

Ashley Kunsa

Rocky Mountain College
Department of English
1511 Poly Dr.
Billings, MT 59120
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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* 2013

Life of Oscar Wao. Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction 54.2: 211-24. Print.

'Maps of the World in Its Becoming': Post-Apocalyptic Naming in Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*. 2009
 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.

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.

FICTION

2017

"The Red City." *Sycamore Review* (Fall 2017). Print. Forthcoming.
 "These Women." *Minola Review* (2017). 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* (Winter 2017). Web.

"Elementary Love." *Tahoma 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

"Signs Seen Driving Past a Baptist Church in Rural PA." *Thin Air Magazine* Web Feature (June 2017).
Web. Forthcoming.

"Metamorphic." *Thin Air Magazine* Web Feature (June 2017). Web.
Forthcoming.

"Standing in the Garden of Myself Where My Lover Misplaced a Rusting Trowel." *Thin Air Magazine*
Web Feature (June 2017). Web. Forthcoming.

"at Mendocino." *Sweet Tree Review* 2.3. July 23, 2017. Web. Forthcoming.

"In the Morning after a Storm That Takes Down Three Oaks in the Backyard." *The Cape Rock* 45.1 (2017):
33. Print.

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 Combatant Divide." May 2017

American Literature Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA.

"Revising the 2003 War in Iraq: Genre Switching and Public Discourse in David March 2017

Abrams' *Fobbit*." International Conference on Narrative, Lexington, KY.

"Just Like a Movie, Only More So: Representation, Reality, and Embedded March 2016

Reporting in *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*," Pop Cultural Association/American

Culture Association National Conference, Seattle, WA.

"Breaking down Students' Defenses: *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk* in the April 2014 Undergraduate Literature Survey." American Literature Association Annual

Conference, Washington, D.C.

"The Sinister Side of the War Story: Beyond Trauma Theory in Vietnam War October 2013

Narratives." American Literature Association Symposium on War and American Literature, New Orleans, LA.

"'Betwixt and Between': Liminality, the Vietnam War, and Tim O'Brien's *Going March 2012*

After Cacciato." International Conference on Narrative, Las Vegas, NV.

"Recuperating the Meta-narrative: Postmodern Grace and Commodity Culture February 2012

in George Saunders' *Pastoralia*," Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture

Since 1900, Louisville, KY.

INVITED TALKS

"The 2003 Iraq War in American Public Discourse and Fiction," Middle East April 2017

Studies Center, Slippery Rocky University, Slippery Rock, PA.

"The Reality of Embedded Reporting: Cultural Narratives of the Iraq War in October 2016

Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk." English Graduate Organization, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.

"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
Summer 2015
University, Pittsburgh, PA.

"History, Hair, and Reimagining Racial Categories in Junot Diaz's *The Brief*
April 2012

Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao." Center for Interpretive and Qualitative Research,
Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.

CREATIVE WRITING

"Get That Pen/Cursor Moving (Again): A Few Suggestions," Conversations and
October 2016

Connections: Practical Advice on Writing, Pittsburgh, PA.

"The Writer in the Community: Taking Creative Writing from the Campus to the
February 2009

People," Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Chicago, IL.

CREATIVE READINGS:

"Les Murs Se Resserrent Autour De Vous," Pop Cultural Association/American
March 2016

Culture Association National Conference, Seattle, WA.

"The Physics of Grief" and "A Woman's Glory," Louisville Conference on
February 2012

Literature and Culture Since 1900, Louisville, KY.

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 2016-17
and Universities.

McAnulty College and Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship (competitive),
2014-15

Duquesne University.

Graduate Student Award for Teaching Excellence, Duquesne University.
2013-14

MFA Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of English, Penn State
2009

University.

Dolinger Graduate Fellowship (competitive), Department of English, Penn State
2006

University.

Chancellor's Scholarship (full tuition, room, and board), University of
Pittsburgh. 2000-04

CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS AND GRANTS:

Finalist, *Solstice: A Magazine of Diverse Voices*, Annual Fiction Contest (for
"The Red City") 2017

Semi-finalist, *American Literary Review*, Annual Fiction Contest (for "The Red
City") 2016

Project Stream Grant, *VetsWrite Allegheny*, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts,
\$1717 2016-17

Project Stream Grant, *VetsWrite Westmoreland*, Pennsylvania Council on the
Arts, 2016-17
\$1128

Tuition Scholarship, Martha's Vineyard Institute for Creative Writing
2016

Tuition Scholarship, Wesleyan Writers Conference
2016

First Place (tie), *Eastern Iowa Review* Experimental Essay Prize (for "How to
Write 2016
Your Life in the Second Person")

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
(for "Staretz")

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,
2005-06
University of Pittsburgh

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

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:**POETRY INSTRUCTOR**

SUMMER 2017

Intensive Writing Camp for High School Students

McAnulty School of Liberal Arts

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

TEACHING ARTIST

FALL 2016

VetsWrite, Westmoreland County, PA, and Allegheny County, PA

and SPRING 2017

CO-LEADER AND CO-FOUNDER

SPRING 2016-

PRESENT

Duquesne University Dog Tags Literary Society

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

FICTION INSTRUCTOR

SUMMER 2014

Intensive Writing Camp for High School Students

School of Leadership & Professional Advancement

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE TUTOR

FALL

2013-FALL 2014

American Homestay Services, Pittsburgh, PA

CO-LEADER

FALL

2008

Creative Writing Group for Teens-in-Transition

Stepping Stone Shelter, 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

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, 2013

and SPRING 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
Fall 2014
University

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-
Fall 2016-present
writing club, Duquesne University

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
Fall 2015
Grant, Duquesne University

PROFESSIONAL

Article Reviewer, *WLN: A Journal of Writing Center Scholarship*
Fall 2016–present

Panel Organizer and Chair, “Beyond Free Writing: 8 Concrete Suggestions
October 2016
for Jump-Starting Your Pen,” Conversations and Connections, Pittsburgh, PA

Panel Selection Group, Society for Contemporary Literature, experimental
Spring 2016
literature panel, American Literature Association Annual Conference, 2016

Panel Chair, “American Literature: War and Storytelling,” Popular Culture
March 2016
Association/American Culture Association National Conference, Seattle, WA

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

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

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