

Ashley Kunsa

Rocky Mountain College
Department of English
Morledge-Kimball Hall 222
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Billings, MT 59120
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412-901-4576

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.F.A.** **Sierra Nevada University**, Incline Village, NV. *in progress*
Department of English, Poetry
- 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

- "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

UNDER REVIEW

“Innocence, Provocation, and Moral Injury: The Problem of Discrimination in Phil Klay’s *Redeployment*” (5233 words) in *LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory* Just War Theory and Reading Contemporary American Warfare Special Issue

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

2019

“*Gente de Caballo*.” *The Maine Review* (Spring 2019). 108–119. Print.

2018

“Drowning.” *Forge Literary Magazine*. (April 9, 2018). Web.

“Crossroads.” *The Sonder Review* 9 (Winter 2018): 10–11. Print.

“Only Breath.” *The Sonder Review* 9 (Winter 2018): 12. Print.

“Everything, Always, and Still Not Enough.” *The Sonder Review* 9 (Winter 2018): 13–14. Print

“Go Hungry.” *Bayou Magazine* 68 (Winter 2018). Print. (nominated for Pushcart Prize)

“Hands Off.” *The Penn Review* 50.2 (Winter 2018). Web.

2017

“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, Cons.* Jan. 26, 2017. Web.

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

2016 and before

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

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

POETRY

Chapbook

when there are nine: A Poetic Contribution to the Life and Achievements of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Eds. Rebecca Evans, Shaneen Harris, and Ashley Kunsu. Moon Tide Press. (July 2022). Forthcoming. Print.

2022

"Declaration." *Bennington Review*. Forthcoming. Print.

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

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

"It's Never Just a Snake." *Massachusetts Review* 63.3 (Fall 2022). Forthcoming. Print.

"Clinging to the Dream, I Pretended Not to Notice the Baby's Cry." *Dialogist*. Sept. 20, 2022. Forthcoming. Web.

"I Need Her on Her Knees." *Southern Humanities Review* 53.3 (Fall 2022). Forthcoming. Print.

"From Which the Body." *Cream City Review* 46.1 (Spring/Summer 2022). Forthcoming. Print.

"On the Night RBG Died." *when there are nine: A Poetic Contribution to the Life and Achievements of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*. Eds. Rebecca Evans, Shaneen Harris, and Ashley Kunsu. Moon Tide Press. (July 2022). Forthcoming. Print.

"After the Garden." *Radar Poetry* 33 (June 2022). Forthcoming. 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.

2021

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

2020

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

"Little Poem; or, Poem Beginning Before We Meet in Person." *Menacing Hedge* 10.2 (Fall 2020). Web.

"Body Language; or, Small Metacarpal." *Menacing Hedge* 10.2 (Fall 2020). Web.

"Poem Beginning with a Mattock." *Menacing Hedge* 10.2 (Fall 2020). Web.

"Poem Beginning with Broken Bones in Another Recession." *Menacing Hedge* 10.2 (Fall 2020). Web.

"Poem Beginning with Bitter Rind." *Menacing Hedge* 10.2 (Fall 2020). Web.

"Party Trick." *Figure 1* 4b (Summer 2020). Web.

"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.

2019 and before

"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." *Beech Street Review* 3.2 (April 2018). Web.

"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." *Sunset 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.
- “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.
- “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.

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 Kunsu.” *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

“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 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. Forthcoming. August 2022

Second Sunday Poetry Series, San Francisco, Zoom, July 10, 2022. Forthcoming. July 2022

“Odd Birds” and “Why You Can’t Live Right.” Louisville Conference on February 2018

Literature and Culture Since 1900, Louisville, KY.

“*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, 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:

UCROSS Residency, Waitlist 2021

Julia Darling Memorial Poetry Prize, Finalist (for “The New Manifest Destiny”) 2021

Dorland Mountain Arts Colony, Residency, 10 days 2021

Coastal Shelf The Shelf Contest, Semi-Finalist (for “*Une Hirondelle Ne Fait Pas le Printemps*”) 2021

Dorland Mountain Arts Colony, Residency, 10 days 2020

The Southampton Review Short Contest, Finalist (for “Hands Off”) 2017

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

American Literary Review Annual Fiction Contest, Semi-Finalist (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
<i>Eastern Iowa Review</i> Experimental Essay Prize, First Place (tie) (for "How to Write Your Life in the Second Person")	2016
<i>Baltimore Review</i> "Health" contest, Finalist (for " <i>Les Murs Se Resserrent Autour De Vous</i> ")	2015
Wilda Hearne Flash Fiction Contest, Finalist (for "Marine Biology")	2014
A Room of Her Own Foundation <i>Orlando</i> Prize for flash fiction, Winner (for "A Woman's Glory")	2011
Hungry Poets Prize, Second Place, Morgantown, WV	2010
<i>Narrative Magazine</i> 30 Below contest, Finalist (for "Go Hungry")	2009
Academy of American Poets Leonard Steinberg Award, Honorable Mention (for "Staretz")	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

(36 sections)

- ENG 482: Senior Capstone [Spring 2018/2019/2020/2021/2022]
- ENG 491: Literary Journal I [Fall 2018/2019/2020/2021]
- 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 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]
- 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]
- ENG 119: First-Year Writing [Fall 2017/2019]

AT DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY, PITTSBURGH, PA

Department of English and Theater Arts

FALL 2010–SPRING 2014
and FALL 2015–SPRING 2016
(10 sections)

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

AT WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY, MORGANTOWN, WV

Department of English

FALL 2009–SPRING 2010
(4 sections)

- Composition and Rhetoric [Fall 2009 and Spring 2010]

AT PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STATE COLLEGE, PA

Department of English

FALL 2006–SPRING 2009
(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**University Writing Center
Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

JULY 2016–MAY 2017

WRITING CONSULTANTUniversity Writing Center
Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

FALL 2010–SPRING 2011

WRITING TUTORWriting Center
Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

FALL 2008–SPRING 2009

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**FACULTY MEMBER**

Pittsburgh Writing Workshop, Teleconference

SPRING 2020

POETRY INSTRUCTORIntensive Writing Camp for High School Students
McAnulty School of Liberal Arts
Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

SUMMER 2017 and 2018

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

SPRING 2016–SPRING 2017

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

SERVICE:

DEPARTMENT

Committee Member, Assistant Professor of English Search Committee, Rocky Mountain College	Spring 2021
Organizer, Student Creative Writing Competition, RMC	2018–present
Chair, Assistant Professor of English Search Committee, RMC	Spring 2019
Founder/Organizer, Writers-in-Progress student reading series, RMC	Spring 2018–present
Organizer, End-of-Semester Student Reading, RMC	Fall 2017–present
Founder and Faculty Advisor, Bookaholics Anonymous English Club, RMC	Fall 2017–Spring 2019

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Committee Member, Admissions Committee, Rocky Mountain College	Fall 2021–present
Founder and Faculty Advisor, Pride Club, RMC	Spring 2021–present
Committee Member, Honors Board, RMC	Fall 2019–present
Judge, Student Research Symposium, RMC	Spring 2019
Committee Member, Faculty Development Committee, RMC	Fall 2018–present
Faculty Advisor, <i>The Rocky Mountain Review</i> student journal, RMC	Fall 2018–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 Editor, <i>DU Dog Tag Review</i> , vol. 1, Duq. Univ.	Spring 2016

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,	September 2018

WLA Conference, Colorado Springs, CO	
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