

# Department of English

## Toni Morrison Day

Thursday, February 18, 2021

### Featuring:

Award-winning Historian  
Dr. Keisha N. Blain  
(Keynote Speaker)



Pulitzer Prize-winning Poet & U.S. Poet  
Laureate (2017-2019)  
Tracy K. Smith



### Registration Link:

<https://www.monmouth.edu/departments-of-english/toni-morrison-day/>

### Co-Sponsored by:

- The Office of the Provost
- The Monmouth Review Club
- The Intercultural Center

## 10:05-11:25 Faculty Pedagogy Panel

Moderator: Abha Sood

### Panelists:

- **Heide Estes:** "Black English, Language Ideologies, and the Histories of the English Language."
- **Walter Greason:** "Interactive, Online Games: Sojourner's Trail and the Future of Education."
- **Beth Sara Swanson:** "Teaching in a Time of Monsters: Using Jeffrey Jerome Cohen's Monster Theory to Reanimate and Rehumanize the General Education Literature Classroom"
- **Abha Sood & Anne Deepak:** "Radical Mothering in Morrison's Fiction."



## 11:40-1:00 Keynote Speaker Dr. Keisha N. Blain (12:00-1:00)

Moderator: Alex Gilvarry

- Welcome: Beth Sara Swanson (11:50)
- **Dr. Keisha N. Blain (12:00-1:00), "What the Black Woman Thinks": The Fiery Pen of Toni Morrison**



**Keisha N. Blain** is an associate professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh, a 2020-21 Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University, and author of *Set the World on Fire* and *Until I Am Free*.

## 1:15-2:35 Faculty Scholarship Panel

Moderator: Beth Sara Swanson

### Panelists:

- **Abha Sood:** "Wounded Bodies, Wounded Souls: Toni Morrison's Home"
- **Kerry Morgan:** "Discriminatory Hiring Practices"
- **Anwar Uhuru:** "Black Lives and the Imaginary Domain"
- **Megan Delaney:** "Nature Is Free But Not Equal: Racial and Economic Inequities in Access to Nature in the United States"
- **Nancy Mezey, Chad Dell, & Michelle DeFossett:** "The 369th: Together, We Rose"

## 2:50-4:10 Student Symposium

Moderator: Jennifer Mantle

### Panelists:

- **Anthony Clark:** "Intercommunal Colorism, Generational Trauma, and Its Impact on a Small Black Community in The Bluest Eye"
- **Gabriella Arabio:** "Feminism Within Entertainment"
- **Jenae Louis-Jacques:** "Get Out: A Representation of the Black Experience"
- **Nikki Ortt:** "The Needed Pariah"
- **Latisha Laing:** "Marilyn Nelson's 'A Wreath for Emmett Till': On Racial Violence and Remembrance"



## 4:30-5:50 Tracy K. Smith

Moderator: Mihaela Moscaliuc

- Introduction: Monmouth Review (Melissa Lauria)
- **Tracy K. Smith, Reading (4:30-5:50)**

**Tracy K. Smith**, 2017-2019 Poet Laureate of the United States and author of four poetry collections, is the recipient of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize (*Life on Mars*), the James Laughlin Award (*Duende*), the Cave Canem Poetry Prize (*The Body's Question*), the Rona Jaffe Writers Award, and the Whiting Award. Her memoir, *Ordinary Light*, was a finalist for the 2015 National Book Award in Nonfiction.