

CURRICULUM VITAE

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EDUCATION

MFA, Creative Writing, 2006. Queens University of Charlotte. Charlotte, N.C.

Creative Thesis: “Invisible Sisters: A Memoir.” Graduation Seminar/Peer Teaching: “Facing Facts: The Integration of Fact into Three Distinct Creative Nonfiction Voices; Peter Balakian, Joan Didion, and Ian Frazier.”

B.S. 1982. Emerson College, Boston, MA.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Forms of and approaches to personal and cultural narrative, including interdisciplinary and mixed-media story telling methodology, creative nonfiction in traditional and hybrid form, documentary filmmaking, narrative medicine, nineteenth and twentieth-century Southern cultural history with a focus on Southern labor and civil rights history, feminist history.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

LECTURER, OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY, DIVISION OF ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, 2018 TO PRESENT.

COORDINATOR, MINOR IN WRITING, DIVISION OF ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE 2019 – PRESENT.

VISITING LECTURER, OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY, DIVISION OF ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE. 2016 – 2018.

Courses taught include:

COR 101/102 (Narratives of the Self)

WRI 130 (Introduction to Creative Writing)

WRI 290 (Special Topics: Writing the Screenplay)
WRI 290 (Biography and Autobiography)
WRI 290 (Creative Writing)
WRI 290 (Special Topics: Film Adaptation)
WRI 331 (The Long Form Essay)
WRI 331 (Writing Prose/Fiction & Nonfiction)
WRI 331 (Playwriting)
FYS 101 (First Year Seminar)
WRI 400 (Advanced Independent Study in Writing)
WRI 490 (Advanced Creative Writing, Special Projects)
WRI 495 (Internship in Writing)

VISITING PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COLUMBIA
MFA Program in Creative Writing

Courses taught:

ENG 611 (Writing the Longer Work), Spring 2015

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR, OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY, ATLANTA, 2011-2016

Courses taught:

EN 331 (The Long Form Essay)
EN 331 (Writing Prose/Fiction & Nonfiction)
ENG 290-02 (Special Topics: Writing the Screenplay)
FYS 101 (First Year Seminar)
WRI 290 (Special Topics: Film Adaptation)

FACULTY, ART INSTITUTE OF ATLANTA, 2006-2012

Courses taught:

AUD 420 (Internship)
VID 410 (Advanced Scriptwriting, Senior Elective)
VID 399 (Internship)
VID 398 (Special Topics/Independent Study)
VID 323 (Production Management for Film and Television)

VID 310 (Scriptwriting II)

VID/AUD 245 (Professional Opportunities in Film and Television)

VID 210 (Scriptwriting I)

VID 110 (History of Motion Media)

ASSISTANT CHAIR, ART INSTITUTE OF ATLANTA

Department of Digital Filmmaking & Video Production, 2007 -2008

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR, 2006 -2007

Art Institute of Atlanta

Courses taught:

English 101 (Freshman Composition)

VID 210 (Scriptwriting I)

GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE, 2006-2007

Courses taught:

English 1101 (Freshman Composition)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (ONLINE)

Decatur Book Festival, Atlanta, GA, “Writing About Trauma: Creating Memoir from Within the Era of COVID-19.” One session, Summer, 2020.

Creative Nonfiction, Pittsburgh, PA. “Writing the Tough Stuff: Memoir in Response to the Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting.” Two sessions, Fall, 2019.

Creative Nonfiction, Pittsburgh, PA. “Writing the Tough Stuff”
Ten Weeks, Spring 2016

Story Studio, Chicago, IL. “Memoir-ish.”
Six sessions, Winter 2015

Story Studio, Chicago, IL “Creating Powerful Prose After Loss.”

Six sessions, Spring 2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (RESIDENTIAL WORKSHOPS, VISITING APPOINTMENTS)

The Rutgers Writing Conference, New Brunswick, NJ (*postponed due to COVID 19*)

The Creative Nonfiction Foundation, Pittsburgh, PA.

The Writing Pad, Tel Aviv, Israel

Sam Miguel Writers' Workshops, San Miguel Allende, Mexico

Wildacres Summer Writing Workshop, Little Switzerland NC

Decatur Writers' Studio, Decatur, GA.

Pendle Hill Writing Workshop, Wallingford, PA.

Creative Nonfiction workshop, Oxford, MS Creative Nonfiction Conference,

Transformative Language Arts Network, Wallingford PA.

Queens University of Charlotte Writers' Symposium, Charlotte, NC. Nonfiction Master Class.

Iowa Summer Writing Program, 11th hour lecture series

Grub Street Writers' Conference, Boston, MA

University of Tampa

Murray State University Low Residency MFA Program

The Decatur Book Festival Writers Conference

Atlanta Metropolitan College

Wingate University, Charlotte, NC

Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Georgia Writers Association, Kennesaw, GA

Atlanta Writers Club, Atlanta, GA

Blue Ridge Georgia Mountain Arts Writer's Conference, Clayton, GA

Suwanee, Georgia, Writers Conference

Clayton State University, Division of Continuing Education, Morrow, GA.

Emory University Center for Lifelong Learning, Atlanta, GA

Emory University Osher Institute, Atlanta GA

ACADEMIC COMMUNITY SERVICE

Oglethorpe University

Program Coordinator, Minor in Creative Writing, 2018, ongoing

Co-chair, LASS/PRISM committee, 2018 to present

Committee member, LASS/PRISM, 2016 – to present

Committee Member, Core Assessment, ongoing

Faculty Advisor, “The Odyssey” online journal, 2016 - 2017

Faculty Advisor, “The Tower” undergraduate literary magazine, 2017, ongoing,

Faculty Advisor, undergraduate English, 2016, ongoing

Art Institute of Atlanta, 2006 - 2012

Member of portfolio review panel for departmental AA and BFA candidates

Senior Portfolio Advisor for departmental AA and BFA candidates

Internship advisor, BFA candidates, Digital Filmmaking and Video Production.

Member, lecture committee

Participant, faculty development seminars

Organizing partner, Program Advisory committee

Lunch and Learn faculty lecturer

Member, curriculum development/review committee

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

The Magnetic Girl. Hub City Press

Spartanburg, SC.

2019

"Like the powers of Lulu Hurst, Jessica Handler's literary power feels like a sleight of hand. It's impossible that a novel can be this beautiful, this haunting, and this resonant, but your eyes (and your heart) are not deceiving you. The Magnetic Girl is a gorgeous, brutal book: a strange alchemy of love, fear, fate, and hope."—Wiley Cash, New York Times Bestselling author of The Last Ballad

Braving the Fire: A Guide to Writing About Grief and Loss

St. Martins/Griffin, New York

2013

"Braving the Fire is the best book about memoir writing I've read. Jessica Handler provides a brilliant, empathic, and sturdy guide to help us begin, develop, and complete a work of art dealing with those difficult subjects we might fear exploring but which will become the wellspring of our most profound work."—Louise DeSalvo, author of *Writing as a Way of Healing: How Telling Our Stories Transforms Our Lives*

Invisible Sisters: A Memoir

Public Affairs Books, New York.

2009

University of Georgia Press, Athens, Ga. (paperback)

2015

"What Jessica Handler has rescued from grief, bravely and without self-pity, is the story of her own hard-won survival." Rosellen Brown.

Onzichtbare Zusjes

(Dutch translation) The House of Books, Antwerp.

2010

ANTHOLOGIES:

"Smoke," *Fury: Women's Lived Experiences in the Trump Era*, Pact Press *forthcoming* 2020

"NightTime Is A Place," *The Bitter Southerner Reader, Volume III* 2019

"Go Get 'Em." *A Second Blooming*. Mercer University Press. 2017

"Never Can Say Goodbye." *Dumped: Women Unfriending Women*. SheWrites Press. 2015

"Protagonist Reader." *A Cozy Infinity: A Cappella at 25*. Everthemore Books. 2014

"Lucky Girl." *Full Grown People Greatest Hits Volume I. The Other Awkward Age*. Full Grown People. 2014

PERIODICALS: (SELECTED)

"Seven Honest Books About Hoaxes," *Electric Lit*, Spring 2019

"Research Notes," *Necessary Fiction*, Spring 2019

"The Thrill of Narrative Incompleteness," *River Teeth*, Winter, 2018

"Siberia, Atlanta." *Brevity*, Winter, 2018

“Séance City” *The Bitter Southerner*, Spring, 2017

“How to Fold Sheets,” *Dead Housekeeping*, Spring, 2017

“Nighttime is a Place” *The Bitter Southerner*, Summer 2016

“You in the Beige” *Atlanta Magazine*, Fall 2015

“My Favorite Essay to Teach” *Assay Magazine*, Fall 2015

“The New Normal” *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Fall 2015

“Write What You Don’t Know” *Creative Nonfiction*, Winter 2015

“In Four/Four Time” *Full Grown People*, Winter 2014

“What if Your Story of Loss Offends?” *Modern Loss*, Spring 2014

“The Marriage Plate,” *Full Grown People*, Spring 2014

“There Are No Rules” *Psychology Today*, Spring 2014

“How to Write Your Story” *Modern Loss*, Spring 2014

“Lucky Girl” *Full Grown People*, Spring 2014

“On the Pain Scale ” *Full Grown People*, Fall 2013

“Word Problem” *Drunken Boat 15*, Spring 2012

“The Feats of the Magnetic Girl Explained” *Tin House*, March 2012

“Forgotten Name” *New South*, Summer 2011

“Writing Without A Map” *The Writer*, May 2011

“Acknowledging the Owls” *The Rumpus.net*, January 2011

“At Writing Conferences, Don’t Forget to Write” *The Writer*, Winter 2010

“The New Normal” *Psychology Today.com*, August 2010

“Lost and Found: The Cheerleader,” *Tin House*, Summer 2010

“Writing Through Grief, ”*The Writer*, July 2010

“Magic Moments & Imaginary Friends,” *PsychologyToday.com*, December 2009

“I Won’t Roll the Biological Dice,” *Newsweek*, April 27 2009

“Poetry Made Essential in a Life Made Hard.” *Chattahoochee Review*, Fall 2006

“The Union Maid.” *Story South*, Summer 2006

“Toy Story.” *More Magazine*, February 2006

“Daughter Cells.” *Ars Medica*, November 2005

“Review of New Food: Red Bull.” *McSweeneys.net*, October 2005

“Review of New Food: Pom.” *McSweeneys.net*, October 2004

“To the Moon.” *Brevity*, Fall 2004

BOOK REVIEWS

A Flexible Mirror: Wisconsin Death Trip (Michael Lesy), River Teeth, *forthcoming*.
You Feel So Mortal (Peggy Shinner) The Chattahoochee Review, Fall, 2014
The Empathy Exams, (Leslie Jamison) Sanctuary of Illness, (Thomas Larson) The Mythical Bill
(Jody MacAuliffe) TriQuarterly Review Online, Fall, 2104
Crockett Johnson and Ruth Krauss (Philip Nel) Triquarterly Review Online, Spring 2013
A Wedding in Haiti (Julia Alvarez) Triquarterly Review Online, Fall 2012
Fall Line (J. Samuel Starnes), Triquarterly Review Online, Summer 2012
Our South, (Jennifer Greeson) Triquarterly Review Online, Spring 2011
Poser: My Life in Twenty-Three Yoga Poses (Claire Dederer)
Pop Matters, February 2011
Making Toast, (Roger Rosenblatt) RainTaxi Review of Books, Fall 2010
Nothing Left to Burn (Jay Varney), Pop Matters, September 2010
Best American Nonrequired Reading 2010, (ed. Dave Eggers)
Pop Matters, October 2010
Witness (Curtis Smith) PrimeNumber.com, Winter 2010
Lift (Rebecca K. O'Connor) RainTaxi Review of Books, Spring 2010

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS/ RESIDENCIES/ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Oglethorpe University Omicron Delta Kappa “Outstanding Faculty” award, 2020
Keynote Speaker, Carolina Mountains Literary Festival, Burnsville NC, (*forthcoming*)
Southern Fiction Prize winner, 2020
The Townsend Prize for Fiction nominee, 2020
SIBA Okra Pick Author, 2019
Indie “Next” list selection, 2019
Wall Street Journal Spring Picks, 2019
The Bitter Southerner Summer Picks, 2019
Books All Georgians Should Read, 2019
Writing in Place Conference, “Nonfiction Prose” Spartanburg, SC 2018
NonfictioNow, “The Eye and the I” Flagstaff, AZ, 2015

Georgia Author of the Year (Nonfiction) Georgia Writers' Association, 2014
 Panelist "How to Write About a Murderer,"
 AWP conference, Seattle, WA. March 2014
 Judge, Nonfiction, The Lamar York Prize, The Chattahoochee Review 2013
 Commencement Speaker, The Dekalb School of the Arts, 2013
 Featured speaker, Governor's School for the Arts, Greenville, SC, 2011
 Featured speaker, Unitarian Universalist Women Writers Conference, 2011
 Residency, The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, Bethany, CT. 2011, 2012
 Panelist, "Narratives of Survival," The Examined Life conference
 Iowa City, IA, 2011
 Panelist, "The Alumni Role in MFA programs" AWP conference, Washington DC. 2011
 Panelist, "Walter Benjamin and Franz Kafka" NonfictionNow Conference,
 Iowa City, IA. 2010
 "Defending the Genre" Oxford Creative Nonfiction Conference,
 Oxford, MS. 2010, 2013, 2013
 Emerging Writer Fellowship, The Writers' Center, Washington, DC. 2010
 "The Writers Life" Oxford Creative Nonfiction Conference, 2010
 Nominee, "Georgia Author of the Year." 2009
Invisible Sisters: A Memoir named to statewide list of "Twenty Five Books All Georgians Should
 Read." 2010-2013
 Featured speaker, Suwannee (Ga.) Festival of Books, 2010
 Featured speaker, The Decatur Book Festival, 2009- present
 Featured speaker, Southern Kentucky Book Festival, Bowling Green, KY. 2010
 Featured speaker, the Atlanta Writers Club, Atlanta, Georgia, 2010
 Panelist, "Wondrous Women and Memorable Lives," Virginia Festival of the Book,
 Charlottesville, Virginia, 2010
 Visiting Writer, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 2010
 Visiting Writer, Wingate University, Wingate, North Carolina, 2010
 Featured Speaker, "Adulthood and Aging," and "Finding Voice in Creative Nonfiction,"
 Wingate University, 2010
 Featured Speaker, "Innovative Research In Creative Nonfiction,"
 The Atlanta Writers Club, 2010

Featured Speaker, The St. Louis Jewish Book Festival, 2009

Featured Speaker, “Moving Forward, Looking Back,” The Decatur Book Festival, Decatur, Georgia. 2009

Peter Taylor Nonfiction Fellow, The Kenyon Review Writers Workshop. Gambier OH.2009

Featured Speaker, “Writing Past Grief,” The Muse and The Marketplace Literary Conference, Grub Street Writers, Boston, Massachusetts. 2009

Finalist, First Annual Hunger Mountain Creative Nonfiction Prize.2008

Special Mention, 2008 Pushcart Prize, essay, “Feeling It, Wanting.” 2008

Panelist, Deep South Festival of Writers, Lafayette, Louisiana,(declined) 2007

Panelist, Associated Writing Programs Annual Conference. “What the Reporter Saw: Journalism Techniques Inform Creative Writing” and “Shalom, Y’all: Jews Writing the South.” Atlanta, Ga. 2007

Creative Writing Fellow, Hambidge Center for the Creative Arts.
Rabun Gap, Ga. 2006

Recipient, Honorable Mention, Penelope Niven Creative Nonfiction Award, Salem College Center for Women Writers, Salem, NC. 2006

Panelist, Pop Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference.
Southern Literature Panel. Atlanta, Ga. 2006

Panelist, Southern Women Writers Conference “Creative Approaches to Southern History.” Paper presented: “The Union Maid.”
Berry College, Mt. Berry, GA. 2005

Recipient, merit scholarship (creative nonfiction).“Writers In Paradise”
workshop study with “Fourth Genre” founder/editor Michael Steinberg, St. Petersburg, FL. 2005

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Judge, fiction. Southern Fried Karma Novel contest. 2017.

Judge, nonfiction. AWP Intro to Journals Project. 2016

Judge, nonfiction, The Pettigru Review, SC Writers Workshop 2016

Workshop leader, VOX summer media café. 2012 - 2104

Emcee, Georgia Author of the Year Awards, 2011

Guest speaker, Dekalb High School Literary Arts Awards, 2011

Judge, “VOX Rox” adult spelling bee fundraiser, 2010

Alumni Advisory Committee, The Paideia School, Atlanta, Ga. 2009-2011

Judge, S.C. Writers Workshop, Carrie McCray Literary Awards, 2007

Guest speaker, DeKalb School of the Arts, Atlanta, Ga. 2007

Workshop leader, 6th-grader students, Inman Middle School, Atlanta, Ga. 2005

Literary and Media grant review panel, Fulton County (Ga) Arts Council. 2005

Script review participant, “The Scenarios Project,” assessing teleplays about sexuality and relationships written by teens. Project underwritten by Planned Parenthood and Showtime Networks 2000

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

Associated Writing Programs (AWP)

Decatur Writers’ Studio (DWS) Founding Member, Advisory Board Member