

## A *CALLALOO* CALL FOR PAPERS: Sherley Anne Williams: A Special Issue

*Callaloo* invites papers for a special issue devoted to the life and work of the late poet, fiction writer, playwright, and scholar Sherley Anne Williams, guest edited by Wendy W. Walters (Emerson College).

### **Project Description:**

Sherley Anne Williams was a talented author/scholar, publishing in many genres. Her novel, *Dessa Rose*, preceded Toni Morrison's *Beloved* by one year and has been read as an inaugural example of the neo-slave narrative genre. Her short fiction is anthologized in multiple collections. Williams's first book of poetry, *The Peacock Poems* (Wesleyan 1975), was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Award. Her second poetry book, *Some One Sweet Angel Chile* (William Morrow 1982) was also nominated for a National Book Award. Her prose poem, "Letters from a New England Negro," published in *Iowa Review*, became a one-woman drama, and was performed at several important theater festivals. Williams also published two children's books in the 1990s. *Working Cotton* received both a Caldecott Award and a Coretta Scott King Book Award. Her second children's book, *Girls Together* (HBJ), was published in 1999.

New essays on any aspect of Sherley Anne Williams's writing are sought, from a variety of critical and interpretive perspectives. Specific topics and themes may include, but are not limited to:

- blues idioms; language; orality; music
- gender studies; black womanist theory
- depictions of nature; ecocritical readings
- sexuality and the erotic
- dramatic collaborations; adaptation of poetry to stage/screen
- *Working Cotton*, *Girls Together*, and multicultural children's literature
- working class literature; agricultural labor
- reconsidering the neoslave narrative; historical/archival revision
- geography; migration; diaspora
- critical race theory

### ***Callaloo* Submission Guidelines:**

Manuscripts must be submitted online through the *Callaloo* manuscript submission system by **August 1, 2017**. Please see the submission guidelines here:

<http://callaloo.expressacademic.org/login.php>. In order to submit a manuscript, you must register with the online system. The registration process will only take a few minutes. All manuscripts will follow the usual review process for submissions, and the *Callaloo* editor makes all final editorial decisions. Please note all manuscripts must follow the *MLA Style*

*Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) and include in-text citations, a works cited, and endnotes for any commentary.

**Guest Editor:**

Wendy W. Walters is a Professor in the department of Writing, Literature, and Publishing, at Emerson College, Boston, teaching courses in African American and African Diaspora literature and culture. She is the author of two books, *Archives of the Black Atlantic: Reading Between Literature and History* (Routledge, March 2013), and *At Home in Diaspora: Black International Literature* (U of Minnesota, 2005). She has also published articles in *Callaloo*, *American Literature*, *African American Review*, *Novel*, and *MELUS*.