

Professional Experience

Teaching Experience

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY/AUG 2024-Present

- Classes to be taught: Contemporary Fiction, Multi-Genre Workshop (Fall 2024)

YALE WRITERS' WORKSHOP (ON CAMPUS) | JULY 2024

- Responsible for teaching workshops in fiction to adults on the Yale campus and providing individualized workshops.

YALE YOUNG WRITERS WORKSHOP (Remote) | JULY 2023

- Responsible for teaching 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-Latinx Narratives, 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)

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)

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*
- *When Trying to Return Home* longlisted for Aspen Prize 2024
- 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) (then called "Where I'm Bound")
- Kimbilio Fellowship (Fiction) (2017)
- CantoMundo Fellowship (Poetry) (2017)
- Academy of American Poets University Award from the University of Missouri (2016) for "Loriella is Dead"
- Sundress Publications/SAFTA Academy Fellowship (Cross-Genre) (2016)
- Awarded an Honorable Mention in *Glimmer Train's* Short Story Contest for New Writers for the piece "Home Ghosts"
- Finalist for Big Moose Prize (Black Lawrence Press) for the manuscript "Song for Billie" (2024)

Selected Publications

- *Kinds of Grace* (Flowersong Press) (June 24, 2024.) (Poetry Collection).
- *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*, *Kirkus Reviews* and *Ms. Magazine* and "Best Book of 2023" by *Today*.

- SCAR ON/SCAR OFF (Stalking Horse Press). October 9, 2017. (Book of Poetry)