

## MICHAEL G. DAVROS

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### EDUCATION

**University of Illinois at Chicago, 2002**  
Ph.D., Department of English

*Dissertation:*

"Speak for Yourself: Style and Spirit in Leon Forrest's *Divine Days*"

Close readings of Leon Forrest's epic comic novel *Divine Days* (1992) demonstrate the interrelationship of religion, modernism, and autobiography. Forrest's religious roots in Roman Catholicism and evangelical storefront Protestantism provide evidence of the interrelatedness of style and spirituality in *Divine Days*. Forrest's stylistic indebtedness to William Faulkner defines a strong connection between Forrest and modernism. Forrest's autobiographical "presence" and the generic form of "periautography," reveal his complication of generic differences between fiction and autobiography. I explore the interrelationship between stylistic performance and religious rhetoric and show how Forrest's aesthetic principle of reinvention is presented as a model for spiritual and social salvation.

*Committee:*

Chris Messenger, Jim Hall, Co-Directors;  
Kenneth W. Warren; Sterling Plumpp; Anthony Grosch

**Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, 1987**  
Master of Arts in Humanities - Department of English

*Master's Thesis:*

"The Trickster in Uncle Remus Tales, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *The Color Purple*"  
*Directors:* James Olney, John Lowe, John Baker

**Tulane University, New Orleans, 1972**  
Bachelor of Arts - Department of English

### PUBLICATIONS

*The Literature of Animosity: The Response to Greco-Turkish Conflict in the Novels of Greek American Writers* (in progress)

“Introduction.” *My Generation of Achievers*. By Stacy Diacou. Universe Publishing, 2013.

*Greeks in Chicago*. Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2009.

“*The Maze: A Historical Novel*.” Review of *The Maze*. By Panos Karnezis. *The National Herald*. 15 February 2009.

“A Greek Stylist: History Contests with Progress and Loses.” Review of *Little Infamies*. By Panos Karnezis. *The National Herald*. 15 February 2009.

“A Sense of Sacred Space.” Review of *Ecclesia: Greek Orthodox Churches of the Chicago Metropolis*. By Panos Fiorentinos. *The National Herald*. 15 February 2009.

“Loss and Transformation on the Road in Jeffrey Eugenides’s *Middlesex* and Don DeLillo’s *Underworld*.” *The Image of the Road in Literature, Media and Society*. Ed. Will Wright and Steven Kapla1-0.002 T5prig0ven KuTc 0.004 Tw 22.65 0 Td [[ Stacacrac(u)]TJ TT1 1 Tw -31.4

## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS (continued)**

2006 Educational Leave Award. Northeastern Illinois University

1989 Ford Foundation/League for the Humanities grant for pilot "Master Learner" program.

1988 Summer Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College Teachers. Director: Mark Krupnick. Site: University of Illinois at Chicago, English Department and Institute for the Humanities. Subject: "American Cultural Criticism, 1915-1965."

## **AREAS OF TEACHING EXPERTISE**

American ethnic literature; African American literature and history; Hellenic American literature; 19th and 20th century American literature; Cultural and interdisciplinary studies; Modernism; Native American literature; Southern literature; Japanese culture and society; all levels of composition including developmental writing

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Lecturer**, 1999-present

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## CONFERENCES AND GUEST LECTURES (continued)

“Coming to America: Greek Immigration to the U.S.” presented at Oakton Community College as part of “Coming Together in Skokie,” Skokie, Illinois, 7 February 2013.

“Narratives of Enslavement and Oppression From the Nineteenth Century Onward” presented at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India, 11 January 2013.

“Coming to Voice: From Oppression to Liberation” presented at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India, 10 January 2013.

“Visual Analysis: Kate Kretz ‘Blessed Art Thou’” presented at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India, 10 January 2013.

“Issues Theoretical in Ethnographic Photo-history” presented at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India, 9 January 2013.

“Working With Images” presented at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India, 8 January 2013.

“Historiography or Hagiography in Documentary Photography and Film” presented at The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India, 8 January 2013.

“Sexual and Spiritual Transformations: Eastbound Pilgrimage and Westbound Migration in *Middlesex* and *The Marriage Plot*” presented at The Image of The Road in Literature, Media, and Society, Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 2012.

“Greek Identities and Historical Narratives: Petrakis to Eugenides.” Modern Greek Studies Program. University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. April 2010.

“Orhan Pamuk’s *The Museum of Innocence* and the Periautographic Self.” The Image of the Hero in Literature, Media, and Society Conference of The Society for the



## CONFERENCES AND GUEST LECTURES (continued)

"The Life and Works of Leon Forrest," Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, panel coordinator, St. Louis, Missouri, November 1998.

"Conjure Culture, Prophecy, and Social Problems: Theophus Smith and Cornel West in Leon Forrest's Preserves" presented at The National Conference of the National Association of African American Studies and the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies, Houston, Texas, February 1997.

"Which Persona Am I Passing in Reverse? Or, The Curious Case of Johnny Otis" presented at the Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, panel: "Navigating Cultures: Conflict in Ethnic Autobiographies," Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 1996.

"Prophecy, Transformation, and Therapy as Leon Forrest's Preserves: 'High Priest and Imprisoned Soul,'" presented at Mideast Conference on Christianity and Literature, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio, October 1996.

"Constructing a Writing from a Reading, Or Questioning Prufrock's Questions," presented at the 32nd Annual Community College/University English Articulation Conference, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Monticello, Illinois, April 1996

## **BROADCAST INTERVIEWS**

“Public Perspective ,“ Comcast TV, with Kevin McDermott 12 February 2015  
<http://publicperspective.tv/show.asp?v=138>

Illinois Channel TV, with Terrence J. Martin, “Images of America: Greeks in Chicago,”  
23 November 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9i-4SNiiv10>

Greek Public Radio, with Vasilios Spiropoulos, “Orthodoxy in America,” 1 March 2011  
(Broadcast in Greek)

National Public Radio, WBEZ with Chip Mitchell. “With Motherland in Crisis, Greek-  
Americans Plan Visits” 6 June 2011 (Broadcast in English)

WGN-TV, *Greeks in Chicago*, 27 February 2009

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Comparative Literature Association  
Hellenic Society of Constantinople  
Midwest Modern Language Association  
Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States  
Modern Language Association  
Modern Greek Studies Association  
National Education Association/Illinois Education Association  
National Hellenic Museum  
Pan-Hellenic Society



## References

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## References (continued)

Anthony Grosch, Professor  
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Gary H. Brodsky                      [g-brodsky@neiu.edu](mailto:g-brodsky@neiu.edu)  
Professor Emeritus, former department chair  
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John Wharton Lowe                      [jwlowe@uga.edu](mailto:jwlowe@uga.edu)  
Barbara Methvin Professor  
Department of English  
University of Georgia  
Telephone: 706-542-8952

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Lincolnwood School District #74 Board of Education  
2003-2015, Board Member  
2006-2009, Board President  
2003-2006, Board Vice-President/Secretary

American Youth Soccer Organization:  
1999-present Referee, Intermediate  
1998 Assistant Coach

United States Soccer Federation:  
2004-present Referee, Grade 8

Illinois High School Association:  
2006-present, Referee, Recognized

American Hellenic Educational and Progressive Association (AHEPA):  
Chapter: #94, Northshore  
2007-2009 President  
2002-2010 Scholarship Chair  
2002-2010 Home Trust Chair

District: #13, Blue Ribbon District  
2004-2013 Board of Directors, Scholarship Committee  
2006-2013 Recording Secretary

National: AHEPA Educational Foundation (AEF)  
2006-2007 Delegate to National Convention  
2007-2010 Board of Directors

Boy Scouts of America:  
2005-present Merit Badge Counselor  
2004-2013 T