

# Gauri Awasthi

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## Education

- **Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing** 2021  
McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA (GPA: 4.0)
- **Master of Arts in English Literature** 2020  
McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA (GPA: 4.0)
- **Bachelor of Mass Media, Journalism** 2017  
Wilson College, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, MH (GPA: 4.0)

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## Teaching Experience

- **Graduate Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record)** 2019 – 2021  
McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA  
Course Taught: English Composition I & II - online & in person  
Responsible for preparing lectures on academic essay writing, developing essay prompts, grading student exams and holding office hours.
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant (Poetry Workshop)** 2020 – 2021  
McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA  
Courses Assisted : Creative Writing Workshop : Poetry - online & in person  
Responsible for facilitating class discussions and giving feedback to students.
- **Writing Centre Tutor** 2018 – 2019  
McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA  
Helped students from a variety of majors in crafting essays as well as in analyzing literary and primary source texts in order to identify larger themes.
- **Workshop in Creative Writing** 2019  
Parivartan Youth Club, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India  
Taught underprivileged children creative writing in Hindi and English.

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## Editorial and Marketing Experience

- **Poetry Editor, McNeese Review** 2020 – 2021  
Made final copy-editing decisions for publication. Also served as point of contact between poets, readers and the journal.
- **Poetry Reader, The Offing** 2020 – Present  
Read over five hundred submissions for publication. Also a member of the selection committee for *The Outermost Fellowship for Kimarlee Nguyen* where I choose poetry fellows in association with *The Apogee Journal*.
- **Co-Fiction Editor, The Bombay Review** 2017 – 2018  
Coordinated print cycle along with choosing stories for publication.
- **Co-founder, The Vegan Wardrobe** 2016 – Present  
Curating a sustainable lifestyle for the 10k+ readers. I craft, pitch and collaborate with brands to raise awareness for climate change.
- **Select Writer, Terribly Tiny Tales** 2015 – 2018  
Mobilized various brand campaigns and worked from their office (May 2016) on the back-end curating fiction, poetry and non-fiction.

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## Publications

- “Lotus-Fishing at J.K. Temple” in *Notre Dame Review* (Issue 52) 2021
- “Small Women” in *Aurora Poetry Journal* (Print - Summer Issue) 2021
- “How The Indian School System Reinforces Gender Norms” in *The Wire* 2020
- “Women Against CAA, NRC: Breaking the Patriarchy From Within” in *The Wire* 2020
- Three poems in “Ninety Seven Poems” published by *Penguin India*. 2018
- “Five Illogical Scenes That Manmohan Desai Made Believable” in *Film Companion* 2018
- “Five Things We Learnt About Psycho’s Shower Scene” in *Film Companion* 2018
- “Sixteen Beautiful Untranslatable Hindi Words You Didn’t Know You Needed” in *Buzzfeed* 2018
- Three micro-fiction tales in the “Terribly Tiny Tales” book published by *Penguin India* 2017
- Two poems in “Voices In Our Heads” in *Berlin Artparasites* 2016

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## Scholarships and Awards

- Scholarship for Bread Loaf Writer’s Workshop with Paisley Rekdal 2021
- Scholarship for Documentary Poetics with Kimberly Alidio by Kundiman 2021
- Louisiana Division of the Arts Individual Artist Grant, Art and Humanities Council 2021
- Honorable mention in Aurora Poetry Summer Contest 2021
- Joyce Scantlebury Second Prize for Poetry, McNeese State University 2021
- Lynne & Richard Reid Scholarship, McNeese State University 2021
- Fellowship for Marginalized Writers, Sundress Academy for the Arts (SAFTA) 2021
- John Wood Award in Poetry, McNeese State University 2019
- Award for Excellence in Academics, Wilson College 2017
- Mrs. Padma Solomonraj Scholarship, Wilson College 2017
- Romario Rozer Award for Creative Writing, Wilson College 2016
- Young Critics Lab shortlist, Mumbai Film Festival (MAMI) 2016

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## Conferences, Readings and Memberships

- “Politics of Protest” Panel at South Central Modern Language Association, Houston 2021
- Tin House Summer Workshop with Diana Khoi Nguyen 2021
- Paper presentation at Global Souths Conference, University of Louisiana, Lafayette 2021
- Poetry Panel Presentation at South Central Modern Language Association, Little Rock 2019
- Reader, Dr. Grey’s Free Range Reading Series, Stellar Beans, Lake Charles 2019
- Member of Association of Writers and Writing Program 2018 – 2021
- Reader, Canvas Kavita #2, The Poetry Club, TARQ Art Gallery, Mumbai 2016
- Fundraising Volunteer, The Wishing Factory, Mumbai 2016 – 2018

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## Additional Programs

- **Creative Writing Summer Program** 2016  
Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge, UK
- **Visharad (Bachelor of Art) in Bharatanatyam** 2013  
Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal, Mumbai, MH