

April Ayers Lawson

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Education

MFA, Writing, *Pacific Lutheran University*, Tacoma, WA, summer 2008.

MA, English, *Winthrop University*, Rock Hill, SC, fall 2004.

BA, Art, minor, English, *Harding University*, Searcy, AR, spring 2002.

Experience

MFA Faculty for Rainier Writing Workshop Low-residency Program

Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA

August 2017—present

Lecture on craft and lead workshop in fiction and nonfiction during the summer residency. Mentor MFA students during the year through the consistent and intense assessment of fiction and critical manuscripts. Specialized residency classes have included Elements of Horror in Literary Fiction, Elements of the Fantastical in Literary Fiction, a study of the use of repulsion in art, a study of the effects of editing through focus on Raymond Carver's work (examining versions of his stories before and after being edited by Gordon Lish), and the leading of large-group book discussions on books by Alice Munro, Han King, and Milan Kundera.

Fulltime Lecturer in English And Creative Writing

Clemson University, Clemson, SC

Aug 2019—present

Teach Contemporary Literature, World Literature, Screenwriting, and Fiction Writing. Expose undergraduates to a curated selection of 20th and 21st century literary works and international literature, and through the study of these works teach strong critical reading, thinking, and writing skills. Through the study of vibrant and critically acclaimed screenplays, teach screenwriting students the elements of story, and instruct them in writing in the screenplay form through exercises, workshops, and graded assignments. Teach fiction students the craft of fiction through the vigorous study of master literary writers and through the practice of writing their own fiction. Help students learn to generate and shape material, and lead them in making the most of the workshopping process. Stress the necessity of the revision process in all creative writing classes. Inspire students to be avid and discerning observers of life and constructively critical readers. Sustain an open dialogue about the role of story in our lives and consciousnesses. Encourage students to develop a sense of purpose about why they want to make literary art.

Kenan Visiting Writer

University Of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

August 2016—July 2019

Gave a major public reading and participated fully in the life of the Creative Writing Program. Stayed on for the full period of renewability as a Visiting Lecturer. Taught many Introduction To Fiction classes. Generated a high number of returning students for Intermediate Fiction and for the Creative Writing Minor. Took those who had completed the introductory class to the next level through extensive study of point-of-view and character development in Intermediate Fiction Writing.

Lecturer, Fiction Writing

Emory University, Atlanta, GA

August 2015—June 2016

Taught undergraduate fiction writing in the Creative Writing Program.

Writer

June 2010—April 2015

Publishers: Farrar Straus & Giroux; Granta (UK); Rowohlt (Germany); Bompiani (Italy); Gyldendal (Norway); Anagrama (Spain)

Virgin And Other Stories

Completed manuscript scheduled for November 2016 release date.

Instructor, Expository Writing, English Literature

Spartanburg Community College, Spartanburg, SC

August 2005 to December 2010

Taught essay writing and literature. Instructed students in rhetorical strategies. Lead students in examining a variety of published essays, with discussions focusing on structure and technique. Instructed students in becoming critical readers. Sustained student involvement through a range of workshop experiences, and in-class exercises. Fostered student growth on an individual level through detailed responses to student work, and a process-oriented approach to all major writing assignments. Taught students to evaluate and integrate critical research into their writing. Instructed students in critical exploration of a variety of literary texts. Prepared students to incorporate a fundamental understanding of poetry, fiction and literary theory in discussions and critical papers.

Faculty Member, English Literature

Oakbrook Preparatory School, Spartanburg, SC

August 2008 to June 2009

Taught American and British Literature. Strengthened students' critical and creative writing skills through rigorous essay and research assignments. Developed workshops, exercises, and lectures, and led class discussions on a variety of literary topics.

Awards & Honors

A Top Read Of The Year by Granta Magazine, for "Abuse, Silence, And The Light That Virginia Woolf Switched On," 2018

Yaddo Literature Panel, Non-Fiction Prose, 2018
Featured Visiting Writer at Winthrop University, 2018
A Featured Writer at The Festival Of Faith And Writing, 2018
A Featured Writer at Clemson University Literary Festival, 2018
A Featured Writer at The Cork International Story Festival in Ireland, 2017
Featured Visiting Writer for Converse College's winter MFA residency, 2017
Winner of Kenan Visiting Writer Fellowship, University Of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2016-2017
"Three Friends In A Hammock" selected by Huffington Post as one of "15 Stellar Stories You Can Read Online," 2017

Virgin And Other Stories noted as the following:

A Best Foreign Book Of 2018 by Que Leer Magazine [Spain]
A Best Debut of 2017 by The Irish Times
One of Huffington Post's 23 Must-Read Books Women Wrote This Year
Best Book Of The Year by *Vice*, *New York Magazine*, *BOMB*, *Southern Living*, and *Refinery29*
One of *New York Magazine's* "45 New Books to Read This Fall"
One of *The Millions'* "Most Anticipated" for the second half of 2016
One of *The Huffington Post's* "20 New Books You'll Need For Your Shelf in Fall 2016"
One of *The Boston Globe's* "most anticipated" for Fall 2016
Excerpt from novella "Vulnerability" recognized as one of
the *Distinguished Stories in Best American Short Stories, 2016*
Recipient of a *Writing Fellowship from The Corporation of Yaddo, 2015*
Plimpton Prize for Fiction from The Paris Review, 2011
Favorite Short Stories Of The Year 2011, Flavorwire Magazine, 2011
Pushcart Finalist, 2010

Publication

(categorized by Fiction and Nonfiction)

Fiction

Gussi Libros [of Uruguay], 2020, 40 Años de Gussi Libros, "Virgen" (reprint)
Die Welt [of Germany], 2017, September 22 print magazine
insert, "Three Friends In A Hammock" [on the publication day of the book
Jungfrau, the German edition of Virgin And Other Stories](reprint)
Granta (online), 2017, January, "Three Friends In A Hammock" (reprint)
Farrar, Straus and Giroux (US publisher), *Granta Books* (UK publisher),
Gyldendal (Norwegian publisher); *Bompiani* (Italian publisher); *Rowohlt*
(German publisher), *Anagrama* (Spanish publisher), 2016-2018, Virgin And Other Stories
Penguin, 2015, THE UNPROFESSIONALS: New American Writing From The Paris Review, "Virgin" (reprint)
Vice, Summer Fiction Issue 2015, "Three Love Stories" (novella excerpt),

translated into French & Spanish by Vice France and Vice Mexico
ZYZZYVA, 2015, Issue 104, "Vulnerability" (novella excerpt)
Oxford American, Summer Fiction Issue, 2015, "Three Friends In A Hammock"
Granta, Norwegian Edition, Issue 2, 2014, "Virgin" (reprint)
Paragraph Shorts Magazine, Inaugural Issue, 2013, "Virgin" (reprint)
Paragraph Shorts Magazine, Issue 29, 2013, "The Negative Effects Of Homeschooling" (reprint)
Five Chapters, January, 2013, "The Negative Effects Of Homeschooling"
Paris Review, Issue 194, 2010, "Virgin"
Crazyhorse, Issue 75, 2009, "The Way You Must Play Always"
Center: A Journal Of The Literary Arts, Volume 7, 2008, "Beautiful Feet"

Non-fiction

Essays & Memoir

McSweeney's Quarterly, December 2022, "Letter" (forthcoming)
Revista Torquato [of Brazil], July 2020, "Abuse, Silence, and the Light That Virginia Woolf Switched On" (reprint Portuguese translation)
Granta (online), December, 2018, "The Trouble With Rape"
5Harfliler [Turkey], January, 2018, "Abuse, Silence, and the Light That Virginia Woolf Switched On" (reprint, Turkish translation)
Neue Zurcher Zeitung Magazine [Switzerland], July issue, 2018, "After"
Granta, The Generic Love Story Online Edition Issue, August, 2018, "After" (reprint)
Der Spiegel [Germany], March issue, 2018, "Abuse, Silence, and the Light That Virginia Woolf Switched on" (reprint, German translation)
Granta (online), January, 2018, "Abuse, Silence, and the Light That Virginia Woolf Switched on"

Longform

Vice, September, 2014, "The Bickering IS What's Happening: Two Interviews With Whit Stillman"

Interviews

Lithub, August, 2017, "Most Fiction Feels Like A Bunch Of Dumb Stories: Interview with Scott McClanahan"
Vice, May, 2015, "Matt Sumell Gets Into Aggression with 'Making Nice'"
Vice, February, 2015, "How To Leave The Bathroom: An Interview With Clancy Martin, author of 'Love And Lies'"
Bookforum, November, 2014, "Bookforum Talks With Jenny Offill"
Vice, October, 2014, "David Gordon On Desperate Characters, Online Sex Chats, and His Sickly Childhood"
Vice, July, 2014, "The Joy Of Being Elusive And Unstable: An interview with Rivka Galchen"
Vice, July, 2014, "'The Mystery Is In The Ordinary Uncool Things': Interview with Juliet Escoria"
Vice, June, 2014, "Screenwriter Louis Mellis On Starting Out And What An Idea Is"
Vice, June, 2014, "If You're Going To Read Plays, Read Annie Baker's"

Vice, June, 2014, "Good, Evil, And Canada's Aboriginal Kidnappings: An Interview With Adrienne Harun"