Karey Lea Perkins, Ph.D.

www.kareyperkins.net

EDUCATION

Ph.D. **English,** *Georgia State University*, Atlanta, GA (2011)
M.A. **Philosophy**, *Georgia State University*, Atlanta, GA (2014)
M.A.T. **Teaching English**, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*, NC (1985)
Graduate Study, Philosophy/Religion, *Southeastern Theological Seminary*, Wake Forest, NC (1983-1984)
B.A. **English and Religion**, *Wake Forest University***,** Winston-Salem, NC (1981)

DISSERTATION

Walker Percy and the Magic of Naming: The Semeiotic Fabric of Life
http://scholarworks.gsu.edu/english_diss/76/
Committee: Dr. Thomas McHaney, Dr. Kenneth Laine Ketner, Dr. Pearl McHaney

AREAS of SPECIALIZATION and CONCENTRATION

English*:* Contemporary, Modern, and Southern American Literature; Professional and Technical Writing
Philosophy: Theoretical and Applied Ethics; Existentialism; Pragmati[ci]sm; Sem[e]iotic

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of English, South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC (2024 – present)
Assistant Professor of English, South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC (2019 – 2024)
Editorial Board Member, Peirce Studies series, Peter Lang Group (2017 – present)
Research Associate, Institute for Studies in Pragmaticism, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX (2014 – present)
Hardwick Fellow, Institute for Studies in Pragmaticism, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX (2014, 2018)
English and Philosophy Instructor, Technical College of the Lowcountry, Bluffton, SC (2016 – 2019)
English Instructor, Composition and Literature, University of South Carolina – Beaufort, Bluffton, SC (2015 – 2017)
Full Professor, Writing, English and Philosophy, University of Maryland Global Campus, Europe (2014 – 2015)
Writer, Editor, **and Website designer**, The WebRite Group, Bluffton, SC (2014 – present)
Writer/Editor, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State Univ., Atlanta, GA (2007 – 2014)
Lead Faculty, English and Humanities, Westwood College, Northlake, Atlanta, GA (2012 – 2014)
English Instructor, Composition and Literature, North Georgia College and State U., Dahlonega, GA (2011)
Senior Professor, English, Philosophy, and Religion, DeVry University, Alpharetta, GA (1992 – 2010)
Faculty Development Coordinator for Writing, DeVry University, Atlanta, GA (2000 – 2001)
Professional Writing Consultant, Cereus Technology Partners, Dunwoody, GA (2000)
English Instructor, Composition and Literature, Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody, GA (1986 – 1996)

TEACHING: *online, accelerated, and hybrid course format as well as traditional delivery format*

Contemporary Literature
American Literature I and II
Modern American Poetry
Women's Writing
Adolescent Literature
World Literature I and II

Composition I and II
Advanced Composition (graduate)
Professional Writing
Business Writing
Technical Writing
Creative Writing

Ethics
Introduction to Philosophy
Existentialism
World Religions
Introduction to the Humanities
Methods of Teaching

PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Experience in writing and editing for a variety of purposes: academic and professional, print and digital.
Designed, created, and wrote content for a variety of websites, magazines, and social media.
Wrote and edited articles, proceedings, and newsletters for the Andrew Young School (GSU) publications, including their quarterly magazine, *The Briefing,* and their annual report.
Designed, wrote, and published promotional materials (postcards, brochures, flyers, website, programs) for the Andrew Young School (GSU) conferences and projects.
Taught college-level Professional and Technical Writing for two decades.

PUBLICATIONS

"Reading by the Numbers: The Peirce-Percy Semiotic in Walker Percy's Fiction." *South Atlantic Review,* Vol. 87.4, Winter 2022.

"Introduction: Walker Percy's Importance in the 21st Century." *South Atlantic Review,* Vol. 87.4, Winter 2022.

"Walker Percy in the 21st Century." *South Atlantic Review Special Issue,* guest edited by Karey Perkins and Rhonda McDonnell. Winter 2022. (as editor)

Percy, Walker. *Symbol and Existence: A Study in Meaning,* edited by Kenneth Laine Ketner, Karey Perkins, Rhonda McDonnell, and Scott Cunningham, Mercer UP, 2019.

"Diamonds in the Rough: The Peirce-Percy Semiotic in *The Second Coming,"* chapter in *Walker Percy: Philosopher*, edited by Leslie Marsh, Palgrave MacMillan, 2018.

Applied Interdisciplinary Peirce Studies, Volume 13, ed. by Kenneth Laine Ketner, Texas Tech University, Peirce Studies Series, Peter Lang, 2024. (Served on editorial staff)

Applied Interdisciplinary Peirce Studies, Volume 10, ed. by Elize Bisanz, Texas Tech University, Peirce Studies Series, Peter Lang, 2019. (Served on editorial staff)

Walker Percy by the Numbers: The Influence of Charles Sanders Peirce. Peter Lang. Query letter accepted. (Forthcoming.)

Walker's Women: The Evolution of Walker Percy's Female Characters. (Forthcoming.)

Percy, Walker. *The Letters of F. Gentry Harris and Walker Percy,* edited by Rhonda McDonnell, Kenneth Laine Ketner, and Karey Perkins. Permission granted for publication. (Forthcoming.)

The Briefing, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA. As writer/editor for AYSPS, wrote articles published in the quarterly newsmagazine: http://aysps.gsu.edu/magazine, 2007-2014. Sample articles include:

- "Thompson Provides Clean Water, Coffee, and Hope in Nicaragua," *The Briefing,* Summer 2013
- "Community Rules: Study Finds Public-Assisted Housing Returnees Better Off Than Voucher Users," *The Briefing*, Summer 2012
- "What is a Life Worth?" Fall/Winter 2012
- "Soldiers' Trauma: Study Examines the Psychological Costs of War," *The Briefing*, Fall/Winter 2011
- "GHPC Assembles the Health Reform Work Group: Experts Across GSU Collaborate to Explain National Health Reform Bill," *The Briefing*, Fall/Winter 2010

"Georgia's Aging Population," published in *Georgia County Government Magazine,* October 2007.

CONFERENCES and PRESENTATIONS

Paper Presentations & Interviews

"'We call it—knot it, Mr. Henderson': Intersectional Voices and Irony in Susan Glaspell's 'A Jury of Her Peers.'" *South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA November 2026 (paper accepted for presentation).*

"Walker Percy's Existential Endings and the Meaning of Life." [Invited speaker.] *Walker Percy Weekend, St. Francisville, LA, September 2025.*

"From Wanderer to Wayfarer: Seeing Walker Percy's 'Signposts in a Strange Land.'" *South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Jacksonville, FL, November 2024.*

"Walker Percy's Four Stages of Symbolic Structure: Rescuing Symbol and Thought from Ossification." *South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2023.*

"Walker's Women: The Evolution of Walker Percy's Female Characters." *South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Jacksonville, FL, November 2022.*

"From Symbol to Sacrament: Walker Percy's Fabric of Life." *South Atlantic Modern Language Association, November 2021.*

Podcast Interview: Christian Humanist Profiles 197: Symbol & Existence. September 7, 2020. https://christianhumanisprofiles.castos.com/podcasts/40498/episodes/christian-humanist-profiles-197-symbol-and-existence

"'Draw Me a Picture': A Chronological Tour through Walker Percy's Search for the Elusive Coupler," *South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2020*

"ArithmeCrit: Reading by the Numbers," *South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2017.*

"From Existentialist to Sem(e)iotician: Walker Percy's Mid-Career Shift in his Social Theory." *American Literature Association, San Francisco, CA, May 2016.*

"Walker Percy: Modernist, Postmodernist, or Post-postmodernist?" *South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Durham, NC, November 2015*.

"Swamps of Darkness, Swamps of Light," *South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Durham, NC, November 2015*.

"Diamonds in the Rough: The Peirce-Percy Semeiotic in *The Second Coming*," *Still Lost in the Cosmos: Walker Percy and the 21st Century*, *Loyola University, New Orleans, LA, October 2013.*

"Walker Percy's Search for a Radical Anthropology," *Conference of the International Journal of Arts and Sciences, Bad Hofgastein, Austria, June 2009.*

"ArithmeCrit: Walker Percy's Cenopythagoreanism and the Semiotic Fabric of Life," *South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2007.*

"The Faculty Forum: A Scholarship Mentoring Project," *Learning to Change: American Association of Higher Education Conference, Washington, DC, March 2003.*

"Walker Percy and the Genesis Phenomenon: Towards A Radical Anthropology," *Voices Far and Near: Myth, Legend, Folktale, and Fantasy: Northeast Conference on Christianity and Literature:, Brooklyn Heights, New York, October 2002.*

"The Crisis in Higher Education and Three Approaches," *Modern Language Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, December 2001.*

"Alternative Professional Choices for the Ph.D. Candidate: Teaching in a For-profit Technical School Environment," *South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2001.*

"The 'East Coker' Dance in T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*: An Affirmation of Time and Place," *Intersections of the Sacred and Profane: Midwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, Chicago, Illinois, March 2000.*

"Ethics and Integrity" Idea Exchange Seminar and "Faculty Forum" Poster Session,
- *National Faculty Symposium, DeVry, Chicago, Illinois, July 2000.*

"The Mariner in the Mirror: Irony and Death in Coleridge's *Rime*," Panelist paper presentation,
- *Doctoral Colloquium, Georgia State University, Atlanta, May 2000;*
- *Faculty Forum, DeVry University, Atlanta, June 2000.*
- *Accepted to Coleridge Summer Conference, Somerset, England, July 2002.*

Session Moderator, Chair, and/or Organizer

Every year, I organize and chair at least one, usually two or three, panels or sessions on Walker Percy at the SAMLA's annual conference. The goal is to keep dialogue and the exchange of ideas on Percy and his work alive and ongoing, promoting networking and camaraderie among Percy scholars. However, this year I diverged from Walker Percy, choosing a different topic to mentor two graduate students in presenting papers at conferences.

Session Organizer and Chair
- "Intersectional Voices in Contemporary American Literature"

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2026.

Session Organizer and Chair
- "Seeing Walker Percy's Signs and Symbols"

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Jacksonville, FL, November 2024.

Session Organizer and Chair
- "Walker Percy's Construction of Self and Identity" and
- "Walker Percy and the Rescue of Symbol and Belief from Stagnation"

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2023.

Moderator
- "Words Across the Water" Poetry Conference, *South Carolina State University, February 2023.*

Moderator
- "Transnational Intersectionalities" *2nd annual Intersectional Studies Conference: Cultural Crossroads in the Global Village, South Carolina State University, March 2022.*

Session Organizer and Chair
- "From The Moviegoer to The Thanatos Syndrome: Percy's Semiotic Evolution in his Fiction"
- "Walker Percy's Semiotic Fourthness" and
- "Walker Percy's Evolution on Social Issues"

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Jacksonville, FL, November 2022.

Session Organizer and Chair
- "Walker Percy and Social Networks: Humans as Symbol-Mongerers and Walker Percy" and
- "Divine Networks: The Sacred in a Secular World"

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, November 2021.

Session Organizer and Chair
- "New Readings of Walker Percy's Radical Anthropology: Intuition and Symbol Acquisition" and
- "Walker Percy and Anxiety in Self and an Apocalyptic World"

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, November 2020.

Roundtable Organizer and Chair: "Walker Percy in the 21st Century,"
South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2019.

For this roundtable, I contacted and recruited six well-known, recently published authors on Walker Percy:
- Dr. Kenneth Laine Ketner (*Symbol & Existence: A Study in Meaning*, by Walker Percy, 2019, and *A Thief of Peirce: The Letters of Kenneth Laine Ketner and Walker Percy*, 1995)
- Dr. Michael Kobre (*Walker Percy's Voices*, 2000, and *Walker Percy's the Moviegoer Turns 50: New Takes on an Iconic American Novel*, ed. Lavasseur and McKay, 2016)
- Dr. Elizabeth Amato (*The Pursuit of Happiness and the American Regime*, 2018)
- Dr. Brian Smith (*A Political Companion to Walker Percy*, 2013, and *Walker Percy and the Politics of the Wayfarer*, 2017)
- Dr. Rhonda McDonnell (*Walker Percy, Philosopher*, ed. Leslie Marsh, 2018 and *Symbol & Existence: A Study in Meaning*, by Walker Percy, 2019)
- Dr. Paul Elie (*The Life You Save May be Your Own: An American Pilgrimage*, 2004)

Session Organizer and Chair
- "Walker Percy the Semiotician: Language, Sign and Symbol,"

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2019.

Session Organizer and Chair
- "The High and Low of Art, Self, and Language in Walker Percy's Work"

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2017.

Session Organizer and Chair of three (3) sessions for Walker Percy's 100th birthday:
- "Walker Percy Centennial Anniversary"

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Jacksonville, FL, November 2016.

Session Organizer and Chair
- "Signposts of a Semiotic: Walker Percy's Peircean Anthropology for a Post-postmodern World,"

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Durham, NC, November 2015.

Session Organizer and Chair
- "Walker Percy"

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2007.

SERVICE and COMMITTEES

Peer Reviewer, *Studies in the Novel,* Fall 2026, provided feedback on Southern American Literature essay on its style, quality, field relevance, and originality of submitting author's work.

University and College Service
- Vice President, American Association of University Professors, (SCSU chapter, 2024 to 2026)
- Secretary, University Faculty Senate, SCSU (2022 to present)
- Treasurer, University Faculty Senate, SCSU (2021 to 2022)
- Senator, University Faculty Senate for the English and Communications (EAC) department (2020 to 2021)
- Faculty Technology Mentor for College of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CEHSS) (2020 to present)
  - Mentored fellow faculty in technology skills necessary for online teaching, including various aspects of Blackboard LMS, Collaborate, Zoom, video recording, HTML, page design, professional writing.
- University 1890 Research and Extension Program Editor, SCSU (Spring 2021 to present)
- University Distance Education Committee, SCSU (Fall 2020 to present)
- University Graduate Catalog Committee (Chair), SCSU (Fall 2020 to present)
- University GEC Revision Committee, SCSU (Fall 2020-present)
- University Planning and Projection Committee, SCSU (2021-present)
- University Space Utilization Committee, SCSU (2022-present)
- University Education Facilities Committee, SCSU (2022-present)
- University Graduate Studies Council, SCSU (2021-present)
- University Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee-Carlana Kohn Davis Scholarship Fund (Fall 2020 to present)

English and Communications (EAC) Department Service

- EAC Committee to Develop a Masters' Degree in English, SCSU (2019 to present)
- EAC Assistant Professor Hire Committee, SCSU, Orangeburg, SC (Spring/Summer 2025)
- EAC Assistant Professor Hire Committee, SCSU, Orangeburg, SC (Spring/Summer 2023)
- EAC Department New Instructor Hire Committee, SCSU, Orangeburg, SC (Summer 2022)
- EAC Department New Instructor Hire Committee, SCSU, Orangeburg, SC (Spring 2021)
- Developed Professional Writing Course (2020 to 2021)
    - Created and wrote the E 330 Professional Writing for SCSU as part of a minor or certificate in the area. Worked with internal online department and external company Symbiosis to develop E 330 into a Quality Matters online class.
- EAC Professional Writing Certificate Committee, SCSU, Orangeburg, SC (2019 to present)
- EAC Committee to Define English Course Learning Objectives, SCSU, Orangeburg, SC (2019 to present)
- EAC Internship Committee, SCSU, Orangeburg, SC (2023 to present)
- EAC Newsletter Committee (2022 to present)
- EAC Website Committee (2023 to present)
- EAC Committee to Incorporate Praxis Core learning activities into E150. (2022-present
- EAC Department Quality Matters Ambassador, SCSU, Orangeburg, SC (2020 to present)
- EAC Communication-Applied Studies Committee, SCSU (2019 to present)
- EAC Department: Committee to Define English Course Learning Objectives, SCSU (2019 to present)
- EAC—SC Teaching Certificate Praxis Exam Workshops (Spring/Summer 2020)
- Conference Moderator: *Words Across the Water* Poetry Conference, SCSU (March 2022)
- Session Moderator, "Transnational Intersectionalities," Intersectional Studies Conference. (March 2022)
- Judge for "Words Across Water" Poetry Conference and Contest, SCSU (Spring 2021)
- Judge for "Lift Every Voice" Poetry Conference and Contest, SCSU (Spring 2021)
- Judge for colleagues' student final presentations, SCSU (Fall/Spring 2021)

Past Service

- Faculty Development Coordinator (2000 to 2001)
    - Created a faculty scholarship mentoring program ("The Faculty Forum"); Organized and led writing workshops and in-house conference for presentation of faculty papers; Designed and created promotional materials and the Faculty Forum Web site to support this effort
- Chair of Education Subcommittee for Accreditation Self-Study, Westwood College, Tucker, GA (2012)
- Designer, writer and editor of Stay @ ATL, Retention Newsletter, Westwood College, Tucker, GA (2012)
- Chair of Humanities Committee, DeVry/Georgia (1998 to 2001)
    - Facilitated textbook choice for Humanities courses at DeVry/Georgia
    - Facilitated rewriting of national competency exams for student exemption of Humanities courses
- Chair for National General Education Committee, DeVry/Georgia (1999 to 2000)
    - Developed assessment plan/methodology for DeVry's General Education program
    - Created system-wide student learning outcomes for Humanities emphasis for department
- National General Education Curriculum Committee, DeVry (1998 to 2000)
    - Participated in system-wide discussions to improve DeVry's General Education curriculum
    - Participated in development of assessment for General Education
- Curriculum Developer, Philosophy of Science Course (1999)
    - Proposed, researched and wrote the DeVry Philosophy of Science curriculum guide for national implementation as an alternative elective course to Ethics.
- National Curriculum Guide Revision Committee, DeVry (1997 to 1998)
    - Assisted in improving and updating DeVry's Beginning Composition Curriculum Guide
    - Rewrote Course Description and Course Strategy using committee ideas and suggestions
- Chair of General Education Textbook Committee (1996 to 1998)
    - Improved textbook quality for DeVry's Humanities courses

WORKSHOPS and TRAINING

As SCSU AAUP (American Association of University Professors) Vice President

- AAUP 2025 Summer Institute, Morehouse College, July 2025

As SCSU Faculty Senate Executive Committee representative

- South Carolina Faculty Senate Chairs Summit, The College of Charleston (February 8, 2025)

Writing Workshops

- Novel-in-Progress Bookcamp/Speculative Fiction: Weeklong writers' conference/workshop:
    - https://novelbookcamp.org/ (August 2022)
- Novel-in-Progress Bookcamp/Speculative Fiction: Weeklong writers' conference/workshop:
    - https://novelbookcamp.org/ (August 2021)
- Surprise Valley Writer's Conference, Cedarville, California. (June 2017)

- Grant Development/Writing Training Workshop, Grant Training Center, Duluth, GA (2010)
    - Received award for best grant

Online Teaching Workshops and Certifications

- eFellowes Online Teaching Certificate, SCSU, Orangeburg, SC (Spring 2020)
- Online Content Development Lab Certificate, SCSU Orangeburg, SC. (Summer 2020)
- How to Design and Facilitate Online Discussions that Improve Student Learning and Engagement (Spring 2021)
- Dual Instructional Delivery (Spring 2021)
- Vidgrid Training (Fall 2020)

Teaching Strategies and Techniques

- Infusing Active Learning Strategies Workshop for MESA as part of QEP– participated in the Making Education Student Focused and Achievable, Quality Enhancement Plan, an SCSU research program for SACS accreditation, South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC (ongoing, Summer 2020-present)
- Practical Strategies for Improving Student Retention Online (Spring 2021)
- "Embracing Diverse Communities (Education, Empowerment, & Employment)" conference (October 2020)

Course Design

- How to Design and Facilitate Online Discussions that Improve Student Learning and Engagement (Spring 2021)
- Getting Started with Backward Design: Meaningful and Measurable Learning Outcomes (Spring 2021)
- Backward Design- Aligning Outcomes to Activities and Assessments (Spring 2021)
- Universal Design Five Steps to Making your Course Accessible (Spring 2021)

Blackboard Training

- BbWorld 2020: Galaxy of Learning (July 2020)
- Blackboard Workshops and Trainings (Collaborate, Grade Center, Adaptive Release, Learning Modules, Group Projects, etc.) (2019-2020)
- Cyber Security Training (Spring 2021)

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

2021-2022 EAC Department Professor of the Year, South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC
2022 Flash Fiction Award, Novel-in-Progress Bookcamp, August 2022
2020 Outstanding Junior Faculty Award, South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC
2020 Scholarly Publications Award, South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association
South Atlantic Modern Language Association
Institute for Studies in Pragmaticism
American Literature Association
American Association of University Professors
National Council of Teachers of English
Society for Technical Communication
Walker Percy Society (Co-President)

CERTIFICATIONS

South Carolina 7-12 Teaching Certificate
Blackboard Components
eFellowes Online Teaching Certificate
Online Course Development Lab