

## Tangela L. Serls

### Academic Address

University of South Florida  
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Tampa, Florida 33620

### All Correspondence

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478-318-6879

### Education

#### **Ph.D., English/Literary Studies, December 2017**

University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida

Dissertation Title: *The Spirit of Friendship: Girlfriends in Contemporary African American Literature*

Dissertation Director: Diane Price-Herndl, Ph.D.

#### **Graduate Certificate, Women's and Gender Studies, May 2014**

University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida

#### **M.Ed., English Education, May 2010**

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, Florida

#### **B.A., English/Literature, May 2008**

Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, Georgia

**Research Interests:** Black Feminisms, The Erotic, Girlfriend Subjectivity, Black Girl Magic, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century African American Literature, Caribbean Literature, Womanist Literature and Theory, African American Spirituality, Postcolonial Literature and Theory

### Honors and Awards

#### **Jack B. Moore Memorial Scholarship**

University of South Florida, 2016, 2017

#### **Conference Presentation Grant Program**

University of South Florida, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

#### **Outstanding English/Education Graduate Student**

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, 2010

#### **Dr. James H. Ammons Fellowship**

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, 2009-2010

#### **State University System (SUS) Fellowship**

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, 2008-2009

#### **Valedictorian**

Fort Valley State University, 2008

## Professional History

<b>Continuing Instructor and Undergraduate Director</b> Department of Women's and Gender Studies, University of South Florida	<b>2018-present</b>
<b>Visiting Instructor and Interim Undergraduate Director</b> Department of Women's and Gender Studies, University of South Florida	<b>2017-2018</b>
<b>Instructor of Record</b> Department of English, University of South Florida	<b>2011-2016</b>
<b>Visiting Assistant Professor</b> Department of English, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	<b>2010-2011</b>

## Courses Taught

WST 3015	Intro to Women's Studies
WST 4930	Black Feminisms
WST 2250	The Female Experience in America
WST 4262	Literature By Women of Color
AML 3604	African American Literature
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

## Related Administrative Experience

<b>Undergraduate Academic Advisor</b> University of South Florida	<b>2014-2016</b>
<b>Collaborative Grant Writer</b> University Area Community Development Center	<b>2013-2014</b>
<b>Copy Editor</b> <i>ABO: Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts, 1640-1830</i>	<b>2013-2016</b>
<b>Writing Consultant and Tutor</b> University of South Florida	<b>2012-2013</b>
<b>Writing Consultant and Tutor</b> Florida A&M University	<b>2009-2010</b>
<b>Writing Consultant and Tutor</b> Fort Valley State University	<b>2006-2008</b>

## Conference Presentations

“The Inspiring Brilliance of Black Girl Magic,” DePaul University, College Language Association, Chicago, IL April 2018

“Lovers and Friends of the Spirit: A Critical Examination of Celie and Shug’s bond in *The Color Purple*,” Texas Southern University, College Language Association, Houston, TX April 2016

“From Friend to Pariah: Nel and Sula’s Unorthodox Friendship,” College Language Association, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, April 2015

“The Amalgamation of Problem Spaces in Andrea Levy’s *Long Song*,” College Language Association, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, March 2014

“Politics of Color and Class in Caribbean Literature,” College Language Association, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, April 2013

“Staying in a Woman’s Place: The Postcolonial Woman’s Memoir,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Research Triangle Park, Durham, NC, November 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

## Publication

“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.

## Volunteer Experience

### Primary Advisor

USF Section of the National Council of Negro Women 2013- present

### Workshop Monitor

National Forum for Black Public Administrators Conference April 2015

### Board Member

Delta Torch Foundation, Inc. 2014-2017

### Advisory Council Member

Kappa Iota Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. 2014-2016

## **Professional Memberships**

College Language Association  
Southeastern Women's Studies Association  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated