

Ashley Kunsaa

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EDUCATION:

- Ph.D.** **Duquesne University**, Pittsburgh, PA (*expected May 2017*)
English Literature with a Concentration in Women's and Gender Studies
Dissertation: *Reconstructing the War in Iraq: Post-9/11 American War Fiction in Dialogue with Official-Media Discourse*
Committee: Dr. Magali Michael (director), Dr. Faith Barrett, and Dr. Milton Bates (Marquette University)
- Doctoral Coursework** **West Virginia University**, Morgantown, WV. 2009–10
Department of English
- M.F.A.** **Pennsylvania State University**, State College, PA. 2009
Department of English, Fiction Writing
Thesis: *Long Voyage in a Small Room* (short fiction)
Committee: Charlotte Holmes (director) and Josip Novakovich (second reader)
- M.L.I.S.** **University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA. 2006
School of Library and Information Sciences
- B.A.** **University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA. 2004
English Writing and History, *Summa Cum Laude*

PUBLICATIONS:

FICTION

- “These Women.” *Minola Review*. Web. Forthcoming.
- “Go Hungry.” *Bayou Magazine* 66 (Fall 2016). Print. Forthcoming.
- “Secondary Flightlessness.” *Sonder Review* 6 (Fall 2016). Print. Forthcoming.
- “Marine Life.” *Blue Lyra Review* 5.3 (Fall 2016). Web. Forthcoming.
- “In the Absence of Cats.” *Glassworks: Flash Glass*. Nov. 1, 2016. Web. Forthcoming.
- “*Les Murs Se Resserrent Autour De Vous*.” *Flying South* 3 (Summer 2016): 53–59. Print.
- “It’s Not about Breastfeeding.” *Brilliant Flash Fiction* 9 (Mar. 2016). Web.
- “Grace.” *Hot Metal Bridge* 16 (Winter 2015). Web.
- “The Physics of Grief.” *The Roanoke Review* 36 (Spring 2014): 11–14. Print.
- “A Woman’s Glory.” *The Los Angeles Review* 11.2 (Oct. 2011): 29–30. Print.

CREATIVE NONFICTION

- “Elementary Love.” *Taboma Literary Review* 9 (April 2017). Print. Forthcoming.
- “How to Write Your Life in the Second-Person.” *Eastern Iowa Review* 2 (Summer 2016): 11–14. Print.

POETRY

- “the feminist at her ultrasound, december 2011.” *Yellow Chair Review* 8 (Sept. 2016) Web.

- “After Domestic Dispute #12.” *Yellow Chair Review* 8 (Sept. 2016) Web.
- “Pantoum for Mother and Child.” *Lehigh Valley Vanguard*. Dec. 1, 2014. Web.
- “On the Day James Foley Is Beheaded.” *Lehigh Valley Vanguard*. Oct. 30, 2014. Web.

CRAFT ESSAY AND INTERVIEWS

- “The Shackles of ‘Free’ Writing and Writing Exercises.” *South 85 Journal*. May 20, 2016. Web. (Blog Post)
- “Q&A with *Eastern Iowa Review*.” *Eastern Iowa Review*. May 1, 2016. Web. (Interview)
- “The Physics of Fiction with Ashley Kunsa.” *The Roanoke Review*. Jan. 25, 2015. Web. (Interview)

SCHOLARLY (PEER-REVIEWED)

- “History, Hair, and Reimagining Racial Categories in Junot Diaz’s *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.” *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction* 54.2 (2013): 211–24. Print.
- “‘Maps of the World in Its Becoming’: Post-Apocalyptic Naming in Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*.” *Journal of Modern Literature* 33.1 (2009): 57–74. Print. Rpt. in *Cormac McCarthy’s The Road (Bloom’s Guides)*. Ed. Harold Bloom. New York: Chelsea House, 2011. 91–107. Print.

BOOK REVIEW

- “Mystery and Possibility in Cormac McCarthy.” Rev. of *Reading the World: Cormac McCarthy’s Tennessee Period* by Dianne C. Luce and *Understanding Cormac McCarthy* by Steven Frye. *Journal of Modern Literature* 35.2 (2012): 146–52. Print.

CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS AND GRANTS:

- Project Stream Grant, *VetsWrite Allegheny*, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, \$1717, Sept. 2016–July 2017
- Project Stream Grant, *VetsWrite Westmoreland*, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, \$1128, Sept. 2016–July 2017
- Tuition Scholarship, Martha’s Vineyard Institute for Creative Writing, July 2016
- Tuition Scholarship, Wesleyan Writers Conference, June 2016
- First Place (tie), *Eastern Iowa Review* Experimental Essay Prize (for “How to Write Your Life in the Second Person”), 2016
- Finalist, *Baltimore Review*’s “Health” contest (for “*Les Murs Se Resserrent Autour De Vous*”), 2015
- Finalist, Wilda Hearne Flash Fiction Contest (for “Marine Biology”), 2014
- Winner, A Room of Her Own Foundation *Orlando* Prize for flash fiction (for “A Woman’s Glory”), 2011
- Second Place, Hungry Poets Prize, 2010
- Finalist, *Narrative Magazine* 30 Below contest (for “Go Hungry”), 2009
- Honorable Mention, Academy of American Poets Leonard Steinberg Award, 2009
- Second Place, Taube Award in fiction, University of Pittsburgh, 2004
- Winner, Montgomery Culver Award in Fiction, University of Pittsburgh, 2002

ACADEMIC AND TEACHING AWARDS:

- McNulty College and Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship (competitive), Duquesne University, 2014–15
- Graduate Student Award for Teaching Excellence, Duquesne University, 2013–14

- MFA Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of English, Penn State University, 2009
- Dolinger Graduate Fellowship (competitive), Department of English, Penn State University, 2006
- Chancellor's Scholarship (full tuition, room, and board), University of Pittsburgh, 2000–04
- USX Scholarship, United States Steel Corporation, 2000–01

FELLOWSHIPS:

- Graduate Assistantship, University Writing Center, Duquesne University, 2016–present
- Graduate Teaching Fellowship, Department of English, Duquesne University, 2010–14, 2015–16
- Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2009–10
- Graduate Student Assistantship, School of Library and Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, 2005–06
- Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of English, Penn State University, 2006–09

PRESENTATIONS:

CREATIVE WRITING

- “Get That Pen/Cursor Moving (Again): A Few Suggestions,” Conversations and Connections: Practical Advice on Writing, Pittsburgh, PA, Oct. 22, 2016.
- “The Writer in the Community: Taking Creative Writing from the Campus to the People,” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Chicago, IL, Feb. 11–14, 2009.

CONFERENCES

- “Just Like a Movie, Only More So: Representation, Reality, and Embedded Reporting in *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*,” Pop Cultural Association/American Culture Association National Conference, Seattle, WA, Mar. 22–25, 2016.
- “Breaking down Students’ Defenses: *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk* in the Undergraduate Literature Survey,” American Literature Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., May 22–25, 2014.
- “The Sinister Side of the War Story: Beyond Trauma Theory in Vietnam War Narratives,” American Literature Association Symposium on War and American Literature, New Orleans, LA, Oct. 10–12, 2013.
- “‘Betwixt and Between’: Liminality, the Vietnam War, and Tim O’Brien’s *Going After Cacciato*,” International Conference on Narrative, Las Vegas, NV, Mar. 15–17, 2012.
- “Recuperating the Meta-narrative: Postmodern Grace and Commodity Culture in George Saunders’ *Pastoralia*,” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, Louisville, KY, Feb. 23–25, 2012.

SCHOLARLY TALKS

- “The Reality of Embedded Reporting: Cultural Narratives of the Iraq War in *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*,” English Graduate Organization, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, Oct. 14, 2016.
- “History, Hair, and Reimagining Racial Categories in Junot Diaz’s *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*,” Center for Interpretive and Qualitative Research, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, Apr. 12, 2012.

FICTION READINGS:

- “*Les Murs Se Resserrent Autour De Vous*,” Pop Cultural Association/American Culture Association National Conference, Seattle, WA, Mar. 22–25, 2016.

- “The Physics of Grief” and “A Woman’s Glory,” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, Louisville, KY, Feb. 23–25, 2012.
- Coffee House Reading Series, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, Feb. 7, 2012.
- Works-in-Progress Series, Penn State University, State College, PA, Spring 2009.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

FALL 2010–SPRING 2014 and FALL 2015–SPRING 2016

Department of English and Theater Arts

(10 sections)

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

- Fiction Writing Workshop 1: ENGL 301W/330W [Spring 2013 and Spring 2016]
- Survey of American Literature II, 1865–the Present: ENGL 220W [Spring 2014]
- Multi-Genre Creative Writing: ENGL 101 [Spring 2012 and Fall 2015]
- Thinking and Writing Across the Curriculum: UCOR 101 [Fall 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013]
- Imaginative Literature and Critical Writing: UCOR 102 [Spring 2011]

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

FALL 2009–SPRING 2010

Department of English

(4 sections)

West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

- Composition and Rhetoric: ENGL 101 [Fall 2009 and Spring 2010]

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

FALL 2006–SPRING 2009

Department of English

(8 sections)

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

- Introduction to Fiction Writing: ENGL 212 [Fall 2008]
- Introduction to Creative Writing: ENGL 50 [Spring 2008 and Summer 2008]
- Rhetoric and Composition: ENGL 15 (4 sections) [Fall 2006, Spring 2007, and Fall 2008]
- Rhetoric and Composition, Learning Edge Academic Program: ENGL 15 LEAP [Summer 2007]

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT:

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

JULY 2016–PRESENT

University Writing Center (WC)

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

- Provide dynamic classroom instruction on various topics at instructors’ request: e.g., Introduction to the WC, APA Citation and Source Use for Nursing, Thesis-writing and Paper Organization
- Tutor undergraduate and graduate students in various disciplines and at multiple skill levels
- Develop and deliver weekly “drop-in” tutoring program for military and veteran students housed in their student lounge space
- Manage staff of 18 undergrad and graduate consultants, including weekly schedules and payroll and mentoring new consultants

WRITING CONSULTANT

FALL 2010–SPRING 2011

University Writing Center

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

- Tutored undergraduate and graduate students in various disciplines and at multiple skill levels
- Assisted students with a wide range of writing tasks, e.g., brainstorming, revising, and citation work
- Participated in bi-weekly professional development meetings

WRITING TUTOR

FALL 2008–SPRING 2009

Writing Center

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

- Worked with specific students on writing assignments for a single course over a full semester

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

TEACHING ARTIST

SEPT. 2016–NOV. 2016 and SPRING 2017

VetsWrite, Westmoreland County, PA and Allegheny County, PA

- A no-cost community creative writing group for U.S. military veterans, service members, and their adult family members; meets once a week and culminates in a public reading/online publication

CO-LEADER

SPRING 2016–PRESENT

Duquesne University Dog Tags Literary Society

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

- Creative writing group that brings veteran and active-duty students together in a judgment-free environment on campus; meets 6–7 times a semester and culminates in a journal of participant writing

FICTION INSTRUCTOR

SUMMER 2014

Intensive Writing Camp for High School Students

School of Leadership & Professional Advancement

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

- Weeklong camp devoted to generating material, revising, and improving students' craft

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE TUTOR

FALL 2013–FALL 2014

American Homestay Services, Pittsburgh, PA

- Helped a ninth grade Chinese exchange student to not only strengthen his command of the English language but also improve in school subjects including science, religion, and geography

CO-LEADER

FALL 2008

Creative Writing Group for Teens-in-Transition

Stepping Stone Shelter, State College, PA

- Creative writing provided struggling teens a voice and safe outlet for self-expression; the project culminated in a reading at a nearby coffeehouse

INVITED TALKS/TEACHING:

CO-FACILITATOR

SPRING 2014 and SPRING 2016

"Developing Your Teaching Persona," Workshop for Grad Student Teaching Assistants

Center for Teaching Excellence

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

GUEST LECTURER

FALL 2015

ENGL 204: War in Literature, Dr. Greg Barnhisel

Class on Phil Klay's "Redeployment," the Global War on Terror, and soldiers' return home

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

FICTION SPEAKER

SUMMER 2015

Intensive Writing Camp for High School Students,

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

GUEST SPEAKER

FALL 2008

Undergraduate Education Course

Penn State University, State College, PA

RELATED EXPERIENCE:

INDEXER AND COPY EDITOR

SUMMER 2014

Narrative Innovation in 9/11 Fiction by Magali Michael
New York: Rodopi, 2015

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

FALL 2011–SPRING 2012 and SPRING 2013

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, 2013
Dr. Kathy Glass and Dr. Jim Purdy

BUSINESS WRITING ADVISOR

SPRING 2009

Schreyer Honors College
Penn State University, State College, PA

LEARNING SPECIALIST

SPRING–SUMMER 2005

Supportive Services Department, Community College of Allegheny County
Pittsburgh, PA

SAT INSTRUCTOR, PROCTOR, AND MCAT ESSAY GRADER

FALL 2002–SPRING 06

Kaplan Test Prep, Pittsburgh, PA

SERVICE:

DEPARTMENT

- Organizer and Co-Facilitator, Conference Abstracts: Discussion and Writing Workshop, Duquesne University, Fall 2016
- Graduate Representative, Creative Writing Series, Duquesne University, 2011–12, 2016–17
- Teaching Mentor to New Teaching Fellow, Duquesne University, Fall 2012 and Fall 2013
- Panelist, Professional Conference Workshop for Grad Students, Duquesne University, Fall 2014
- Panelist, MFA Interest Workshop for Undergraduates, Duquesne University, Fall 2013
- Co-Treasurer, English Graduate Organization, Duquesne University, 2011–12
- Judge, *First Class* essay contest, Duquesne University, Summer 2011
- Discussion Group Co-Leader, “Community Read,” Penn State University, Spring 2009
- Advisor, Nichols Undergraduate Prose Award, Penn State University, 2009

UNIVERSITY

- Founder and Advisor, The Writer’s Block, undergrad and grad student fiction-writing club, Duquesne University, Fall 2016–present
- Founder and Editor, *DU Dog Tag Review*, vol. 1, Spring 2016
- Member, Military and Veteran Student Services Consortium, Duquesne University, Spring 2016–present
- Focus Group Member, “Next Generation Humanities PhD,” NEH Planning Grant, Duquesne University, Fall 2015

PROFESSIONAL

- Article Reviewer, *WLN: A Journal of Writing Center Scholarship*, Fall 2016–present
- Panel Organizer and Chair, “Beyond Free Writing: 8 Concrete Suggestions for Jump-Starting Your Pen,” Conversations and Connections, Pittsburgh, PA, Oct. 22, 2016

- Panel Selection Group, Society for Contemporary Literature, experimental literature panel, American Literature Association Annual Conference, 2016, Spring 2016
- Panel Chair, “American Literature: War and Storytelling,” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference, Seattle, WA, Mar. 22–25, 2016
- Panel Organizer, “Teaching American War Literature in a Time of Terror” panel, American Literature Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., May 23–26, 2014
- Panel Organizer and Chair, “Liminality in Contemporary Fiction” panel, International Conference on Narrative, Las Vegas, NV, Mar. 15–17, 2012
- Article Reviewer, *Genre: Forms of Discourse and Culture*, May 2011