

# Ashley Kunsa

Duquesne University  
639a College Hall  
Pittsburgh, PA 15282  
412-901-4576  
ashleykunsa@gmail.com

## EDUCATION:

- Ph.D.**            **Duquesne University**, Pittsburgh, PA            **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)
- 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*

## EMPLOYMENT:

- Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing            **begins Aug. 2017**  
Rocky Mountain College, Billings, MT

## PUBLICATIONS:

### 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: 211–24. Print.            2013
- 'Maps of the World in Its Becoming': Post-Apocalyptic Naming in Cormac McCarthy's  
McCarthy's *The Road*." *Journal of Modern Literature* 33.1: 57–74. Print. Rpt. in *Cormac  
McCarthy's The Road (Bloom's Guides)*. Ed. Harold Bloom. New York: Chelsea House,  
2011. 91–107. Print.            2009

### 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: 146–52. Print.            2012

## FICTION

**2017**

“These Women.” *Minola Review*. Web. Forthcoming.

“Go Hungry.” *Bayou Magazine* 68 (Winter 2017). Print. Forthcoming.

“Why You Can’t Live Right.” *Miracle Monocle* 9 (Spring 2017). Web.

“Secondary Flightlessness.” *Sonder Review* 6 (Winter 2017): 49–50. Print.

“Seventh Grade, Winter 2005.” *Pembroke Magazine* 49 (March 2017): 106–07. Print.

“Wild Things.” *Cease, Cows*. Jan. 26, 2017. Web.

“A Woman’s Glory.” *Flash Fiction Online*. (Jan. 2017). Web.

**2016**

“Marine Life.” *Blue Lyra Review* 5.3 (Fall 2016). Web.

“In the Absence of Cats.” *Glassworks: Flash Glass*. Nov. 1, 2016. Web.

“*Les Murs Se Resserrent Autour De Vous*.” *Flying South* 3 (Summer 2016): 53–59. Print. (nominated for Pushcart Prize)

“It’s Not about Breastfeeding.” *Brilliant Flash Fiction* 9 (Mar. 2016). Web.

**2015**

“Grace.” *Hot Metal Bridge* 16 (Winter 2015). Web.

**2014**

“The Physics of Grief.” *The Roanoke Review* 36 (Spring 2014): 11–14. Print.

**2011**

“A Woman’s Glory.” *The Los Angeles Review* 11.2 (Oct. 2011): 29–30. Print.

## CREATIVE NONFICTION

**2017**

“Watch/words.” *5x5* 5 (2017). Web. Forthcoming.

“Elementary Love.” *Taboma Literary Review* 9 (March 2017): 104–05. Print.

**2016**

“How to Write Your Life in the Second-Person.” *Eastern Iowa Review* 2 (Summer 2016): 11–14. Print. (nominated for Pushcart Prize)

## POETRY

**2017**

“In the Morning after a Storm That Takes Down Three Oaks in the Backyard.” *The Cape Rock* (2017). Print. Forthcoming.

**2016**

“Staretz.” *Gravel*. Dec. 2016. Web.

“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.

## 2014

“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

### 2016

“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)

### 2015

“The Physics of Fiction with Ashley Kunsu.” *The Roanoke Review*. Jan. 25, 2015. Web. (Interview)

## PRESENTATIONS:

### CONFERENCES

“It’s Just Not that Simple: *Redeployment* and the Just/Unjust Divide.” American Literature Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA. May 2017

“Revising the 2003 War in Iraq: Genre Switching and Public Discourse in David Abrams’ *Fobbit*.” International Conference on Narrative, Lexington, KY. March 2017

“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. March 2016

“Breaking down Students’ Defenses: *Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk* in the Undergraduate Literature Survey.” American Literature Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. April 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. October 2013

“‘Betwixt and Between’: Liminality, the Vietnam War, and Tim O’Brien’s *Going After Cacciato*.” International Conference on Narrative, Las Vegas, NV. March 2012

“Recuperating the Meta-narrative: Postmodern Grace and Commodity Culture in George Saunders’ *Pastoralia*,” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, Louisville, KY. February 2012

### INVITED TALKS

“The 2003 Iraq War in American Public Discourse and Fiction,” Middle East Studies Center, Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA. April 2017

“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. October 2016

“Developing Your Teaching Persona,” Workshop for Grad Student Teaching Spring 2014 & 2016

Assistants Center for Teaching Excellence Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.

Fiction Speaker, Intensive Writing Camp for High School Students, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. Summer 2015

“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. April 2012

#### CREATIVE WRITING

“Get That Pen/Cursor Moving (Again): A Few Suggestions,” Conversations and Connections: Practical Advice on Writing, Pittsburgh, PA. October 2016

“The Writer in the Community: Taking Creative Writing from the Campus to the People,” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Chicago, IL. February 2009

#### **CREATIVE READINGS:**

“*Les Murs Se Resserrent Autour De Vous*,” Pop Cultural Association/American Culture Association National Conference, Seattle, WA. March 2016

“The Physics of Grief” and “A Woman’s Glory,” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, Louisville, KY. February 2012

Coffee House Reading Series, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. February 2012

Hungry Poets Reading, Morgantown, WV. Spring 2010

Works-in-Progress Series, Penn State University, State College, PA. Spring 2009

#### **ACADEMIC AND TEACHING AWARDS:**

Finalist, K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award, Association of American Colleges and Universities. 2016–17

McAnulty 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

**CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS AND GRANTS:**

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

**FELLOWSHIPS:**

Graduate Assistantship, University Writing Center, Duquesne University	2016–17
Graduate Teaching Fellowship, Department of English, Duquesne University	2010–14, 2015–16
Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of English, West Virginia University	2009–10
Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of English, Penn State University	2006–09
Graduate Student Assistantship, School of Library and Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh	2005–06

**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 [Spring 2013 and Spring 2016]
- Survey of American Literature II, 1865–the Present [Spring 2014]
- Multi-Genre Creative Writing [Spring 2012 and Fall 2015]
- Thinking and Writing Across the Curriculum [Fall 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013]
- Imaginative Literature and Critical Writing [Spring 2011]

**INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD**

FALL 2009–SPRING 2010

Department of English

(4 sections)

West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

- Composition and Rhetoric [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 [Fall 2008]
- Introduction to Creative Writing [Spring 2008 and Summer 2008]
- Rhetoric and Composition (4 sections) [Fall 2006, Spring 2007, and Fall 2008]
- Rhetoric and Composition, Learning Edge Academic Program [Summer 2007]

**RELATED EMPLOYMENT:****ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

JULY 2016–MAY 2017

University Writing Center (WC)

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

**WRITING CONSULTANT**

FALL 2010–SPRING 2011

University Writing Center

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

**WRITING TUTOR**

FALL 2008–SPRING 2009

Writing Center

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

**ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE:****TEACHING ARTIST**

SEPT. 2016–NOV. 2016

VetsWrite, Westmoreland County, PA and Allegheny County, PA

and SPRING 2017

- 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 AND CO-FOUNDER**

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

## **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 2006

Kaplan Test Prep, Pittsburgh, PA

## **SERVICE:**

### **DEPARTMENT**

Graduate Representative, Creative Writing Series, Duquesne University

2011–12, 2016–17

Organizer and Co-Facilitator, Conference Abstract Writing Workshop for New

Fall 2016

Graduate Students, Duquesne University

Teaching Mentor to New Teaching Fellow, Duquesne University Fall 2012 and 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, Veterans Engagement 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. October 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. March 2016

Panel Organizer, “Teaching American War Literature in a Time of Terror” panel, American Literature Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. May 2014

Panel Organizer and Chair, “Liminality in Contemporary Fiction” panel, International Conference on Narrative, Las Vegas, NV. March 2012

Article Reviewer, *Genre: Forms of Discourse and Culture* . May 2011