorian Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, GA

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Department of Women’s and Gender Studies

2023	Attendee, WGS 50 th Anniversary Celebration
2023	Attendee, WGS Brown Bag: “The Caste of our Commons: Political Entrepreneurialism and Social Structure” w/ Dr. Vrinda Marwah
2023	Attendee, Pride Belongs to the People: A Conversation with Dr. Daniel Conway
2022	Attendee, Book Launch for “Still Woke: The Power and Freedom of Black Feminist and Womanist Pedagogy” by Drs. Lemons and Rodriguez
2022	Attendee, “Living Feminisms Conference”
2022	Attendee, “Past, Present, and Future Survival: An Anti-Racist Writing Workshop”

Collaboration with Kitchen Table Literary Arts
 2022 Attendee, “HB7 Grad Seminar” Presented by Professor Price-Herndl
 2022 Attendee, “Muslim Alums, Living Our Feminist Lives: A Roundtable Lunchtime Conversation Honoring the WGS 50th Anniversary
 2022 Attendee, “The Power of Art in Social Change: Conversation with Kalki Subramaniam”
 2023 Participant, Assistant Professor of Instruction Search Committee
 2022 Participant, Visiting Assistant Professor of Instruction Search Committee
 2022 Participant, Assistant Professor of Instruction Search Committee
 2022 Participant, Assistant Professor Search Committee
 2021 Co-Chair, Visiting Instructor Search Committee
 2021 Attendee, WGS Brown Bag: Masculinity as a Hard Cage: A Talk Featuring Dr. Grace Diabah
 2020-2022 WGS Internship Supervisor
 2020-2022 Chair, WGS Diversity Group
 2020-present Member, WGS Online Instructional Peer Review Team
 2019 Participant, Visiting Instructor Search Committee
 2019 Participant, Visiting Assistant Professor Search Committee
 2018-2020 SEWSA Planning Committee
 2018-present Member of the committee-as-a-whole
 2018-2022 Member, Faculty Evaluation Committee
 2018-2022 Member, Undergraduate Recruiting Sub-Committee

College of Arts and Sciences and University of South Florida

2024 Member at Large, USF Faculty Senate
 2023—present Facilitator, CAS- Holistic Faculty Mentorship Program
 2023—2024 Co-author, “Food Sovereignty, Food Insecurity, and Mental Health Proposal,” CAS Faculty Council
 2023 CAS-SADEI Internship Supervisor
 2023 Co-facilitator, “Cultivating Brave Spaces: Tackling Microaggressions Together,” USF Department of English
 2023 Guest Speaker, Critical Race Discourse Graduate Seminar, USF Department of Anthropology
 2023 Panelist, Book Discussion: “Stayed on Freedom: The Long History of Black Power Through One Family’s Journey” w/ Dan Berger, USF Department of Humanities and Cultural Studies and USF Department of History
 2023 Guest Speaker, USFSP Student Success Professional Development Day
 2023 Panelist, MCAAC’s “State of the State: A Townhall Discussing Florida’s Education”
 2023 Participant, Director of Housing and Residential Education Search Committee
 2023 Participant, Mental Health and Wellness in the Workplace Online Course, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences
 2023 Attendee, “Strategic Leadership: Combined Regional Virtual Conference,” ACE Women’s Network Florida
 2023 Attendee, Mentorship in Higher Education: Maintaining Connections and Paying it Forward, ACE Women’s Network Florida
 2023 Attendee, The Roots of Belonging and The Risk of Othering with Rachel Brown, Florida Humanities
 2023 Attendee, Dinner with the Deans: Rising Health Professions, Living Learning Community
 2023 Attendee, National Coming Out Day Dinner
 2023 Attendee, Inclusive and Equitable Pedagogy Workshop: Creating Course Covenants
 2023 Attendee, Democracy and Citizenship Series: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times”
 2023 Attendee, All Advisor Day Official Meeting
 2023 Attendee, USF College of Arts and Sciences Staff Appreciation

2023	Attendee, Global Café, Office of High Impact Practices and Undergraduate Research
2023	Attendee, Frontier Forum Lecture Series: “Earth Democracy: Sowing the Seeds of Hope and Freedom in Times of Extinction and Collapse.” USF College of Arts and Sciences
2023	Attendee, Diversity and Inclusion Conference: Resiliently Pushing Forward, USF Office of Multicultural Affairs
2023	Attendee, University Lecture Series Featuring Angela Harrelson and Paris Stevens
2022—present	Guest Lecturer, Rising Health Professions Living Learning Community
2022	Attendee, Trevor Purcell Lecture, “Racism and Anti-Racism: Case Studies of Canadian Universities, Department of Anthropology
2022	Attendee, Book Launch for “Second-Class Daughters: Black Brazilian Women and Informed Adoption as Modern Slavery”
2022	Judge, Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award
2022	Moderator, Negra Soy: Poetry Performance Featuring Afro-Latina Poet and Artist, Melania Luisa Marte
2022	Tabled, USF Undergraduate Undeclared Majors Expo
2022	Panel Moderator, “Dangerous Criticism: Critiquing the Powerful,” Humanities Institute Undergraduate Research Conference
2022	Attendee, Active Learning through Student Engagement Workshop, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
2021	Attendee, Faculty Scholars Workshop, School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies
2021	Attendee, Ableism Awareness: What I Wish My Professor Knew,” Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity
2021	Speaker, “Walk it Like I Talk It: How to Live Authentically” Housing and Residential Education
2021	Panel Moderator and Co-Organizer, <i>Cured</i> Documentary Screening and Panel Discussion, Collaboration with Office of Multicultural Affairs, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, the Department of Psychology, and the USF Counseling Center
2021	Member, Gender Equity Coordinator Search Committee, Office of Multicultural Affairs
2021	Attendee, Share Your Story Event, Stonewall Suites Living Learning Community
2021	Attendee, Course Design Institute, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
2021	Panel Participant, “Through Their Eyes: Faculty Diversity Panel.” Student Government Association
2021-2022	Social Sciences Reading Group for Instructional Excellence
2020-2022	Member, College of Arts and Sciences anti-racism course and certificate committee
2020-present	Member, Black Employee Steering Committee
2019-2024	Member, College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
2019-present	Faculty-in-Residence, Department of Housing and Residential Education
2019-2022	Diversity Liaison, College of Arts and Sciences
2018-2023	Faculty Fellow, Department of Housing and Residential Education
2013-present	Primary Advisor, USF Section of the National Council of Negro Women
2014-2016	Advisory Council Member, Kappa Iota Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Local, State, and National Service and Professional Development

2023—present	Member, Education Advisory Council for Representative Fentrice Driskell
2023	Attendee, Academy for the Holistic Reimagining of the Recruitment, Mentoring, and Retention of Racially Minoritized Faculty, Center for the Study of Higher Education, Pennsylvania State University
2023	Attendee, Joyce Russell Kente Awards and Scholarship Ceremony
2023	Attendee, “Managing and Leading by Keeping it Simple in a Challenging Higher Education Landscape” ACE Coffee and Chat w/ President Christopher Roellke, Stetson University
2022	Attendee, “Lessons Learned: Climbing the Career Ladder” ACE Coffee and Chat w/President Heather Bigard, Lake-Sumter State College

2022 Attendee, “Four Unconventional Strategies for Advancing Your Career” ACE Coffee and Chat w/ President Patricia Okker, New College of Florida
2021 Attendee, Evolution of Womanism w/ Dr. Layli Maparyan, Wellesley Center for Women
2021 Attendee, Outcast Theatre of the Oppressed Presents: Sister Circle
2018 Tabled, Women’s Day March in St. Petersburg
2014-2017 Board Member, Delta Torch Foundation, Inc.
2015 Workshop Monitor, National Forum for Black Public Administrators Conference

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2019-present Southeastern Women’s Studies Association
2010-present College Language Association
2006-present Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated