

Jennifer Maritza McCauley

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SUMMARY

Published multi-genre writer with experience in teaching, editing, arts administration, fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, hybrid narratives, and fundraising. Has received an MFA in creative writing (fiction) from Florida International University and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in creative writing and literature from the University of Missouri. Currently a creative writing and literature professor at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Professional Experience

Teaching Experience

YALE YOUNG WRITERS WORKSHOP | JULY 2023

- Responsible for teaching fiction workshops in fiction to junior and senior high school students.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE | AUG 2021 – PRESENT

- Classes: Graduate World/Multicultural Literature: Afro-Latine Narratives, Intro to Creative Writing, Creative Writing, Graduate Creative Writing (Fiction and Hybrid), American Literature survey, Graduate American Literature: Afro-Latinas in the US, Literature and Experience, American Minority Literature (Black Women Writers), American Immigrant Literature, Graduate American Literature (Afro-Latinas in the U.S).

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE | AUG 2020 – MAY 2021

- Classes Taught: Creative Writing, Literature and Experience, Composition 1 (Fall 2020); Graduate Creative Writing, Literature and Experience, American Immigrant Experience

GRADUATE INSTRUCTOR, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA | AUG 2015 – MAY 2020

- Classes Taught: American Literature (Fall 2019), Intermediate Fiction (Spring 2016/Spring 2018/Fall 2018/Spring 2019/Spring 2020), Professional Writing (Fall 2017), Introduction to Fiction (Fall 2016/Spring 2016), English 1000: English Composition (Fall 2015)

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR & GRADUATE INSTRUCTOR, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY | AUG 2011-JULY 2017

- Classes taught: Writing and Rhetoric 1101 (Summer 2012), Introduction to Creative Writing (Fall 2013), Writing and Rhetoric 1102 (Spring 2014/Spring 2015), Essay Writing (Summer 2015)

POETRY IN THE SCHOOLS GUEST TEACHER, DASH HIGH SCHOOL, MIAMI, FLORIDA | APRIL 2013-JUNE 2013

- Guest Teacher for Spring Semester, focus on Spoken Word

UNDERGRADUATE POETRY TA, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH | JAN/2010-MAY/2010

- UTA for poet Lynn Emmanuel's Intro to Poetry Spring Semester at the University of Pittsburgh

Editing & Publishing Experience

PLEIADES | JULY 2018 – PRESENT

- Fiction Editor (July 2018-Present)
- Screener for *Pleiades'* Editors Prize Contest (Summer 2017)
- Story "Esperando" published by previous editorial staff and nominated for Pushcart (accepted in Spring 2017)

MISSOURI REVIEW | AUG 2015 -MAY 2020

- Poetry Editor (Sept. 2018-May 2020)
- Contest Editor (Sept. 2016-June 2018)
- Editorial Assistant TMR Books (Imprint) (Spring 2017)
- Editorial Assistant/audio & contest intern for journal (Sept. 2015-June 2016)

ORIGINS LITERARY JOURNAL | JAN 2014 – SPRING 2017

- Poetry Editor (Spring 2016-Spring 2017)
- Associate Editor (Jan 2014-Jan 2016)
- Interview Series Curator (Authors interviewed: Edwidge Danticat, Heidi W. Durrow, Sandy Rodriguez Barron, Jaquira Diaz and more.)

SLIVER OF STONE | JAN 2014 – SPRING 2017

- Fiction Editor

GULF STREAM LITERARY JOURNAL | JAN 2014 – SPRING 2017

- Staff Member/Interviewer. (Authors Interviewed: Claudia Rankine, Cristina Garcia, Margot Livesy, Hugh Howey, M.J. Rose, Cathy Day, Johnny Temple and others.)

FLORIDA BOOK REVIEW, Miami Florida | JAN 2013 – SEPT 2015

- Contributing Reviews Editor
- Blog post writer for Miami Book Fair

Arts Administration Experience

READING QUEER PROGRAM COORDINATOR- AUG 2014-JUNE 2015

- Responsible for managing website content, organizational efforts, outreach, social media, event set-up and administrative duties for the non-profit Miami LGBTQ literary organization Reading Queer.

MARKETING INTERN, THE CENTER FOR LITERATURE AND THEATRE @Miami Dade College/ MIAMI BOOK FAIR INTERNATIONAL-SEPT 2012- JAN/2014

- Wrote promotional documents, completed marketing and advertising assignments, conducted Miami Book Fair International archive research, wrote author interviews, helped manage major events and conducted social media outreach for the Miami Book Fair International.

MULTIMEDIA ASSISTANT, JUDY MILLER OF MIAMI HERALD/O'MIAMI Miami- FEB/2012- JUN/2012

- Worked with Pulitzer Prize winner Judy Miller for a multimedia project hosted by O'Miami, a South Florida poetry festival.

Education

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, ENGLISH LITERATURE & CREATIVE WRITING | MAY 2020 | UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA

- Gus T. Ridgel Fellow
- Concentration: Creative Writing (Fiction & Poetry), African American Literature, Multi-Genre/Hybrid Literature, Postcolonial Literature, Afro-Latin American Literature

MASTER OF FINE ARTS | SEPT 2014 | FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

- Concentration: Fiction & Poetry
- John S. and James L. Knight Fellow in Fiction

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS | MAY 2011 | UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

- Major: English Writing; Minor: Theatre Arts, Religious Studies
- Magna Cum Laude

Honors & Awards

- *New York Times* Editors' Choice for *When Trying to Return Home*
- Longlisted for Aspen Words Literary Prize
- *When Trying to Return Home* called of the best fiction books of 2023 by *Kirkus Reviews*
- Pushcart Prize nomination for "Foremothers" published by *Obsidian*
- 2020 Visiting Editor at Saint Mary's College of California
- 2020 Artist-in-Residence: In Focus Poetry (University of Missouri-Columbia)
- 2018 National Endowment for the Arts Fellow (Prose)
- Pushcart Prize 2019 "Special Mention" for "Torsion" short story. Pub. in *Vassar Review* (2018)
- Independent Publisher Award for the poetry book *Scar On/Scar Off* (Bronze) – (2018)
- Best of the Net (Non-fiction) Award (2018) for the lyric essay "But There is Also Rosa"
- Prairie Schooner Book Prize Finalist for *When Trying to Return Home*(2018)
- Kimbilio Fellowship (Fiction) (2017)
- CantoMundo Fellowship (Poetry) (2017)
- Poem of the Week by *Split This Rock* for the poem "Old Blood"
- Academy of American Poets University Award from the University of Missouri (2016) for "Loriella is Dead"
- Sundress Publications/SAFTA Academy Fellowship (Cross-Genre) (2016)
- Short Story of the Day@ *The Seattle Review of Books* for "Summer Love on Sidewalks"
- Pushcart Prize Nominee for the story "Bagmen" pub. at *Jabberwock Review*
- 2017 Tarpaulin Sky Book Prize Finalist for SCAR ON/SCAR OFF
- First Place Winner of 2014 FIU Graduate Awards in Fiction
- First Place Winner of 2013 FIU Graduate Awards in Fiction
- First Place Winner of the 2012 FIU Graduate Awards in Creative Non-Fiction
- Awarded an Honorable Mention in *Glimmer Train's* Short Story Contest for New Writers for the piece "Home Ghosts"
- Accepted into, presented fiction, and attended Yale's Writers Conference during the summers of 2012 through 2015.

Selected Publications

- *Kinds of Grace*. (Flowersong Press, Spring 2024.) (Poetry).
- *When Trying to Return Home*. (Counterpoint Press. February 7, 2023) (Book of Short Stories.) *New York Times* Editors' Choice, received starred reviews from *Kirkus Reviews* and *Publishers' Weekly*, called a Best Book of the Month by *Southern Review of Books* and *Ms. Magazine* and "Best Book of 2023" by *Today and Kirkus Reviews*.
- SCAR ON/SCAR OFF (Stalking Horse Press). October 9, 2017. (Book of Poetry)
- "Mami," "Diagnosis" "Ugly" "Tiny Monster" "Inevitable." *Afro-Hispanic Review*. TBA.
- "Where You Are Going, I Have Been." *Texas Review*. TBA
- "Black Planet." *Boston Review*. TBA.

- “Gemelo.” *Jabberwock Review*. March 2024.
- “Waiting” “In the Meadow” “Mental Health” “Worst Case Scenario.” *These Black Bodies Are...* ed. Romaine Washington. Anthology. Print. June 2023. (Poetry) May 2023.
- “10 Afro-Latinas You Need to Read Right Now.” *Electric Literature*. (Non-Fiction.) February 2023.
- "My Mother is My Homeland': Subversive Representations of the Black Puerto Rican Matriarch in Our Lady of the Night/ Nuestra Señora de la noche by Mayra Santos-Febres and Now We Will Be Happy by Amina Gautier". *Journal of Latino-Latin American Studies*. (Critical)
- “Dark Woman” “On Vacation” “Happy Day.” La Libreta Online. January 2023.
- “Recognition.” *Wigleaf*. (Fiction.) Release date TBA.
- “Ancestry.” *Journal of Western Folklore*. (Poetry) Release date TBA.
- “Girl Candela” “After Psalm 23” “Baggage” “Kinds of Grace.” *Writing the Self-Elegy: The Past Is Not Disappearing Ink*. Ed. Kara Dorris. Anthology. (Poetry) (Southern Illinois Press). (May 2023)
- “Past” “Aren’t You Afraid?” “Retribution” “Rooting” “Without Control.” *Big Other*. Ed. John Madera. (Poetry) (June 2022).
- “Fore-Mothers: Recreation, Canonization, Diaspora.” *Obsidian: Literature and Arts in the African Diaspora*, Illinois State University. (January 2021). (Poetry & Fiction/Hybrid) Received a Pushcart Prize nomination.
- “Lost in Montjuïc, After Losing.” “Descansar.” *Zone 3*, Austin Peay State University. (May 2021.) (Poetry)
- “Because Tigers,” “In Daddy’s House.” *Acentos Review*. June 2020. (Poetry).
- “Mama Diaspora,” “Help I’m Fine!” *Columbia Journal*, Columbia University. February 2020. (Fiction).
- *The Breakbeat Poets Anthology Volume 4: LatiNEXT* (HayMarket Books). “Afro-Colossus.” Anthology. ed. Felicia Rose Chavez, José Olivarez, Willie Perdomo. January 2020. (Poetry)
- “Access” *Making Good Time: True Stories of How We Do, and Don’t, Get Around in South Florida* (Jai Alai Books). Anthology. Print. ed. Lynne Barrett. “Access.” Sept. 2019. (Non-Fiction)
- “Blackout/Apagón.” *Puerto Rico en mi corazón* (Anomalous Press). Ed. by Raquel Salas Rivera, Ricardo Maldonado, Carina Del Valle Schorske, & Erica Mena. Anthology. August 2019. (Poetry)
- Excerpt from *Kingfolk: A Novel*. *Inspicio Magazine*, Florida International University. March/April 2018. (Fiction)
- “Esperando.” *Pleiades*, University of Central Missouri. (January 2019.) (Fiction)
- “Torsion.” *Vassar Review*, Vassar College. Print. Fall 2017, awarded Special Mention in Pushcart Prize 2019 anthology. (Fiction)
- “When Trying to Return Home,” “Rebel-ed Language.” (Reprint) *Latinas: Protests and Struggles in the 21st Century USA* (Red Sugarcane Press) (Anthology.) (Poetry) January 2018.
- “An End.” *Columbia Journal*, Columbia University. April 2017. (Lyric Essay)
- “Loriella is Dead” (republished) *Academy of American Poets/Poets.org*. (March 2017) (Poetry)
- “But There is Also Rosa.” *Passages North*, Northern Michigan University. Received “Best of the Net” award. January 2017. (Lyric Essay)
- “Bagmen.” *Jabberwock Review*, Mississippi State University. March 2017. (Fiction) Received a Pushcart Prize Nomination.

- “Baby Dolls.” *The Los Angeles Review*. Spring 2017. (Lyric Essay)
- “I Don’t Know Where I’m Bound.” *Just to Watch Them Die: Crime Fiction Inspired by Johnny Cash*. (Gutter Books) Print. Anthology. (Fiction) August 2017.
- “Old Blood.” *Split This Rock/The Quarry: Poem of the Week*. Online. (Poetry)
- “Fevers,” *Gravel*, University of Arkansas at Monticello. (Fiction)
- “Loriella is Dead, “A Mother to Her Star,” “Brother Invisible” + Interview,” *Puerto del Sol*, New Mexico State University. (Poetry/Flash Fiction) (January 2016)
- “Nothing, Love,” *New Delta Review*, Louisiana State University. Fall 2016. (Fiction)
- “Ghosts of Dead Boy Street,” *For Harriet*. Fall 2016. (Poetry)
- “The Other Saints of New Orleans,” *Deep South Magazine*. October 2014. (Flash Fiction).

Selected Presentations

- 5/19/2023, Plenary Speech. Miami Dade College.
- WHEN TRYING TO RETURN HOME Book Tour: Brazos Bookstore (2/3), Books & Books (2/7/2023), Café Con Libros (2/9), Lone Star College (12/17), Left Bank Books (3/2), White Whale Bookstore (3.17), Unbound Book Festival (4/22), Montclair Book Festival (5/6)
- Nov. 9th. 2022. Reading with J. Estanislao Lopez and Ayokunle Falamo at Brazos Bookstore (Houston, Texas).
- Nov.6th, 2022. Reading at the Fall Festival “Dream with Alebrijes” at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. (Houston, Texas).
- Oct. 21st, 2022. Reading with Glenn Shaheen and Andrew Kozma at Basket Books Bookstore. (Houston, Texas)
- Sept 28.th, 2002. Puerto Rican Writers Reading, hosted by John Madera at The People’s Forum. (New York City, NY.)
- Sept.17, 2022. “Short Prose Workshop.” Reading Queer. (Miami, Florida) (Remote.)
- March 9th,2022. “Navigating the In-Between: Afro-Latinx Identity in the U.S.” University of Houston-Clear Lake. (Houston, TX) (Remote)
- February 18, 2022. Reading at the Sin Muros Latinx Theatre Festival. (Houston, TX.)
- February 10th, 2022. Black Latinx Poetry Reading, with Yesenia Montilla, Malcolm Friend and Darrel Alejandro Holnes at White Whale Bookstore. (Pittsburgh, PA) (Remote)
- January 11th, 2022. Reading with Kai Coggin, Steven Reigns, & Esteban Rodriguez for Dustin Brookshire’s Wild and Precious Life Series. (Remote)
- July 28th, 2021. Conversation with Marisel Vera at White Whale Bookstore. (Pittsburgh, PA.) (Remote)
- July 27th 2021. “Beyond the Looking Glass: Using Opposites and Mirroring in Creative Writing.” Saint Leo University (Tampa, Florida.) (Remote)
- April 15-17, “Poetry in a Pandemic” and Literary Reading at 2021 Little Grassy Literary Festival. (Carbondale, IL.) (Remote)
- March 2nd, 2021. “Representations in Publishing.” Unbound Book Festival (Columbia, MO) (Remote)
- Nov.4th, 2020. Literary Reading with Nicole Chung at Saint Mary’s College of California (Remote)

- September 28 2020. “A Conversation with Jennifer Maritza McCauley.” Hispanic Heritage Month: Latinx and Latin American Association at University of Houston- Clear Lake. (Houston, TX). (Remote).
- February 5th, 2020: Guest Writer at Saint Leo University (Tampa, FL.)
- Sept 19-22, 2019: &Now Festival of Innovative Writing at University of Washington, Bothell. “Form and (Dis)Content, Volume II: Speculative and Experimental Approaches to Language by Authors of Color” with Krista Franklin, Kenning JP Garcia, Douglas Kearney and Rone Shavers (Bothell, WA).
- Sept. 9, 2019 “Creative Habit” panel with Carley Gomez, Jacob Griffin Hall, Bailey Boyd. Stephens College. (Columbia, MO).
- August 25th, 2019: Sundress Publications Reading with Jeff Amos and Chloe-Firetto Toomey (Knoxville, TN).
- March 26, 2019- “Poetry at the Point” Reading at the St. Louis Poetry Center with Stephanie Ellis Schlaifer and Bridget McDonald. (St. Louis, MO)
- November 2018 “The Poetics of Fury” 2018 at CD Wright Women Writer’s Conference (Conway, AR)
- April 20th, 2018 Panelist on “Mixed Race, Mixed Genres” New Orleans Poetry Festival (New Orleans, LA)
- April 10, 2018 Reader on “Mother/Child” Woman Made Gallery Literary Series. (Chicago, IL)
- March 10, 2018 “Crossways and Crosses: Caribbean Women Writers on Immigration, Deportation, and Identity.” AWP 2018. (Tampa, Florida.)
- March 10th, 2018 “Where Are All the Female Editors?” AWP 2018. (Tampa, Florida.)
- February. 7th, 2018 “Intersectionality & Story Telling.” Stephens College (Columbia, MO.)
- October 18, 2016: Visiting Writer for Stephens College’s Hispanic Heritage Month. (Columbia, MO.)