

Education

Master of Fine Arts, Fiction. The University of Iowa, 1982

B.A, Indiana University, Comparative Literature, Minor: Film Criticism, 1980

Academic Positions

- Director, Writing Program, Professor of Humanities, Writer-in-Residence, Yale-NUS College, Singapore 2012-Present
- Director, Nonfiction Writing Program, Professor of English, The University of Iowa 2004-2013
- Distinguished Visiting Faculty Member, RMIT, Melbourne 2015 – Present
- Professor Emeritus, The University of Iowa 2012
- Founder and President, NonfictionNOW Conference 2005-Present
- Professor of English, The University of Utah 2001-2004
- Faculty Chair, Vermont College Low-Residency MFA, Montpelier, VT, Faculty Member, 2000-2013 2002-2005
- Inaugural Viebranz Distinguished Visiting Chair in Creative Writing, St. Lawrence University 2001
- Associate, Full Professor of English, Western Washington University 1994-2000
- Assistant, Associate Professor of English, University of North Carolina at Charlotte 1986-1994
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Selected Honors, Grants, and Awards

- Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship (<https://www.bfny.org>) 2015/16
- Distinguished Visiting Faculty, RMIT, Melbourne, Australia 2015/16
- Pushcart Prize for my essay, “To the Rainforest Room” 2012
- Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Fellow 2011
- Hermitage Artist Retreat Fellow 2009
- John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship 2008

Scholarship, Books

- The Diplomat’s Daughter (in circulation) 2017

- I'll Tell You Mine: Essays from the First Thirty Years of the Nonfiction Writing Program at The University of Iowa (University of Chicago Press). 2015
- Turning Life into Fiction (Chinese edition, Renmin University Press). Forthcoming
- Nola, A Memoir of Faith, Art, and Madness (Graywolf Press, 1998; The University of Iowa Press, reissue). 2013
- Field Guide For Immersion Writing: Memoir, Journalism, Travel; (The University of Georgia Press) 2012
- Reply All, Stories (Break Away Books, Indiana University Press) 2012
- The Last Studebaker, a Novel (Graywolf Press, 1992, Break Away Books, Indiana University Press, reissue). 2012
- Do-Over (Little, Brown, Hachette) 2009
- Invented Eden (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003, Bison Books, University of Nebraska Press) 2006
- Turning Life into Fiction (Story Press, 1994, Graywolf Press, reissue). 2006
- Extreme Fiction: Fabulists and Formalists, with Michael Martone (Longman). 2004
- The Big Ear, Stories (John Blair). 1995
- All You Can Eat, Stories (Atlantic Monthly Press). 1988
- The Mouse Town (Word Beat Press). 1987

Selected Publications 2014-2016

- "They Have Forgotten Many Things," an essay about the Falkland/Malvinas, *The Iowa Review*. December 2016
- An Erasure story/essay of mine, "Boy Scouts in the Philippines, or the Key to the Treat Box," in which I uncovered an anti-colonial text within a racist, colonial Young Adult novel from 1911, appeared in *Esquire, Philippines*. August, 2016
- An excerpt from my novel, *The Diplomat's Daughter* in *The Near and the Far: New Stories from the Asia Pacific Region*, (Scribe/Penguin, Australia) July, 2016
- "Riding the Whip" in *Family Resemblance, An Exploration of 8 Hybrid Genres*, Edited by Marcela Sulak and Jacqueline Kosolov. (Rose Metal Press) November, 2015

- “Present” in GET LUCKY, An Anthology of Philippine and Singapore Writings, Edited by Manuelita Contreras-Cabrera, Migs Bravo-Dutt, and Eric Tinsay Valles (Ethos Press, Singapore) November, 2015
- Three lyric essays in Eye/Feel/Write, Experiments in Ekphrasis, edited by Desmond Kon Zhicheng-Mingde (Squircle Line Press, Singapore) October, 2015
- “Field Notes for the Graveyard Enthusiast” in UNION: 15 Years of *Drunken Boat*, 50 Years of Writing From Singapore, Edited By Alvin Pang and Ravi Shankar (Ethos Books, Singapore) October, 2015
- “On the Affection of Fathers for Their Children” in *After Montaigne*, edited by David Lazar and Patrick Madden (University of Chicago Press) October, 2015
- “Border Crossing” an essay in *ORION* Magazine, Volume 34, #4 July/August 2015
- “Riding the Whip,” a story, anthologized in *Life is Short, Art is Shorter*, Edited by David Shields and Elizabeth Cooperman (Hawthorne Books) April 15, 2015
- “Why My Students and I Met with a Potentially Violent Felon in Cuba.” *The New York Observer*. February 7, 2015
- “Remembrance: Merry Prankster, Robert Stone,” *The New York Observer* Jan., 5th, 2015
- Review of *Lost Tribe of Coney Island* by Claire Prentiss in *The New York Times Sunday Book Review* Nov. 14th, 2014
- My short documentary, “Jewish Caviar,” played several international film festivals: The Wine Country Film Festival (Sonoma, CA), The Starz Denver Film Festival, and The San Diego Jewish Film Festival Sept, 2014
- “Lines that Create Motion” in *The Far Edges of the Fourth Genre, An Anthology of Exploration in Creative Nonfiction*, Edited by Sean Prentiss and Joe Wilkins (Michigan State University Press) March, 2014
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Selected Readings, Workshops, and Presentations

- Keynote Address, Asia Pacific Writers and Translators Association Conference, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China Nov. 26, 2016
- NYUAD Writing Studies Working Group, Comparative Writing Program Pedagogy, Abu Dhabi. Nov. 17, 2016
- Creative Writing in the Academy Symposium, presentation Hong Kong Baptist University. Nov. 11, 2016
- Dangerous Truths Workshop, South Australian Writers' Centre Adelaide, South Australia. Nov. 6, 2016
- "Writing from the Diaspora," Panel at Singapore Writers' Festival Nov. 5, 2016
- Reading, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ June 29, 2016
- "Fakes, Frauds, and Forgeries: How to turn Mundane Forms into Lively Stories and Essays," Iowa Summer Writers Festival, Iowa City, IA June 19-24, 2016
- Workshops and Readings at NYU Abu Dhabi April 5, 2016
- Lecture on *Turning Life into Fiction*, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China March 21, 2016
- Faber Academy short course, Allen and Unwin Publishers, Sydney, Australia, "Short Story Beginnings and endings" January, 30, 2016
- Catamaran Literary Conference, Pebble Beach, CA, Workshop Leader. Aug. 12- 16, 2015
- MFA in Creative Writing, City University, Hong Kong, Summer Residency. I led a nonfiction workshop during this residency, gave a reading from my work, and a lecture. July 18 – 25, 2015
- "Writing Your Life" workshop, Bar Luna, three day workshop, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia. May 15-17, 2015
- Bar-Ilan University, Tel Aviv, Israel, Gave Master Class in Creative Nonfiction and reading. May 10-12, 2015
- RMIT, Melbourne, Australia, Lecture: "Ekphrasis, The Lyric Essay Meets Visual Art." April 20th, 2015
- Panelist: "The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing But your Speculations: The Use of Speculation and Other Imaginative Techniques in Creative Nonfiction." At The Associated Writing Programs Conference, Minneapolis, MN. April 11th, 2015
- Panelist: "Other People's Privacy: Secondary Characters in Nonfiction." At The Associated Writing Programs Conference, Minneapolis, MN. April 10th, 2015
- 5th Philippines International Literary Festival, Panelist

- In Conversation with Geoff Dyer, Singapore Writers Festival Nov. 12th-13th, 2014
- Narrow Chimney Reading Series, Flagstaff, Arizona Nov. 8th, 2014
- Melbourne Writers Festival, panels and workshops Sept. 25th, 2014
- Byron Bay Writers Festival, Australia, Workshops and panels Aug. 22nd – 24th 2014
- July 31-Aug 3, 2014

Courses Taught (2014-2015)

- Introduction to Creative Nonfiction
- Introduction to Fiction
- Advanced Creative Nonfiction
- Ekphrasis
- Living Authors
- Introduction to the Arts: Totalitarianism and Its Opponents

Service to the Community

- Inaugural Author-in-Residence, Singapore American School 2016
- Final Judge, Nonfiction, Crazyhorse Literary Competition 2016
- American Writers Festival, Co-Chair, Singapore. For two years, Yale-NUS co-hosted and co-sponsored this literary festival with SMU, The U.S. Embassy, and in 2015, the Singapore American School). Americanwritfest.org 2014, 2015
- Founder and Co-Chair, NonfictioNow. This biennial conference, which I founded in 2005, is a three-day event bringing together hundreds of writers, readers, editors, students and teachers of nonfiction from around the world. Previous conferences have been held at The University of Iowa, RMIT in Melbourne, Australia, and most recently at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. The next conference will be in Reykjavik, Iceland at The University of Iceland. NonfictioNow.org 2005-2015
- Judge for National Arts Council Golden Point Award for Poetry, Singapore. Aug. 27th, 2015

Service to Yale-NUS

- Commencement Student Speaker Committee 2016/17
- Third Year Review Committee 2016
- Search Committee Member for Dean of Students 2015
- Chair, ERT Committee 8/2014- 1/2016
- Chair, CIPE Committee 3/2014 - Present
- Member of Study Abroad Petition Committee 2014- Present
- Organizer of symposium, “What Children Shouldn’t Read, a Global Controversy” at Yale-NUS. 3/3 and 3/4, 2016
- Lecture on Candide for Literature and Humanities 2 4/27, 2015
- Search Committee Member for Senior Art Historian
- Organizer of Yale-NUS Writers Centre Reading Series

Affiliations

- National Book Critics Circle (USA, Voting Member)
- PEN American Center
- Authors Guild
- Associated Writing Programs
- Asia Pacific Writers and Translators Association (Board Member)
- The Iowa Review (Contributing Editor)
- International Writing Program, The University of Iowa (Board Member)