Stanford



Roberta Wolfson

Advanced Lecturer, Program in Writing and Rhetoric

Bio

BIO

Roberta Wolfson is an Advanced Lecturer in the Program in Writing and Rhetoric, where she teaches courses on the role of language and narrative in movements for racial and social justice. Her research, which focuses on twentieth- and twenty-first century multiethnic U.S. literatures, risk and security studies, comparative ethnic studies, and critical mixed race studies, is published in scholarly journals such as College Literature, American Literature, and MELUS. Her book manuscript, "Refiguring Race and Risk: Counternarratives of Care in the U.S. Security State" (The Ohio State University Press, 2024), considers how writers of color use antiracist narrative to challenge the violence of the contemporary U.S. security state.

She grew up in San Jose, California and earned her B.A in English with a Chinese minor from the University of California, Los Angeles, where she served as a peer tutor and tutor supervisor in the Undergraduate Writing Center (formerly the Covel Tutorials Composition/ESL Lab). She then headed back up the California coast to earn her M.A. and Ph.D. in English along with a Ph.D. Certificate in College and University Teaching from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she taught in both the Department of English and the Writing Program. Prior to coming to Stanford, she held an appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where she taught courses on Asian American, African American, Muslim American, and mixed race U.S. literatures.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Advanced Lecturer, Program in Writing and Rhetoric

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Seed Grant, Asian American Research Center at Stanford (2026)
- "Refiguring Race and Risk" Shortlisted for 2023-24 MELUS Book Award, Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (2025)
- Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access in a Learning Environment (IDEAL) Honor Roll, Stanford University (2024)
- Research Grant, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, Stanford University (2023)
- Teaching Advancement Grant, Center for Teaching and Learning, Stanford University (2021)
- Modern Language Association International Bibliography Fellowship, Modern Language Association (2019-2020)
- Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities Grant, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (2018-2020)
- College of Liberal Arts Summer Research Grant, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (2019)
- American Cultures and Global Contexts Center Graduate Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara (2014-2015)
- Graduate Division Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant, University of California, Santa Barbara (2014)
- Chicano Studies Institute Dissertation Research Grant, University of California, Santa Barbara (2014)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Board Member, Asian Staff Forum, Stanford University (2021 - present)
- Advisory Board Member, Circle of Asian American Literary Studies (2018 - present)
- Secretary, Critical Mixed Race Studies Caucus, Association for Asian American Studies (2019 - 2022)
- Co-Chair and Secretary, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Faculty and Staff Association, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (2018 - 2020)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara , English (2017)
- Ph.D. Certificate, University of California, Santa Barbara , College and University Teaching (2017)
- M.A., University of California, Santa Barbara , English (2012)
- B.A., University of California, Los Angeles , English with a creative writing emphasis and Chinese minor (2009)

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

20th and 21st Century Multiethnic U.S. Literatures, Comparative Ethnic Studies, Critical Mixed Race Studies, Racial and Social Justice, Ethnofuturist Speculative Fiction, Popular U.S. Culture, Risk and Security Studies

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Identity in the American Imagination: ESF 28 (Aut)
- Identity in the American Imagination: ESF 28A (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 1: Writing across Difference: The Rhetoric of Race: PWR 1RW (Spr)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: Not Part but Whole: Writing Mixed Race Identity: PWR 2RW (Win)

2025-26

- Ethnofuturist Rhetorics: Imagining the Future of Race: CSRE 91RW, PWR 91RW (Win)
- Writing & Rhetoric 1: Writing for Liberation: The Rhetoric of Antiracism: PWR 1RW (Aut, Win)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: Not Part but Whole: Writing Mixed Race Identity: PWR 2RW (Spr)

2024-25

- Writing & Rhetoric 2: Not Part but Whole: Writing Mixed Race Identity: PWR 2RW (Aut)

2023-24

- Ethnofuturist Rhetorics: Imagining the Future of Race: CSRE 91RW, PWR 91RW (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 1: Writing for Liberation: The Rhetoric of Antiracism: PWR 1RW (Spr)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: Not Part but Whole: Writing Mixed Race Identity: PWR 2RW (Aut, Win)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Refiguring Race and Risk: Counternarratives of Care in the US Security State**
  Wolfson, R.

The Ohio State University Press.2024

- **(Mis)Reading in the Age of Terror: Promoting Racial Literacy through Counter-Colonial Narrative Resistance in the Post-9/11 Muslim Novel** *College Literature: A Journal of Critical Literary Studies*
  Wolfson, R.
  2023; 50 (2-3): 237-267
- **Rewriting the Mixed Self: Narrative Resistance against the White Monoracial Imagination** *Critical Mixed Race Studies*
  Wolfson, R.
  2023: 8-12
- **Luis Javier Rodriguez** *Latino Literature: An Encyclopedia for Students*
  Wolfson, R.
  Bloomsbury.2023: 228-231
- **"A Man of Two Faces and Two Minds": Just Memory and Metatextuality in The Sympathizer's Rewriting of the Vietnam War** *College Literature: A Journal of Critical Literary Studies*
  Wolfson, R.
  2023; 50 (1): 57-86
- **Celeste Ng** *The Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Fiction*
  Wolfson, R.
  edited by O'Donnell, P., Burn, S. J., Larkin, L.
  Wiley.2022: 1001-1006
- **Black Bourgeois: Class & Sex in the Flesh (Book Review)** *AFRICAN AMERICAN REVIEW*
  Book Review Authored by: Wolfson, R.
  2021; 54 (1-2): 178-180
- **Race Leaders, Race Traitors, and the Necropolitics of Black Exceptionalism in Paul Beatty's Fiction** *AMERICAN LITERATURE*
  Wolfson, R.
  2019; 91 (3): 619–47
- **Chicano Gang Members at Risk: Containment, Flight, and an Alternative Vision of Sociality in Luis J. Rodriguez's Always Running** *MELUS*
  Wolfson, R.
  2018; 43 (1): 21–45