

Mercedes Lucero

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in English Literature & Creative Writing, University of Kansas, May 2019
Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, Northwestern University, December 2014
Bachelor of Arts with Honors in English Literature, *magna cum laude*, Missouri
Western State University, May 2012

DISSERTATION

ThreadSpeak is a dissertation which uses autoethnography to describe and analyze a personal experience of trauma in order to understand larger social, cultural, and historical frameworks. In an effort to challenge canonical ways of conducting research, I combine scholarship, autobiographical writing, diary entries, poetry, letters, family stories, documents, photographs, and personal-family-social artifacts. What emerges is a quilt-like bricolage of both transgenerational and cultural trauma mapping as well as a study of how acts of violence are rooted within structural systems of power and disadvantage.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Stereometry, Another New Calligraphy, Summer 2018

Chapbooks

In the Garden of Broken Things, Flutter Press, Fall 2016

Short Fiction

"Model Survivors," *Jellyfish Review*, Spring 2019
"Pamphlet for New Humans," *Defenestration Magazine*, Spring 2018
"How to Heal a Family in 3 Easy Steps," *Fiction Southeast*, Winter 2018
"Stereometry," *Fourteen Hills*, Summer 2017
"The Bicycle Ride," *Five on the Fifth*, Summer 2016
"Hardened Girls," *The Literary Nest*, Winter 2016
"Playground," *Pinch Journal*, Summer 2015
"In the Privacy of Windows," *Inwood Indiana*, Spring 2015
"Burying Marlon Brando," *Curbside Splendor*, Winter 2015
"Six Possible Reasons Amy Becomes a Whore," *Weave Magazine*, Summer 2014
"Missing Girls," *Drunk Monkeys*, Winter 2013
"What is Left Behind," *Printers Row Journal*, Fall 2013
"The Zoo," *Decomp Magazine*, Fall 2013
"Where the Children Are," *eFiction Magazine*, Fall 2013
"In the Garden of Broken Things," *Apt*, Fall 2013
"A Brief History of Open Windows," *Forge Journal*, Summer 2013
"Defining Things," *Kalyani Magazine*, Spring 2013
"What We Know About Flying Without Wings," *The Writing Disorder*, Winter 2013
"Memories I Cannot Recall," *Mouse Tales Press*, Spring 2012
"Three Bricks Shy," *Whitefish Review*, Fall 2011
"Arms," *Canvas*, Spring 2011

Prose Poems

"Crayola Kind of Love," *Occulum Magazine*, Winter 2018
"Astronomical Bodies," *Paper Darts Magazine*, Summer 2017
"The Possible Causes of Your Suffering," *Paper Darts Magazine*, Spring 2017
"We Had Not Yet Learned To Dissolve," from *Stereometry*, *Visitant Lit*, Spring 2017

"Sadness as a Fire Alarm," from *Stereometry, Visitant Lit*, 2017
"Tell Me the Story of How I was Born," from *Stereometry, Visitant Lit*, Spring 2017
"How Our Scars Will Fall into Place," from *Stereometry, Visitant Lit*, Spring 2017
"One Day is All You Can Do Sometimes," from *Stereometry, Visitant Lit*, Spring 2017

Poetry

"Word Problems," *Josephine Quarterly*, Fall 2017.
"Tomorrow Will be Beautiful," *Voicemail Poems*, Summer 2017
"Kim Jong-Un Listening to Miley Cyrus While on His Way to a Burger King," *Crack the Spine Literary Magazine*, Winter 2013
"Grandfather," *Touchstone*, Summer 2013
"Impact," *Burner Magazine*, Fall 2011
"Saving Our Ship," *Calliope*, Fall 2011
"How Much Younger," *Calliope*, Fall 2011

Visual Poetry

"I am Ready to Quilt Myself into Myself," textile collage series, *Roanoke Review*, Spring 2019

Anthologized Poetry

"The Possible Causes of Your Suffering," *Paper Darts Volume Seven*, Summer 2018
"One Night Stand," *Wonder Fair Poet Laureate Project* (chapbook), Spring 2018
"How Much Cosmic Occurrence Befalls Upon Universe," *Kansas' Best Emerging Poets*, Spring 2018
"Defining Things," *A Guide to Writing About Mood*, Spring 2018
"Impact," *The Blinking Anthology*, Fall 2011

Creative Nonfiction and Essays

"A History of Hands as Told to Me by My Grandmother," *New Ohio Review*, Spring 2019
"Something Like Sand," *Talking Writing*, Spring 2018
"Key Concepts," *Visitant Lit*, Spring 2017
"An Owner's Manual," *Fjords Review*, Winter 2017
"This is What it Means to Say 'Black Hair'," *Narrative Northeast*, Fall 2014

Visual Poetics

"I Am Ready to Quilt Myself Into Myself," *The Continental Review*, Spring 2019
"Notitia," video essay, *A Bad Penny Review*, Spring 2018

Craft Essays

"Toward Inspiration as Craft," *CRAFT Literary Magazine*, Summer 2018

Book Reviews

Chenoo: A Novel by Joseph Bruchac, *New Orleans Review*, Spring 2017
A Jellyfish for Every Name by David Rawson, *Heavy Feather Review*, Spring 2015

CONFERENCES

"Toward Inspiration as Craft," Creative Writing Studies Conference; Montreat Conference Center; Montreat, NC, 2018
"'It Belongs to Us:' Magical Realism as a Mode of Resistance in Gloria Naylor's *Mama Day*," Celebrating African American Literature and Language Conference ; Penn State University; State College, PA, 2016
"The Truth About Torture: A Closer Look at the Torture of Women in Bret Easton Ellis' *American Psycho*," PCA/ACA International Conference; Boston, MA, 2012

TEACHING AND RESEARCH POSITIONS

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Kansas, English Department, 2016-2019

Research Assistant to Laura Moriarty, University of Kansas, 2015-16
English 101 Workshop Leader, Missouri Western State University, 2012

COURSES TAUGHT

ENGL 101: Composition (6 sections), University of Kansas
ENGL 102: Critical Reading and Writing (4 sections), University of Kansas
ENGL 102 Online: Critical Reading and Writing (1 section), University of Kansas
ENGL 220: Introduction to Creative Writing (2 sections), University of Kansas

EDITORIAL AND CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

Fiction Curator, Big Tent Reading Series, 2017-Present
Writing & Editorial Intern, *Hallmark Cards Inc.*, 2018
Nonfiction Editor, *Beecher's Magazine*, 2017-2018
Founder & Editor-in-Chief, *Spectrum Extract*, 2013 - 2017
Fiction Editor, *Beecher's Magazine*, 2016-2017
Assistant Fiction Editor, *Beecher's Magazine*, 2015-16
Publishing Intern & Reader, *TriQuarterly*, 2013
Staff & Assistant, *The Mochila Review*, 2011
Staff & Contributor, Missouri Western State University Yearbook, 2009

AWARDS AND HONORS

Finalist, Sandy Crimmins National Poetry Prize, 2019
Semi-finalist, Top Very Short Fictions, *Wigleaf*, 2018
Honors, *KC Studio Magazine*, 2017
Pushcart Prize Nomination, *Josephine Quarterly*, 2017
Winner, Langston Hughes Creative Writing Award (Poetry), 2017
Pushcart Prize Nomination, *Five on the Fifth*, 2016
Finalist, *Glimmer Train's* Very Short Fiction Award, 2016
Diversity Fellowship, University of Kansas, 2015
Semi-finalist, RopeWalk Press Fiction Editor's Chapbook Prize, 2015
Pushcart Prize Nomination, *Mouse Tales Press*, 2012
Winner, "Best Piece of Prose," *Canvas*, 2011
Honorable Mention in *Author Stands'* 8th Annual Short Story Contest, 2011
Regents Academic Scholarship, Missouri Western State University, 2008-12

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

Zinn Writer in Residence, Liberty Memorial Middle School, Lawrence, KS, 2019
"Experimental Writing," Young Authors Camp, Workshop, Lawrence Public Library, 2018
"Toward Inspiration as Craft," Office of Multicultural Affairs Lecture Series, Presentation & Workshop, Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center, 2018
"Writing About Emotion in Fiction," Community Writing Workshop Series, Presentation & Workshop, 2012

PUBLIC READINGS

Visiting Writer Series; Lawrence, KS 2019
6th Annual Poetry Fair; Lawrence, KS 2019
Femme Fest; Lawrence, KS 2019
Drip Torch Reading Series; Manhattan, KS 2018
Words Save Lives; Lawrence, KS 2018
Big Tent Reading Series; Lawrence, KS 2018
Stereometry Book Release Party; Lawrence, KS 2018
Wonder Fair Poet Laureate Reading; Lawrence, KS 2018
Open Mic Night Featured Poet; Lawrence, KS 2018
Taproom Poetry Series; Lawrence, KS 2017

Words Save Lives; Lawrence, KS 2017
Big Tent Reading Series; Lawrence, KS 2017
Graduate Reading Series; Lawrence, KS 2017
Langston Hughes Creative Writing Awards Ceremony; Lawrence, KS, 2017
Big Tent Reading Series; Lawrence, KS, 2016
Graduate Reading Series; Lawrence, KS, 2015
PCA/ACA International Conference; Chicago, IL, 2014
Missouri Western State University Writing Awards Ceremony; St. Joseph, MO, 2012

SERVICE

Creative Writing Committee, Student Association of Graduates in English, University of Kansas,
2017-2018
Events Committee, Student Association of Graduates in English, University of Kansas,
2015-2018
Fundraising Committee, Student Association of Graduates in English, University of
Kansas, 2016-2017
Fundraising Committee, *Beecher's Magazine*, University of Kansas, 2016-2017
Public Face/Alumni Relations Committee, Student Association of Graduates in English,
University of Kansas, 2016-2017
English and Literacy Tutor, Center for Community Outreach, University of Kansas, 2015-2017

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Creative Writing Studies Organization (CWSO), 2018
- National Association of African American Studies (NAAAS), 2014-Present
- Sigma Tau Delta, National English Honor Society (NEHS), 2012-Present
- Pop Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA), 2012-Present