

Chris Girman

Department of Literary Arts & Social Justice
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2016- Associate Professor of English, Point Park University

EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D., English (Program for Writers), The University of Illinois at Chicago
2010 M.F.A., (Creative Writing), The University of Texas Pan-American
2002 J.D., The University of Texas at Austin
2002 M.A., Latin American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
1995 B.A., International Affairs, The George Washington University
1993 Universidad Católica (semester abroad – Perú)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Creative nonfiction pedagogy, childhood memoir, essayists, critical animal studies, cultural critique, queer travel, LGBTQ literature and culture, Latinx literature, sports literature and culture, critical masculinity theory, resistance narratives, 19th Century naturalism

PUBLICATIONS

Book

2007 *The Chili Papers*. Velluminous Press. 2007.
2004 *Mucho Macho: Seduction, Desire, and the Homoerotic Lives of Latin Men*. Haworth Press: Gay and Lesbian Studies Series. 2004.

Journal/Anthologies/Book Reviews

2018 “Refurbishing.” Posted in *During Office Hours* (writing activity and pedagogy).
2016 “Wrestling Windmills.” In *What I Didn’t Know about Becoming a Teacher*. Ed. Lee Gutkind. In Fact Books, October 2016.
2016 “Happily Lost” (Review of Sara Einstein’s *Mot: A Memoir*). *American Book Review*, Spring 2016.
2012 “Diaries, Dicks, and Desire: How the Leaky Traveler Troubles Dominant Discourse in the Eroticized Caribbean.” *Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change* (March 2012).

Magazines/Poetry/Drama

2021 “How a Boy Gets Broken.” *Salt Hill Journal*. (Spring 2021, Issue #45).
2020 Selected Poems (“Laney”/ “Pinch”/ “Swath Myself in Gratitude”). *Dreich Magazine* (Aug. 2020, issue #8).

- 2009 "A Different Kind of Paradise." *The Monitor* (2009).
- 2009 "Love Poem to My Son." *Glass: A Journal of Poetry* (2009).
- 2001 "*Blowing Bujarrones: Desde Santo Domingo hasta San Antonio, a Performative Ethnography.*" Performed at The University of Texas at Austin (2001).

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Let's Get Woke: Critical Consciousness in the CNF Classroom." Journal article under review at *Journal of Creative Writing Studies*.

"How to Poop in Cuba: Essays" – Memoir essay manuscript under review at several publishing houses.

LECTURES/READINGS/CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2022 "Y no se lo tragó la tierra: The Place of Anti-Oppressive Education in South Texas Resistance Narratives." College English Association Conference, Birmingham
- 2021 "(Not-So) Happy Objects." Engage with Research October 2021 Panel on Sara Ahmed's work. Point Park Department of Community Engagement Reading Series
- 2019 "Let's Get Woke: Critical Consciousness in the CNF Classroom." College English Association Conference, New Orleans
- 2019 "I Don't Know What the Finch Wants to Say." Featured Reader. *Saturday Reading Series*, City Books
- 2018 "Refurbishing: How to Reimagine Actual People in CNF Characterization." Creative Nonfiction Magazine Annual Conference, Pittsburgh
- 2018 "Wrestling Windmills." Featured Reader. *Poetry Reading Series*. Riverstone Books, Pittsburgh
- 2018 Select Flash Nonfiction. Featured Reader. *Duquesne University Coffee House Reading Series*, Pittsburgh
- 2017 "Telling Sexy Stories: Sex and the Memoir." HippoCamp Nonfiction Conference. Lancaster, Pennsylvania
- 2017 "The Artistry of Characterization." Creative Nonfiction Magazine Annual Conference, Pittsburgh
- 2017 "What I Didn't Know about Teaching" Special Guest. *BlogTalkRadio Today*. Author discussion
- 2017 "The Role of LGBTQ Literature in the Present Political Climate." Special Guest Contributor. *On Point with Politics w/ Dannys Marrero*, Pittsburgh
- 2014 Referee of "Gay Tourists: A Niche too Far?" for *Tourism Management*, September 2014
- 2013 "The Role of Story and Voice in Central America's Illegal Child Immigrants." UNAM Young Lawyers Summer Program Presentation, Chicago
- 2010 "All About the Kids: Teacher Man Revisited." Region One Educational Forum, Edinburg, Texas
- 2007 "Mucho Macho: Resistance or Reinscription?" Abriendo Brecha Conference, University of Texas at Austin
- 2005 "Historical Representations of Same-Sex Desire in Esteban Echeverría's "El Matadero" and Reinaldo Arenas's "Comienza el Desfile." Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, Caribbean Marginalities Conference, Dominican Republic.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Point Park University

ENGL 147: Writing Studio I
ENGL 148: Writing Studio II
ENGL 200: Introduction to Creative Writing
ENGL 252: The Art of Creative Nonfiction
ENGL 254: The Art of the Short Story
ENGL 255/SJS 200: LGBTQ Literature & Culture
ENGL 255: Latino Literature
ENGL 255: Sports Literature
ENGL 301: Animals in Literature
ENGL 301: Latinx Literature & Culture
ENGL 365: Creative Nonfiction Workshop I
ENGL 401: Intermediate Creative Nonfiction Workshop II
ENGL 402: Advanced Creative Nonfiction Workshop III
ENGL 300: Animals in Literature
ENGL 420: Senior Symposium
JOUR 596: Independent Study

Independent Studies

- Advanced Creative Nonfiction (Gianna Balsamico)
- Graduate Creative Nonfiction (Amy Philips-Haller)

Honors Projects

- Sydney Jones – “Scene and Reflection: How Narrative Modes Drive Creative Nonfiction”
- Sarah Juba – The “The Power of Romance Novels”
- Taylor Fife – “The Basic Essentials of Nature Essay Writing”

Senior Capstone Advisor/Mentor/Reader

- Addison Domingo – “More Than Meets the Eye” (*CNF & Poetry*)
- Alec Ebeling – “A Thousand Points of Remembering: Collected Works 2015-2018” (*Poetry*)
- Alex Snow – “How Does She Do it?” (*CNF & Fiction*)
- Anna Shields – “Smashing the Magic Mirror: An Analysis of Feminist Politics in Fairytales New and Old” (*Literature & Gender Studies*)
- Cassie Bruno – “I Could Have Starred on Dance Moms” (*CNF & Fiction*)
- Elizabeth Anderson – “Voiceless Laughter, Silent Screaming, Tearless Weeping” (*CNF & Poetry*)
- Giovoni Lebrun – “Living Life in the 21st Century: How Thoreau Wanted It” (*Literary Analysis*)
- Halle Compton – “On Youth, Trauma and Flaws” (*CNF & Fiction*)
- Holly Spenser – “Leaning into My Margins” (*CNF & Fiction*)
- Karisa Sosnoski – “Honored Men, Stagnant Women: A Study of Hegemonic Masculinity in Detective Fiction” (*Literature & Gender Studies*)
- Lauren Hunter – “things I say to my therapist at 4:59 pm” (*Poetry & CNF*)
- Linda Dewey – “Don’t Tell Me to Be Silent” (*CNF & Fiction*)
- Maddie Mikaska – “The Invisibility of Queer Domestic Abuse” (*LGBTQ Literary Criticism & Cultural Critique*)

- Maria Buren – “The Coexistence of Religious Liberties and LGBTQ Rights Post-*Obergefell* and Political Polarization under the Trump Administration” (*LGBTQ Cultural Critique*)
- Mia Folino – “The Myth of the Cowboy: Examining Gender and Masculinity in Anthony Mann’s Westerns, *Unforgiven*, and *Brokeback Mountain*” (*Film & Gender Studies*)
- Sara Hilty – “Please Don’t Notice Me (but Don’t Ignore Me)” (*CNF & Fiction*)
- Shalace Moore – “I’m Not as Nice as I Think I Am” (*CNF & Fiction*)
- Wes Stuckey – “For Me, It’s Always Like This: Symbols and Storytelling in *Silent Hill 2*” (*Multimedia & Gender Studies*)

Illinois Institute of Technology (Adjunct Instructor)

Lit 380: Latino Literature
 Hum 201: Introduction to Academic Writing
 Lit 380-1: Anthropology of Masculinity
 Com 380/Lit 380-2: Nonfiction Workshop
 Com 380/Lit 380-1: Gender and Sexuality Literature
 Lit 380-2: Sports in Literature
 Lit 380-2: Literature of Travel
 Lit 380-1: Real Men in Fiction

University of Illinois at Chicago (Graduate Instructor)

ENGL 105: English and American Fiction
 ENGL 117: Literature of Gender and Sexuality
 ENGL 201: Creative Nonfiction Workshop
 ENGL 160: Introduction to Academic Writing I
 ENGL 101: Understanding Literature
 ENGL 161: Introduction to Academic Writing II

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Point Park University

Spring 2022	Co-Organizer, Literary Arts / SJS Undergraduate Research Symposium
Spring 2022	Interim Literature Program Coordinator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, co-lead, and participate in English Program Assessment • Work with Chair to schedule and staff upper- and lower-division Literary Arts courses • Solicit and discuss part-time faculty proposals for ENGL 255 and upper-level literature courses • Rate ENGL 255 and upper-level literature courses for inclusion into the schedule • Meet with Chair to discuss course schedule and staffing concerns • Solicit feedback from part-time faculty about scheduling, student concerns, course expectations, and other topics.
2021-2022	Nominated for the Point Park University Distinguished Teaching Award
2021-Present	Member, Student Affairs and Enrollment Committee
2021	Faculty Sponsor, Out N’Open LGBTQIA Creative Reading as part of National Coming Out Week – Sponsored by Name (Pen)ding and GSSA
2021	Member, LGBTQ+ Media Planning Committee for Fall 2021 campus CMI event
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review QBurgh Magazine archive data base to select images for event

- Coordinate evening event – “50 Years of coming out: a celebration of queer media in Pennsylvania” – with QBurgh and National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA)
 - Plan campus “Coming Out Week” events in conjunction with the Office of Equity & Inclusion and Dr. Jehnie Burns
- 2021 Interviewee, Point Park University Profile with Nicole Chynoweth
- 2020-2021 Chair, Campus Academic Resources Committee
- Set agenda and lead meetings
 - Work with CARC and Provost’s Office to review policies and procedures for faculty development funding requests
 - Work with the Center for Inclusive Excellence and Faculty Graduate Committee to plan faculty and graduate student research presentations
 - Put out nominations for Distinguished Teaching Award (DTA)
 - Organize subcommittee to lead the DTA selection process
- 2020 Co-Chair, Distinguished Teaching Award Subcommittee
- Logged and compiled campus nominations
 - Distributed and reviewed application packets
 - Drafted and distributed Provost congratulatory letter
 - Proposed changes for subsequent selection criteria
- 2019-2020 Member, Campus Academic Resources Committee
- 2019- Present Faculty Organizer and Sponsor, Point Park Name Pen(ding) CW Club
- 2019 Observer, Creative Writing Program (*conducted multiple faculty observations, evaluations, and conference reports*)
- 2019 Panel Participant, “Frank Discussions about Diversity,” hosted by Point Park’s SHRA
- 2019 Co-organizer, PP student publishing media announcement
- 2018 Lead Organizer, Visiting Poet Annah Browning
- 2018 Member of SafeZone, LGBTQ support
- 2018 Lead Organizer, Hispanic Heritage Month campus events
- 2017-2018 Member, Student Affairs Committee
- Sole Author, proposal to Dean of Students to better regularize athlete absences and support services
- 2017 Video Interview, Guest interviewee w/ Sarah Mullin on Hispanic Heritage Month events
- 2017 Faculty Sponsor, *All Things Horror Club* Hispanic Appreciation Movie Night
- 2017 LGBTQ Panel Organizer, Literary Arts Undergraduate Research Symposium
- 2017-Present Participant, Faculty & Student “Ten Evenings” local readings
- 2017-Present Panel Moderator, Literary Arts Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium
- 2017-Present Writer, Student Recommendation Letters (20+)
- 2017-Present Reader, Senior Seminar Capstone Portfolios (25+)
- 2017-Present Participated in assessment for Creative Writing Program
- 2017 Participated in assessment for Literature Program
- 2016-2018 Liaison and Student Coordinator, *Creative Nonfiction Magazine* 2017 & 2018 Conference.
- Assist conference logistics with the Center for Media Innovation and CNF Magazine
 - Organize student volunteers and select scholarship participants
 - Assist guest speakers, attendees, and Point Park community members

- Present on characterization at the conference
- 2016-Present Represent ENGL/ CW at Open House events, Accepted Student Days, and Pioneer Days
- 2016-Present Attendee, campus creative writing guest lecturers and speakers
- 2016-Present Attendee, Literary Arts faculty meetings

The University of Illinois-Chicago & The Illinois Institute of Technology

- 2015 Director. UIC Senior Honors Thesis Committee (2015)
- 2015 Supervisor, UIC First Year Writing Program Portfolio Review Committee
- 2014 Participant. First Year Writing Program UIC Panel Discussion
- 2013-2015 Judge. Illinois Institute of Technology Lewis Department of Humanities Undergraduate Writing Contest
- 2013-2015 Member, UIC First Year Writing Program Portfolio Review Committee

Relevant Related Experience:

- 2010-2013 English and Literature AP Specialist: College Preparatory Reading and Writing SAT/ACT Classes (Univ. of Chicago Woodlawn High School; Univ. of Chicago Laboratory HS) School)
- 2006-2010 B.L. Garza Middle School History Teacher and Bilingual Specialist
- 2008-2009 Pro Bono Attorney, South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project, PROBAR, Harlingen, Texas. Legal support of undocumented children at the US/Mexico border

LANGUAGES

Spanish: speaking, writing and reading proficiency

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/LICENSES

Association of Writers and Poets (AWP)
 Modern Language Association (MLA)
 College English Association (CEA)
 State Bar of Texas
 National Council for Teachers of English

REFERENCES

Karen Dwyer, Associate Professor of Creative Writing and Director of the Creative Program, Point Park University / Email: kdwyer@pointpark.edu
 Jessica McCort, Associate Professor of Composition and Rhetoric, Point Park University
 Email: jmccort@pointpark.edu
 Jesus Ramirez-Valles, Director Health Equity Institute, San Francisco State University
 Email: jrv@sfsu.edu