

# Ashley Kunsa

Rocky Mountain College  
Department of English  
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## **EMPLOYMENT:**

Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing  
Rocky Mountain College, Billings, MT

Aug. 2017–present

## **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*

## **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 *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

**2018**

“Crossroads.” *Sonder Review* 10 (Winter 2018). Print. Forthcoming.

**2017**

“The Red City.” *Sycamore Review* (Fall 2017). Print. Forthcoming.

“Odd Birds.” *Nottingham Review* 9 (Fall 2017). Web. Forthcoming.

“Post Scriptum.” *Literary Orphans* 6.2 (Fall 2017). Web. Forthcoming.

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

“These Women.” *Minola Review* 13 (Spring 2017). Web.

“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, Coms.* 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.” *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**

“Standing in the Pantry of Myself, Gluten-Intolerant and Jonesing for Brownies.” *Summerset Review* (Fall 2017). Web.

“Signs Seen Driving Past a Baptist Church in Rural PA.” *Thin Air Magazine* Web Feature. July 26, 2017. Web.

“Metamorphic.” *Thin Air Magazine* Web Feature. June 26, 2017. Web.

- “Standing in the Garden of Myself Where My Lover Misplaced a Rusting Trowel.” *Thin Air Magazine* Web Feature. June 26, 2017. Web.
- “at Mendocino.” *Sweet Tree Review* 2.3. July 23, 2017. Web.
- “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

- “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 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 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 Culture 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 Rocky 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 Assistants Center for Teaching Excellence Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. Spring 2014 & 2016
- 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:**

Finalist, <i>Solstice: A Magazine of Diverse Voices</i> , Annual Fiction Contest (for "The Red City")	2017
Semi-finalist, <i>American Literary Review</i> , Annual Fiction Contest (for "The Red City")	2016
Project Stream Grant, <i>VetsWrite Allegheny</i> , Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, \$1717	2016–17
Project Stream Grant, <i>VetsWrite Westmoreland</i> , Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, \$1128	2016–17
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, Morgantown, WV	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:**

AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE, BILLINGS, MT

FALL 2017

Department of English  
sections)

(3

- Creative Nonfiction Workshop [Fall 2017]
- Imaginative Writing [Fall 2017]
- First-Year Writing [Fall 2017]

**AT DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY, PITTSBURGH, PA**

Department of English and Theater Arts

FALL 2010–SPRING 2014

and FALL 2015–SPRING 2016

- Fiction Writing Workshop 1 [Spring 2013 and Spring 2016] (10 sections)
- 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]

**AT WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY, MORGANTOWN, WV**

Department of English

FALL 2009–SPRING 2010

sections)

(4

- Composition and Rhetoric [Fall 2009 and Spring 2010]

**AT PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STATE COLLEGE, PA**

Department of English

FALL 2006–SPRING 2009

sections)

(8

- 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**

University Writing Center

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

JULY 2016–MAY 2017

**WRITING CONSULTANT**

University Writing Center

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

FALL 2010–SPRING 2011

**WRITING TUTOR**

Writing Center

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

FALL 2008–SPRING 2009

**ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE:****POETRY INSTRUCTOR**

Intensive Writing Camp for High School Students

McAnulty School of Liberal Arts

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

SUMMER 2017

**TEACHING ARTIST**

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

FALL 2016  
and SPRING 2017**CO-LEADER AND CO-FOUNDER**

Duquesne University Dog Tags Literary Society

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

SPRING 2016–SPRING 2017

**FICTION INSTRUCTOR**

Intensive Writing Camp for High School Students  
 School of Leadership & Professional Advancement  
 Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

SUMMER 2014

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE TUTOR**

American Homestay Services, Pittsburgh, PA

FALL 2013–FALL 2014

**CO-LEADER**

Creative Writing Group for Teens-in-Transition  
 Stepping Stone Shelter, State College, PA

FALL 2008

**RELATED EXPERIENCE:****INDEXER AND COPY EDITOR**

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

SUMMER 2014

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

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

FALL 2011–SPRING 2012  
 and SPRING 2013

**BUSINESS WRITING ADVISOR**

Schreyer Honors College  
 Penn State University, State College, PA

SPRING 2009

**LEARNING SPECIALIST**

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

SPRING–SUMMER 2005

**SAT INSTRUCTOR, PROCTOR, AND MCAT ESSAY GRADER**

Kaplan Test Prep, Pittsburgh, PA

FALL 2002–SPRING 2006

**SERVICE:****DEPARTMENT**

Founder and Faculty Advisor, English Club, Rocky Mountain College	Fall 2017
Graduate Representative, Creative Writing Series, Duquesne University	2011–12, 2016–17
Organizer and Co-Facilitator, Conference Abstract Writing Workshop for New Graduate Students, Duquesne University	Fall 2016
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, <i>First Class</i> 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 Director, Rocky Reading Series, Rocky Mountain College	Fall 2017
Faculty Advisor, Veterans Club, Rocky Mountain College	Fall 2017–present
Committee Member, Common Read Selection, Rocky Mountain College	Fall 2017
Founder and Advisor, The Writer’s Block, undergrad and grad student fiction-writing club, Duquesne University	2016–17
Founder and Editor, <i>DU Dog Tag Review</i> , vol. 1	Spring 2016
Member, Veterans Engagement Consortium, Duquesne University	2016–17
Focus Group Member, “Next Generation Humanities PhD,” NEH Planning Grant, Duquesne University	Fall 2015

## PROFESSIONAL

Article Reviewer, <i>Journal of Veterans Studies</i>	Fall 2017
Article Reviewer, <i>WLN: A Journal of Writing Center Scholarship</i>	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, <i>Genre: Forms of Discourse and Culture</i>	May 2011