

Leah McCormack

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** English & Comparative Literature, creative writing (fiction), University of Cincinnati, 2015
High Pass (equivalent to “with Distinction”), Comprehensive Exams
Dissertation: “The House of Pregnant Man,” novel; “Reclaiming Silenced & Erased Histories: The Paratextual Devices of Historiographic Metafiction,” critical portion.
Committee: Michael Griffith, Director; Chris Bachelder & Jennifer Glaser, Readers
- M.F.A.** Creative Writing (fiction), City College of New York, City University of New York, 2008
- B.A.** English, Art minor, *Summa Cum Laude*, State University of New York at Albany, 2003
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RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Creative Writing: Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, & Screenwriting
20th and 21st Century American Literature (with a focus on ethnic-American literatures)
Narrative Theory & Craft

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of South Dakota (USD)		
Associate Professor of English (Tenured)		2024 - Present
Assistant Professor		2016 - 2024
Adams State University (ASU)		
Assistant Professor of English		2015 - 2016

PUBLICATIONS

- Books** *Fugitive Daydreams: Stories*. Cornerstone Press, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (2023).
Evolving Strategies for Writing Feedback on Creative Manuscripts: A Multi-Genre Pedagogy Guide.
Editor. Routledge, Studies in Creative Writing (December 2025).

Journals

- Fiction*
“Blameless.” *New England Review* 37.3 (Fall 2016): 154-68.
“& Worse.” *South Dakota Review* 50 (Fall/Winter/Spring 2012 & 2013): 261-68.
“Oh, Work!” *REAL: Regarding Arts & Letters* 37.1 (Spring/Summer 2013): 192-95.
“The Lonely Planet.” *Prairie Fire* 34.1 (Spring 2013): 81-92.
“Pucka! Pucka! Pucka!” *The Portland Review* 58.2 (Spring 2012): 1-7.
“Conjoined Twins Separated.” *North Dakota Quarterly* 78.1 (Winter 2012): 107-15.
“Welcome, Welcome, Welcome. Come in. Come in. Come in.” *Redivider* 8.2 (Spring/Summer 2011): 103-08. (Reprinted in *Zine Scene*, Fall 2011.)
“Who Were We, What Were We?” *BRINK Magazine* (Spring 2010).
“It’s Your Father’s Summer Workshop.” *Fiction* 20.1 (2006): 215-23.
- Nonfiction*
“Fugitive Daydreams.” *Big Muddy* (Fall 2021).
“However Broken.” *Hotel Amerika* 15 (Winter 2017): 128-29.

Peer-Reviewed

- Articles*
“Flash Fiction: A Study in Temporality.” *New Writing: The International Journal for the Practice and Theory of Creative Writing*. 29 January 2020.

“Reclaiming Silenced & Erased Histories: The Paratextual Devices of Historiographic Metafiction.” *Making Connections: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Cultural Diversity* 14.2 (Fall 2013): 37-54.

Reviews “Beglins’ ‘Something Ancient’: Why We Like It.” *The Cincinnati Review* (blog), 2011.

GRANTS, AWARDS, & NOMINATIONS

<i>Award</i>	President’s Research Award for Creativity, \$2,500, USD, 2023. Nominated for Pushcart Prize, Cornerstone Press, “Welcome, Welcome, Welcome. Come in. Come in. Come in,” from <i>Fugitive Daydreams</i> . November 2023. AWP Prize for the Novel, Finalist, judged by Bonnie Jo Campbell, <i>Solve for N</i> , 2019. Dzanc Books Fiction Contest, Longlist Finalist, <i>Solve for N</i> , 2019. Nilsen Literary Prize for the Novel (Southeast Missouri State UP), Finalist, <i>Solve for N</i> , 2018. AWP Intro Award, the fiction graduate student nominated by English Dept., UC, 2011. <i>Glimmer Train</i> , Family Matters contest, finalist, 2007.
<i>Grants</i>	South Dakota Humanities Council Grant, \$6,629, for Milton Writers’ Conference, 2018. South Dakota Arts Council Grant, \$1,805, for Milton Writers’ Conference, 2018. A&S Travel Grant Program, \$900, USD, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021.
<i>Scholarships</i>	Taft Center for the Humanities Scholarship, 2009-2013 Summer Literary Seminar in Russia, scholarship contest, finalist, 2010. Chenango Valley Writers’ Conference, awarded highest scholarship, 2005. Gilman International Scholarship, recipient of \$5000 to Study Abroad, 2001.
<i>Teaching</i>	Belbas-Larson Award for Excellence in Teaching, Nomination, Spring 2017 & 2020.

TEACHING & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Cincinnati (UC)		
	Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record)	2009 - 2015
	Research Assistant for Dr. Myriam J.A. Chancy	2012 - 2015
City College of New York, City University of New York (CCNY)		
	Adjunct Lecturer	2007 - 2008
Jinju International University, South Korea		
	Full-time Lecturer	2004 - 2005

COURSES TAUGHT

<i>Creative Writing</i>	ENGL 782 Seminar: Writing Fiction, graduate fiction workshop, USD.
	ENGL 781 Seminar: Writing the Novel, graduate fiction workshop, USD.
	ENGL 784 Seminar: Writing Nonfiction, graduate creative nonfiction workshop, USD.
	ENGL 476/576 Creative Writing: Fiction, advanced & graduate workshop, USD.
	ENGL 475/575 Creative Writing: Nonfiction, advanced & graduate workshop, USD.
	ENGL 482/582 Creative Writing II: Screenwriting, advanced & graduate workshop, USD.
	ENGL 473/573 Screenwriting, advanced & graduate workshop, USD.
	ENG 327/427 Fiction Workshop, intermediate & advanced fiction writing, ASU.
	ENGL 283 Introduction to Creative Writing, multi-genre (poetry, fiction, nonfiction), USD.
	ENG 227 Intro to Creative Writing, multi-genre (nonfiction, fiction, poetry, drama), ASU.
	ENGL 211/212 Creative Writing: Fiction, introductory fiction writing, UC.
	ENG 220 Intro to Creative Writing, multi-genre (poetry & fiction), CCNY.

<i>Literature</i>	ENGL 792 Narrative Theory & Method, graduate seminar, USD. ENGL 785 Writing Theory & Craft, graduate seminar, USD ENGL 492/592 Nonfiction Graphic Narratives, advanced and graduate students, USD. ENGL 489 Senior Capstone: Memoir, English majors with senior standing, USD. ENG 460 Reading Short Prose, short story and creative nonfiction literature course, ASU. ENG 350 20 th -21 st C. British/Anglophone Literature, postcolonial literatures, ASU. ENGL 201 Topics in Literature: Re-Envisioning Texts: Literature, Screenplay, Film, UC.
<i>Online</i>	ENGL 283 Introduction to Creative Writing, multi-genre (poetry, fiction, nonfiction), USD. ENGL 201 Topics in Literature: Nonfiction Graphic Narratives, UC.
<i>Composition</i>	ENG 289 Intermediate Composition, second-year composition, UC. ENG 102 Communication Arts II, first-year composition, ASU. ENGL 102 English Composition II, first-year composition, UC. ENGL 101 English Composition I, first-year composition, UC.
<i>International</i>	“Conversational English II,” English language course, Jinju International U, South Korea. “Conversational English I,” English language course, Jinju International U, South Korea.

GRADUATE & UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam & Creative Dissertation Committees

<i>-Chair</i>	Teri Mandel (passed exams March 2019; defended May 2019) Russell Shaffer (passed exams November 2018; defended April 2020) Kevin Phillips (passed exams March 2019; defended April 2020) Julie Boutwell-Peterson (passed exams January 2022; defended Nov 2022) Ukamaka Olisakwe (passed exams February 2023; defended April 2024) Karli Tokala Rouse (passed exams February 2024) Mike Speegle (passed exams September 2024; defended April 2025) Courtney Ludwick (passed exams February 2025) Amelia Skinner Saint (ongoing) Darla Hitchcock (ongoing) Talitha Greaver (ongoing)
<i>-Member</i>	Cheyenne Marco (passed exams July 2017; defended April 2018) Raul Benjamin Moreno (defended March 2020) Joshua Rudnik (passed exams Feb 2020; defended March 2021) Heather Phillips (passed exams February 2023; defended January 2024) David Levine (defended April 2024) Justin Gray (passed exams September 2022; defended April 2025) Bentley Snow (passed exams October 2025) Mariah Hopkins (ongoing)

M.A. Creative Thesis Committees

<i>-Chair</i>	Leslie Claussen (defended April 2018) Amelia Skinner Saint (defended August 2021) Bekah Bahn (defended April 2025)
<i>-Member</i>	Greg Anderson (defended October 2017) Vicki Weldon, MAIS program (defended August 2017) David Barnum, MFA Studio Art (defended April 2019) Sarah Meirose (defended May 2019) Addison Jensen (defended April 2025) Katie Piper (defended July 2025) Bailey Quanbeck, MA, Communications Department (ongoing)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committees

-Director	Candra Mahrt (defended April 2019) Johanna Ziegler (defended March 2025)
-Member	Deanna Bradshaw (defended November 2017) Emily Cote (defended April 2021)

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS & CREATIVE READINGS

Refereed, Critical

- “Craft Talk: Narrative Time in Fiction.” Northeast Popular Culture Association (NEPCA), “Storytelling & Narrative” panel, remote, October 2025.
- “Koons, Hirst, and Murakami: Art as Commodity in an Expanding Market.” Midwest Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association (MPCA/ACA), Minneapolis, MN, October 2021.
- “Solve for N: A Work of Autofiction.” Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA), Boston University, Boston, MA, March 2020.
- “Flash Fiction: A Study in Temporality.” 15th International Conference on the Short Story in English, University of Lisbon, Portugal, June 2018.
- “Graphic Images: Photographs in Comics.” Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association (MPCA/ACA), St. Louis, MO, October 2017.
- “Trauma in Graphic Narratives.” South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA) Annual Convention, Tulsa, OK, October 2017.
- “Fraudulence in Life Writing & Fiction.” Humber Liberal Arts at the International Festival of Authors (IFOA), “Truth, Lies & Manufacturing Memory” Conference, Toronto, CO, October, 2016.
- “Reinserting Biracial Subjectivity in Larsen’s *Passing*.” Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) Annual Convention, Hartford, CT, March, 2016.
- “Magic in the Borderlands.” American Literature Association (ALA) Symposium: Frontiers and Borders in American Literature, San Antonio, February 2016.
- “Who Wears Short Shorts? (We Do): Revitalizing the Fiction Workshop.” Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP), Pedagogy Panel, Seattle, March 2014. (Moderator, Event Organizer)
- “Fraudulent Artifacts: The Art of ‘Faction’ in Life-Writing and Fiction.” MMLA, Milwaukee, November, 2013.
- “Visualizing Trauma: Photographs in Nonfiction Graphic Narratives.” MMLA, Milwaukee, November, 2013.
- “Postcolonial Hybridity: Magic in the Margins.” MELUS, Pittsburgh, PA, March 2013.
- “Reclaiming Biracial Subjectivity in Larsen’s *Passing*.” MMLA, Cincinnati, November 2012.
- “Re-Imaging Historical Trauma: The Use of Photographs in the Postmodern Memoirs of Mendelsohn’s *The Lost*, Hartman’s *Lose Your Mother*, & Spiegelman’s *Maus*.” Louisville Conference on Culture and Literature, U of Louisville, February 2012.
- “The Wondrous Experimentation of *Oscar Wao*.” Literature on the Margins Conference, Université de Montréal, Montreal, Canada, March 2011.
- “Encouraging Revision for Publication.” AWP, Pedagogy Forum, Denver, March 2010.

Refereed, Readings

- “Fiction, Nonfiction, Autofiction: Blurring Genres in *Contingent Contingencies*.” Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA), “Creative Writing I: Prose” panel, Chicago, November 2024.
- “Pucka! Pucka! Pucka!” Northeast Popular Culture Association (NEPCA). Virtual, October 2023.
- “Probabilities.” Northeast Popular Culture Association (NEPCA). Virtual, October 2022.
- “Conjoined Twins Separated.” Great Writing International Creative Writing Conference, 25th Anniversary, Virtual, July 2022.

- “What to Expect.” Author Reading. Global Conference on Women and Gender. Virtual, March 2022.
- “The Lonely Planet.” Great Writing International Creative Writing Conference, Virtual, July 2021.
- “Eva Hesse: Contingent Contingencies.” Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Popular Culture Association (MPCA/ACA), Virtual, October 2020.
- “Trappings.” Writing the Midwest: A Symposium of Scholars & Writers, SSML, East Lansing, MI, May 2019.
- “Blameless.” You Are Here: Creighton University’s Interdisciplinary Conference, Omaha, NE, March 2019.
- “Welcome, Welcome, Welcome. Come in. Come in. Come in.” Southwest Popular Culture/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM, February 2016.
- “It’s Your Father’s Summer Workshop.” *Fiction* magazine, Mercantile Library of New York City, Manhattan, September 2006.
- Book Readings* “Oh, Work!” AWP, Offsite Event: An Evening with Cornerstone Press, Kansas City, 2024.
- “Welcome, Welcome, Welcome. Come In. Come In. Come In.” *Fugitive Daydreams* Virtual Book Launch Event, Cornerstone Press, November 2023.

*Service to the
Department*

- “A Reading with Leah McCormack,” USD, October 2024.
- “The Lonely Planet.” John R. Milton Writers’ Conference, Faculty Reading, USD, 2021.
- “Junot Díaz’s *Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*: The Margins of Historiographic Metafiction.” The Department of English Colloquium Series on Literature, Vermillion, USD, October 2018.
- “Welcome, Welcome, Welcome. Come in. Come in. Come in.” John R. Milton Writers’ Conference, Faculty Reading, Vermillion, USD, October 2018.
- “However Broken.” East Meets West (River): Readings from BHSU and USD Creative Writing Faculty, BHSU, Spearfish, SD, September 2018.
- “Flash Fiction: A Study in Temporality.” The Department of English Colloquium Series on Literature, Vermillion, USD, September 2017.
- “The Novel: A Frankenstein of Genres.” Frankenstein200! Symposium, Vermillion, USD, February 2018.
- “Creative Nonfiction: Visualizing Trauma in Life Writing.” The Department of English Colloquium Series on Literature, Vermillion, USD, December, 2016.
- “& Worse.” Senior Capstone Reading, Guest Writer, Adams State University, May 2016.
- “Oh, Work!” EGO, Max Kade Center, Cincinnati, November 2010.

SERVICE
Department

- Coordinator of Creative Writing Program, USD, Fall 2024 - present.
- Chair of Search Committee to hire a poet for tenure-track position, USD, 2024-2025.
- Creative Writing Committee, Chair, USD, 2022 - present.
- Creative Writing Committee, Member, 2016-2021.
- Undergraduate Studies Committee, Member, USD, Spring 2024.
- Graduate Studies Committee, Member, USD, 2017-2018 & 2024-2025.
- Graduate Student Placement Committee, Chair, USD, 2022-2023.
- Graduate Student Placement Committee, Member, USD, 2016-2020.
- John R. Milton Writers’ Conference Committee, Chair, USD, 2017-2019.
- English Department Colloquium Committee, Member, USD, 2016-2019.
- Sorcerer’s Apprentice Creative Writing Camp for HS Students, USD, 2017-2019.
- VLP Short-Story Contest, Judge, USD, 2016 - present.
- Faculty Presentation, “Naked Lunch,” ASU, April 2016.
- English Placement Exams, Reader, ASU, Spring 2016.
- Coordinator for Gilman Creative Writing Award & Reception, ASU, Spring 2016.

<i>College</i>	Division Chair for Humanities, Arts & Sciences, elected position, 2024-2025. Arts & Sciences Research and Resources Committee, Member, USD, 2022-20025 College Research Committee, Member, USD, 2020-2022. Arts & Sciences Harrington Committee, Member, USD, 2018-2020. Student Scholar Days, Judge, ASU, April 2016.
<i>University</i>	Local Writing Assessment (LWA) Committee, Member, ASU, Spring 2016. Welcoming Community Committee (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusivity), 20024-present, USD. Council for Undergraduate Research & Creative Scholarship (CURCS), Member, USD, 2018-2022. CURCS Mini-Grants Sub-Committee, Chair, USD, 2020-2022. UDiscover Scholarships, Judge, USD, spring 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023-2024. Writing Center, Workshop on Flash Fiction, USD, March 2018.
<i>Profession</i>	Reviewer, <i>English Studies</i> , 2021-present. Reviewer, <i>LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory</i> , 2020-present. Reviewer, <i>MELUS</i> , 2014-2018 & 2025-present.

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Fiction Editor, *The South Dakota Review*, U South Dakota, 2016-present.
 Editorial Assistant, *The Cincinnati Review*, U Cincinnati, 2010-2015.
 Editorial Associate, *Fiction*, the City College of NY, 2006-2008.

WORK & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

<i>Work</i>	Assessment Specialist for CCNY, 2006-2008. Worked with Director of Assessment, Dr. Annita Alting, to prepare College for Middle States re-accreditation review. Assistant to Acting Deputy Provost, Dr. Ellen Smiley, CCNY, 2005-2006. Research Assistant to Dr. Myriam Chancy, UC, 2011-2012 & 2013-2015.
<i>Mentoring</i>	Conducted research on Caribbean, Postcolonial, and Transnational areas of study. “The Short Story & Flash Fiction: Writing & Revising for Publication,” Graduate Summer Undergraduate Mentoring Program (GSUM), UC, 2013. Worked closely with undergraduate on her fiction writing for ten weeks.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

AWP, NeMLA, NEPCA, SSML, MELUS, ALA, MMLA, MPCA/ACA