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Trudier Harris is University Distinguished Research Professor of English Emerita, the University of Alabama, and J. Carlyle Sitterson Distinguished Professor of English Emerita, UNC Chapel Hill. Her books include From Mammies to Militants: Domestics in Black American Literature (1982), Exorcising Blackness: Historical and Literary Lynching and Burning Rituals (1984), Fiction and Folklore: The Novels of Toni Morrison (1991), The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: African American Writers and the South (2009), Martin Luther King Jr., Heroism, and African American Literature (2014), and Depictions of Home in African American Literature (2021). She published her memoir, Summer Snow: Reflections from a Black Daughter of the South, in 2003. Her Bigger Thomas: A Literary Life, will be published in 2024.

Her awards and honors include the Eugene Current-Garcia Award as Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar (2002), the "Trudier Harris Distinguished Professorship" (UNC, 2014), the Clarence E. Cason Award for Nonfiction Writing (2018), the Richard Beale Davis Award for Lifetime Achievement in Southern Literary Studies (2018), the SEC Faculty Achievement Award (2018), a Resident Fellowship to the National Humanities Center (2018-2019), and the "Dr. Trudier Harris Intercollegiate Black History Scholars Bowl" (2021). On 10 March 2023, Harris will be inducted into the Alabama Writers' Hall of Fame.