

# 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**

Writing Instructor, Lawrence Arts Center, Lawrence, KS, 2019-Present

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**

CAW11: Found Forms, Lawrence Arts Center  
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**

Flash Fiction Reader, *Split Lip Magazine*, 2019-Present  
Poetry Editor, *Snarl*, 2019-Present  
Fiction Curator, Big Tent Reading Series, 2017-2019  
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)
- National Association of African American Studies (NAAAS)
- Sigma Tau Delta, National English Honor Society (NEHS)
- Pop Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA)