

# Ashley Kunsa

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## EMPLOYMENT

- Assistant Professor of Creative Writing** **Aug. 2018–present**  
Rocky Mountain College, Billings, MT
- Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing** **Aug. 2017–July 2018**  
Rocky Mountain College, Billings, MT

## 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

### PEER-REVIEWED

- “Innocence, Provocation, and Moral Injury: The Problem of Discrimination in Phil Klay’s *Redeployment*.” *LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory*, Just War Theory and Reading Contemporary American Warfare Special Issue. Print. Forthcoming. 2023
- “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. 2014
- “‘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 2009

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. 2012

#### POETRY

##### Anthology

*when there are nine: Poems Celebrating the Life and Achievements of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*. Eds. Rebecca Evans, Shaneen Harris, and Ashley Kunsa. Moon Tide Press (Oct. 2022). Print.

##### in Journals

“At the RSVP.” *Permafrost* 44.1 (2023). Forthcoming.

“Ballast.” *Poetry Northwest* (2023). Forthcoming.

“In Line at Supercuts, She Contemplates Her Open Marriage” and “The Poet on Saturday Night.” *Laurel Review* (2023). Print + Web. Forthcoming.

“Poem Beginning with a Confused Notion of Pattern.” *Little Patuxent Review* 33 (Winter 2023). Print. Forthcoming.

“Driving to L.A. from Temecula to Have Sex with a Minor Actor Who Made a Single Appearance in My Former Best Friend's Favorite TV Show, I Keep the Radio Off.” *The Maine Review* 9.1 (2023). Web. Forthcoming.

“Minor Saints.” *Barrow Street* 25 (2023). Print. Forthcoming.

“Declaration.” *Bennington Review* (2023). Print. Forthcoming.

“Purple Loosestrife.” *Malabar Review* 221 (Winter 2022). Print. Forthcoming.

“The New Manifest Destiny.” *Lake Effect* 26 (2022). Print. Forthcoming.

“Ask Me about Things There Are No Answers for.” *Tusculum Review* 18 (Fall 2022). Print. Forthcoming.

“I Need Her on Her Knees.” *Southern Humanities Review* 55.3/55.4 (December 2022): 54-56. Print.

“All This Distance, and So Little to Show for It.” *Small Orange* (Autumn 2023). Web.

“It's Never Just a Snake.” *Massachusetts Review* 63.3 (Fall 2022): 505-06. Print.

“Clinging to the Dream, I Pretended Not to Notice the Baby's Cry.” *Dialogist*. Sept. 30, 2022. Web.

“From Which the Body.” *Cream City Review* 46.1 (Spring/Summer 2022): 51-52. Print.

“After the Garden.” *Radar Poetry* 33 (June 2022). Web.

“*Une Hirondelle Ne Fait Pas le Printemps*; or, at the KGB a Decade and a Half after the Last Time I Went to a Bar with a Man.” *Coastal Shelf* (Spring 2022). Web.

“White Dwarf.” *Lily Poetry Review* 5 (Winter 2021): 27. Print.

“Poem Beginning Lost in the Forest.” *juked* (Dec. 2020). Web.

“Little Poem; or, Poem Beginning Before We Meet in Person,” “Body Language; or, Small Metacarpal,” “Poem Beginning with a Mattock,” “Poem Beginning with Broken Bones in Another Recession,” and “Poem Beginning with Bitter Rind.” *Menacing Hedge* 10.2 (Fall 2020). Web.

“Party Trick” and “Poem Beginning with Pascal's Vases.” *Figure 1* 4b (Summer 2020). Web.

“Poem Beginning in Whispered Prayer.” *jmwv* (June 12, 2020). Web.

“Emergency C-Section with Partial Hindsight.” *Blue Mesa Review* 41 (Summer 2020): 37. Web.

“Coruscant.” *Quarter After Eight* 25 (2019): 88. Print.

“Standing in the Garden of Myself, Barefoot.” *Rivet: The Journal That Risks* 15 (2018). Web.

- “Poem Beginning with Scales” and “Poem Beginning with a Corset.” *Beech Street Review* 3.2 (April 2018). Web.
- “Beginning at the Golden Panda.” *concis* (Fall 2017). Web.
- “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,” “Metamorphic,” and “Standing in the Garden of Myself Where My Lover Misplaced a Rusting Trowel.” *Thin Air Magazine* Web Feature. July 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.
- “Staretz.” *Gravel* (Dec. 2016). Web.

#### FICTION

- “*Gente de Caballo*.” *The Maine Review* (Spring 2019). 108–119. Print.
- “Drowning.” *Forge Literary Magazine*. (April 9, 2018). Web.
- “Crossroads,” “Only Breath,” and “Everything, Always, and Still Not Enough.” *The Sonder Review* 9 (Winter 2018): 10–14. Print.
- “Go Hungry.” *Bayou Magazine* 68 (Winter 2018). Print. (nominated for Pushcart Prize)
- “Hands Off.” *The Penn Review* 50.2 (Winter 2018). Web.
- “The Red City.” *Sycamore Review* 29.1 (2017): 70–83. Print. (nominated for Pushcart Prize)
- “*Post Scriptum*.” *Literary Orphans* 6.2 (Fall 2017). Web.
- “Odd Birds.” *Nottingham Review* 9 (Fall 2017): 22–25. Web.
- “These Women.” *Minola Review* 13 (Spring 2017). Web.
- “Why You Can’t Live Right.” *Miracle Monocle* 9 (Spring 2017). Web.
- “Secondary Flightlessness.” *The 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.
- “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.
- “Grace.” *Hot Metal Bridge* 16 (Winter 2015). Web.
- “The Physics of Grief.” *Roanoke Review* 36 (Spring 2014): 11–14. Print.
- “A Woman’s Glory.” *The Los Angeles Review* 11.2 (Oct. 2011): 29–30. Print.

#### NONFICTION

- “Shape Shifting: Have Fun and Expand Your Range with a Second (or Third) Genre.” *The Writer* (May 2019): 30–33. Print.
- “Master Class: Want to Write Better? Try Teaching Others to Write.” *The Writer* (Dec. 2018): 32–35. Print.
- “Watch/words.” *5x5* 5 (Winter 2017). Web.
- “Elementary Love.” *Taboma Literary Review* 9 (March 2017): 104–05. Print.
- “How to Write Your Life in the Second-Person.” *Eastern Iowa Review* 2 (Summer 2016): 11–14. Print. (nominated for Pushcart Prize)

## CRAFT ESSAY AND INTERVIEWS

Author Interview. *Forge Literary Magazine* (April 2018). Web. (Interview)

“Featured Author Interview.” *The Sonder Review* 9 (Winter 2018): 16–18. Print. (Interview)

“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)

## PRESENTATIONS

### CONFERENCES

- “A ‘Good’ War on Terrorism?: Phil Klay’s *Redeployment* and the Problem of Discrimination.” *War, Literature, and the Arts* Conference, Colorado Springs, CO. September 2018
- “Vietnam All Over Again?: Reading Iraq War Fiction in the Shadow of Vietnam.” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, Louisville, KY. February 2018
- “It’s Just Not that Simple: *Redeployment* and the Just/Unjust Combatant 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 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

- Poetry Workshop Leader, Quest Gifted Program, Grades 4 and 5,  
Billings School District 2, Billings, MT Fall 2022
- “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**

- Dreyfest Poetry Jam, Billings, MT, August 6, 2022. August 2022
- Second Sunday Poetry Series, San Francisco, Zoom, July 10, 2022. July 2022
- “Odd Birds” and “Why You Can’t Live Right.” Louisville Conference  
on Literature and Culture Since 1900, Louisville, KY. February 2018
- “*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

Exceptional Manuscript Scholarship, Master of Fine Arts program, Sierra Nevada University.	2020–21
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, Duq. Univ.	2013–14
MFA Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of English, Penn State University.	2009
Dolinger Graduate Fellowship (competitive), Department of English, PSU.	2006
Chancellor’s Scholarship (full tuition, room, and board), University of Pittsburgh.	2000–04

## CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS AND GRANTS

UCROSS Residency, Waitlist	2021
Julia Darling Memorial Poetry Prize, Finalist	2021
Dorland Mountain Arts Colony, Residency, 10 days	2021
<i>Coastal Shelf</i> The Shelf Contest, Semi-Finalist	2021
Dorland Mountain Arts Colony, Residency, 10 days	2020
<i>The Southampton Review</i> Short Contest, Finalist	2017
<i>Solstice: A Magazine of Diverse Voices</i> Annual Fiction Contest, Finalist	2017
<i>American Literary Review</i> Annual Fiction Contest, Semi-Finalist	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
<i>Eastern Iowa Review</i> Experimental Essay Prize, First Place (tie)	2016
<i>Baltimore Review</i> “Health” contest, Finalist	2015
Wilda Hearne Flash Fiction Contest, Finalist	2014
A Room of Her Own Foundation <i>Orlando</i> Prize for flash fiction, Winner	2011

Hungry Poets Prize, Second Place, Morgantown, WV	2010
<i>Narrative Magazine</i> 30 Below contest, Finalist	2009
Academy of American Poets Leonard Steinberg Award, Honorable Mention	2009

## 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–PRESENT

Department of English

(40 sections)

- ENG 482: Senior Capstone [Spring 2018/2019/2020/2021/2022]
- ENG 491: Literary Journal I [Fall 2018/2019/2020/2021/2022]
- ENG 493: Literary Journal II [Spring 2019/2020/2021/2022]
- ENG 419: Writing and Publishing in New York City [Spring 2019]
- ENG 346: Readings in Contemporary Fiction [Fall 2021]
- ENG 345: Readings in Contemporary Creative Nonfiction [Fall 2022]
- ENG 343: Readings in Contemporary Poetry [Spring 2021]
- ENG 376: Advanced Fiction Writing [Fall 2020]
- ENG 375: Advanced Creative Nonfiction Writing [Spring 2022]
- ENG 319: Creative Nonfiction Workshop [Fall 2017/2018]
- ENG 205: Introductory Creative Nonfiction Workshop [Fall 2019/2020/2021/2022]
- ENG 324: Fiction Workshop [Spring 2018/2019/2022]
- ENG 206: Introductory Fiction Workshop [Spring 2020]
- ENG 317: Poetry Workshop [Spring 2018]
- ENG 204: Introductory Poetry Workshop [Spring 2020]
- ENG 122: Introduction to Creative Writing [Fall 2017/2018/2019/2020/2021/2022]
- ENG 119: First-Year Writing [Fall 2017/2019]

### AT DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY, PITTSBURGH, PA

FALL 2010–SPRING 2014

Department of English and Theater Arts

and FALL 2015–SPRING 2016

- Fiction Writing Workshop 1 [Spring 2013/2016] (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 2010/2011/2012/2013]
- Imaginative Literature and Critical Writing [Spring 2011]

### AT WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY, MORGANTOWN, WV

FALL 2009–SPRING 2010

Department of English

(4 sections)

- Composition and Rhetoric [Fall 2009 and Spring 2010]

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

FALL 2006–SPRING 2009

Department of English

(8 sections)

- 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 2007]
- 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****FACULTY MEMBER**

SPRING 2020

Pittsburgh Writing Workshop, Teleconference

**POETRY INSTRUCTOR**

SUMMER 2017 and 2018

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–SPRING 2017

Duquesne University Dog Tags Literary Society

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

**FICTION INSTRUCTOR**

SUMMER 2014

Intensive Writing Camp for High School Students

School of Leadership &amp; 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

**SERVICE**

## COLLEGE

Chair, Instructor of English Search Committee, Rocky Mountain College	Fall 2022
Committee Member, Assistant Professor of English Search Committee, RMC	Fall 2022
Committee Member, Peer Review Committee, RMC	Fall 2022
Committee Member, Policy and Personal Committee, RMC	Fall 2022
Committee Member, Sabbatical Ad Hoc Committee, RMC	Fall 2022
Committee Member, Admissions Committee, RMC	Fall 2021–present
Founder and Faculty Advisor, Pride Club, RMC	Spring 2021–Spring 2022
Committee Member, Assistant Professor of English Search, Committee, RMC	Fall 2020–Spring 2021
Committee Member, Peer Review Committee, RMC	Fall 2020–Spring 2021
Committee Member, Honors Board, RMC	Fall 2019–present
Judge, Student Research Symposium, RMC	Spring 2019
Chair, Assistant Professor of English Search Committee, RMC	Spring 2019
Faculty Advisor, <i>The Rocky Mountain Review</i> student journal, RMC	Fall 2018–present
Committee Member, Faculty Development Committee, RMC	Fall 2018–Spring 2022
Organizer, Student Creative Writing Competition, RMC	2018–present
Founder/Organizer, Writers-in-Progress student reading series, RMC	Spring 2018–present
Organizer, End-of-Semester Student Reading, RMC	Fall 2017–present
Founder and Organizer, The Reading Series @ Rocky Mountain, College, RMC	Fall 2017–present
Faculty Advisor, Veterans Club, RMC	Fall 2017–2020
Committee Member, Common Read Selection Committee, RMC	Fall 2017–Spring 2020
Founder and Faculty Advisor, Bookaholics Anonymous English, Club, RMC	Fall 2017–Spring 2019

## PROFESSIONAL

Board Member, High Plains Book Awards, Billings, MT	Fall 2021–present
Peer Reviewer, <i>Studia Philologia</i>	Fall 2021
Committee Chair, High Plains Book Awards “Big Sky” Award, Billings, MT	2019–present
Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief, <i>genre2</i> literary magazine	Spring 2018–2020
Editor-Panelist, Speed-Dating with Editors, Conversations and Connections Conference hosted by <i>Barrelhouse</i> , Pittsburgh, PA	October 2018
Panel Organizer, “Conceptualizing a ‘Good’ War: Just War Theory, the ‘War on Terror,’ and American Narrative from WWII to the Present” panel, <i>WLA</i> Conference, Colorado Springs, CO	September 2018
Peer Reviewer, <i>Journal of Veterans Studies</i>	Fall 2017–present
Peer Reviewer, <i>WLN: A Journal of Writing Center Scholarship</i>	Fall 2016

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
Peer Reviewer, <i>Genre: Forms of Discourse and Culture</i>	May 2011