

# Chris Girman

Department of Literature, Culture, and Society  
Point Park University  
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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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2016- Associate Professor of English, Point Park University

## EDUCATION

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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

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

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

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.

### CNF Essays

2024 “The Seat Next to Me.” *Novus Literary and Arts Journal*. Spring 2024  
2023 “Promises.” *San Antonio Review*. Dec 2023.  
2023 “Most Likely To.” *Novus Literary and Arts Journal*. Fall 2023.  
2023 “What the Finch Wants to Say.” *Sequoia Speaks*. Fall 2023.  
2023 “Tennis Lessons, 1983.” *Hobart*. Aug 2023.  
2023 “Latin America, 101” *The Rumen*. Aug 2023.

### Journal/Anthology/Book Review

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.

- 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**

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

## **LECTURES/READINGS/CONFERENCE PAPERS**

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- 2024 "Rambunctious Delights: Toward a Restoration of the Natural World in the Queer Texts of Camille Dungy, Ross Gay, and Aimee Nezhukumatathil." College English Association Conference, Atlanta.
- 2023 Referee of "The Jungian Theory of Masculine Archetypes in the Projection of National Images of Latin American Countries" for *The Journal of Men's Studies*.
- 2023 "Writing the 'Other' in James Baldwin's Fiction: The Center, the Margins, and the Politics of Representation." College English Association Conference, San Antonio.
- 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 'Comienzo el Desfile.'" Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, Caribbean Marginalities Conference, Dominican Republic

## **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 301: Queering the Essay  
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  
HUMA 495: Community Service  
HUMA 496: Thesis  
JOUR 596: Independent Study  
POLS 402: Constitutional Law

### ***Independent Studies***

- Advanced Creative Nonfiction (Gianna Balsamico)
- Graduate Creative Nonfiction (Amy Philips-Haller)
- HUMA 495: Int. Dis Studies Community Service/Practicum Capstone (Yvonne Fields)
- HUMA 495: Int. Dis Studies Community Service/Practicum Capstone (Brittany Stasiak)
- HUMA 496: Int. Dis Studies Thesis Capstone (Alejandro Perez)
- HUMA 395: Int. Dis Studies Community Service/Practicum Capstone (Julia Imler)
- HUMA 395: Int. Dis Studies Community Service/Practicum Capstone (Jayden Inge)
- HUMA 495: Int. Dis Studies Community Service/Practicum Capstone (Natalie Caine)

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

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### **Point Park University**

2022-2024

Chair, Department of Literature, Culture, and Society

- Deliver academic programs
- Oversee curriculum development
- Conduct 5-year comprehensive program reviews
- Organize and participate in yearly Student Learning Assessments
- Hire and evaluate department personnel
- Oversee the department's fiscal operations; develop and regularly monitor the department budget
- Develop recruitment and retention initiatives
- Act as liaison between the department and other units of the institution
- Monitor departmental compliance with college, university, system, and state rules and regulations
- Manage course schedules that serve program and student needs

Spring 2024	Lead Organizer, LCS Internship Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solicit community keynote speakers</li> <li>• Contact department alumni to appear on the panel</li> <li>• Contact current students with internships to serve on the panel</li> <li>• Procure university spaces and food/refreshments for the event</li> <li>• Liaison with the Career Services Office to carry out the event</li> <li>• Market event to majors and non-majors, including social media and poster presentations</li> </ul>
Spring 2023	Lead Organizer, LCS Internship Panel
Spring 2023	Featured, ProSource article: “ChatGPT could turn writing into ‘technical Mad Libs.’ But could it also spark needed change in higher ed?”
Spring 2022	Co-Organizer, Literary Arts / SJS Undergraduate Research Symposium
Spring 2022	Interim Literature Program Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design, co-lead, and participate in the English Program Assessment</li> <li>• Work with chair to schedule and staff upper- and lower-division Literary Arts courses</li> <li>• Solicit and discuss part-time faculty proposals for ENGL 255 and upper- level literature courses</li> <li>• Assess ENGL 255 and upper-level literature courses for inclusion into the schedule</li> <li>• Meet with chair to discuss course schedule and staffing concerns</li> <li>• Solicit feedback from part-time faculty about scheduling, student concerns, course expectations, and other topics.</li> </ul>
2021-2022	Nominated for the Point Park University Distinguished Teaching Award
2021-2022	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"> <li>• Review QBurgh Magazine archive data base to select images for event</li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• Plan campus “Coming Out Week” events in conjunction with the Office of Equity &amp; Inclusion and Dr. Jehnie Burns</li> </ul>
2021	Interviewee, Point Park University Profile with Nicole Chynoweth
2020-2021	Chair, Campus Academic Resources Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set agenda and lead meetings</li> <li>• Work with CARC and Provost’s Office to review policies and procedures for faculty development funding requests</li> <li>• Work with the Center for Inclusive Excellence and Faculty Graduate Committee to plan faculty and graduate student research presentations</li> <li>• Put out nominations for Distinguished Teaching Award (DTA)</li> <li>• Organize subcommittee to lead the DTA selection process 2020</li> </ul>
	Co-Chair, Distinguished Teaching Award Subcommittee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logged and compiled campus nominations</li> <li>• Distributed and reviewed application packets</li> <li>• Drafted and distributed Provost congratulatory letter</li> <li>• Proposed changes for subsequent selection criteria 2019-</li> </ul>
2020	Member, Campus Academic Resources Committee
2019- Present	Faculty Organizer and Sponsor, Point Park Name Pen(ding) CW Club

2019	Observer, Creative Writing Program ( <i>conducted multiple faculty observations, evaluations, and conference reports</i> )
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 Safe Zone, LGBTQ support
2018	Lead Organizer, Hispanic Heritage Month campus events
2017-2018	Member, Student Affairs Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sole Author, proposal to Dean of Students to better regularize athlete absences and support services</li> </ul>
2017	Video Interview, Guest interviewee w/ Sarah Mullin on Hispanic Heritage Month events
2017	Faculty Sponsor, <i>All Things Horror Club</i> 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, <i>Creative Nonfiction Magazine</i> 2017 & 2018 Conference. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist conference logistics with the Center for Media Innovation and CNF Magazine</li> <li>• Organize student volunteers and select scholarship participants</li> <li>• Assist guest speakers, attendees, and Point Park community members</li> <li>• Present on characterization at the conference</li> </ul>
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**

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Spanish: speaking, writing and reading proficiency

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/LICENSES**

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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**

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