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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, 1997-2002

-Early American Literature

-East-West Studies, Multiculturalism, Orientalism

Dissertation: *Re-Orienting Orientalism: China in Early American Writing,*

*1738-1870*

M.A., Creative Writing, Purdue University, 1987-1990

-Poetry Writing

B.A., *summa cum laude*, English/Biology, Dakota Wesleyan University,

Mitchell, South Dakota, 1983-1987

PUBLICATIONS

Books of Poetry

*Bunch of Animals*, Cloudbank Books, 2016

*Shutter Lines* (with photographs by Paul Gentry), Cloudbank Books, 2012

*Moist Meridian,* Mammoth Books, 2009

\* Finalist 2011 Oregon Book Award in Poetry

*Men Holding Eggs,* Mammoth Books, 2004

\* Winner of the 2004 Oregon Book Award in Poetry

Non-Fiction

*Back Seat with Fish: A Man’s Adventures in Angling and Romance,*

Skyhorse Publications, 2016

Edited Collections

*River Poems*. Everyman’s Library, Alfred A. Knopf, 2022

*Fishing Stories*. Everyman’s Library, Alfred A. Knopf, 2013

*The Art of Angling: Poems About Fishing*. Everyman’s Library, Alfred A. Knopf,

2011

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Essays

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"Rereading the Whale." *Oregon Humanities* [Rediscovering Lewis & Clark]

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"Melville in the Marquesas: a Conference Narrative." *Melville Society Extracts.*

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"Tibet and the Narrative of Distance." *The Willamette Journal of the Liberal Arts*

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"Extending the Lines of Cultural Design: Fallingwater and the Orientalism of Frank

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"Introduction." *Delicious Imaginations: Conversations with Contemporary Writers*.

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"Letter from Kunming." *Harvard Review* 9 (1995): 131-133.

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"Letter from Niigata: the Strange World of Haruki Murakami." *Harvard Review* 2 (1992): 156-158.

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*Sport Literature* 22.2 (Spring 2005): 170

"*Poppy* by Austin Hummel and *Wild Civility* by David Biespiel." *Hiram Poetry Review*

66 (Spring 2005): 34-39

"*Found in a River: Steelhead & Other Revelations* by Jeff Bright." *Aethlon: the Journal*

*of Sport Literature* 21:2 (2004): 106

"*Cloud Atlas* by Donald Platt." *Hiram Poetry Review*. 64 (2003): 56-61.

"*Masking Selves, Making Subjects: Japanese American Women, Identity, and the Body* by Traise Yamamoto." *Modern Fiction Studies* 46.4 (2000): 1045-1047.

"Topography by Helene Barker Kiser." *Harvard Review* 16 (1999): 136-138.

"Jokes, Humor and Chinese People by Liao Chao-chih." *Humor: International Journal of Humor Research* 12.4 (1999): 466-470.

"*Bloodties: Nature, Culture, and the Hunt* by Ted Kerasote." *Aethlon: the Journal of Sport Literature* 11.2 (1994): 165-166.

"*Black Bass and the Fly Rod* by Charles F. Waterman," "*Ray Troll's Shocking Fish Tales* by Ray Troll and Brad Matsen," "*Waist Deep in Montana's Lakes* by John Holt." *Aethlon:*

*the Journal of Sport Literature* 11.1 (1993): 192-196.

"*The Cult of the Right Hand* by Elaine Terranova." *Harvard Book Review* 19-20 (1991): 9.

"Uneven Baca [*Immigrants In Our Own Land* by Jimmy Santiago Baca]."

*New Letters Review of Books*  4.4 (1991): 9.

"*Omeros* by Derek Walcott." *Harvard Book Review* 17-18 (1990):

"*Crazyhorse*." *Literary Magazine Review* 9. 4 (1990-91): 14.

"*New & Selected Poems* by James J. McAuley and *The Man at Home* by Michael Heffernan." *Harvard Book Review*. 15-16 (1990): 20.

Encyclopedia Articles

“Peter Sears (1937-2017).” *Oregon Encyclopedia* (2018). <https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/peter_sears/#.Xk_xIihKiUk>

"Ueda Akinari," "Izumi Kyoka," "Akutagawa Ryunosuke," "Pu Songling," and [co-written with Hiromi Tsuchiya] "Japanese Fiction." *Supernatural Literature of the World*. Ed. S.T. Joshi and Stefan Dziemianowicz. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2005.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Show, Don’t Tell: How Vivid Description and Dramatic Scenes Strengthen Our Writing.“ 44th Annual Conference of the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association. Sandpoint, ID, April 29, 2017.

Conference Presentation with Mark Morgan. “Ozarks Outdoors: a Collection of Hunting and Fishing Folklore.” Tenth Annual Ozarks Studies Symposium, Missouri State University, West Plains, MO, 9/23/16

Conference Presentation & Workshop. “Style & Voice in Outdoor Prose.” Northwest Outdoor Writers Association 43rd Annual Conference, Diamond Lake, OR, 4/29/16.

Conference Presentation. “Salmon Sonnets: How Writing Reveals our Estuaries.”

Panel on Artistic Pathways to Scientific Understanding. Chair: Karen Haberman. Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation National Conference, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, 11/10/15.

“Making Shutter Lines: Complementarity in Poetry and Photography.”

The Northwest Poets’ Concord. Newport, OR. 4 May 2013

“The Deep Shallows of Song Lyrics: Writing Song Lyrics and Writing Poetry.”

The Northwest Poets’ Concord. Newport, OR. 5 May 2012.

“The Problems of Translation.” With David Hargreaves.

The Northwest Poets’ Concord. Newport, OR. 7 May 2011.

“American Narrative Poetry: a Reading and Discussion.” United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO, 14 April 2011.

“Ralph Waldo Emerson, Richard Dawkins, and the Risks of Intellectual Heroism.”

National Humanities Center, Research Triangle, North Carolina. March 20, 2010

“Language of the Sea.” With David Hargreaves. Northwest Poets Concord, Newport,

OR, April 25, 2009

“Jumping Gender in the Sea Writings of Herman Melville.” Gender Studies

Symposium, Lewis & Clark College, March 13, 2008

“Between Industry and Idleness: Fishing in American Literature.” Pacific Northwest

American Studies Conference, Portland State University, April 27, 2007

“A Humorous History of the Sycamore Review.” AWP (Association of Writers and

Writing Programs) Annual Conference. Atlanta, Georgia, March 3, 2007

“Re-Orienting Orientalism: American Narratives of the Early China Trade.” American Literature Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, May 25, 2006

"Amasa Delano and the Dialogics of Honesty." Frederick Douglass & Herman

Melville: A Sesquicentennial Celebration [Melville Society]. New Bedford,

Massachusetts, June 25, 2005

"Why the Whale?: Mocha Dick, Moby Dick, and other Whales in American

Literature." The Whale in Science and Culture, Western Oregon University, January

21, 2005.

"Prefigurative Poe: The Writer-Scholar in the 21st Century--or, Why Poets Should

Read Foucault." AWP (Association of Writers and Writing Programs) Annual

Conference. Chicago, IL, March 25, 2004

"Cannibal Caterings: Cultural Conversion in Melville's *Typee*." Melville in the Marquesas Conference. Tahiti and the Marquesas Islands, June 29 - July 10, 2003.

"Appetites for Conversion in Melville's Polynesia." Changing and Exchanging:

Conversions of Faiths, Identities, Things and Spaces Along the Lines of Cultural Contact. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, October 7, 2000.

"Haunted Pagoda: The Shadow Gothic of East Asia." The Culture and Influence of the Gothic Revival. Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, September 18, 1998.

"Writing Out of Culture: a Discussion of Contrastive Rhetoric Focusing on Japanese and American English Composition Strategies." Writing in Harmony. Indiana Teachers of Writing. New Harmony, Indiana, April 18, 1998.

"Cultivating Class: Chinese and English Gardens of the Early Eighteenth Century." The Image of Class. Conference of the Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery and the University of Southern Colorado, Colorado Springs, March 14, 1998. Selected for publication in proceedings: *The Image of Class*, eds. Will Wright and Steven Kaplan. Pueblo, Colorado: The Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery, 1998.

"Joint Feeding Behavior Between the Snowy Egret and Other Marsh Birds." South

Dakota Academy of Sciences, April 20, 1987. Abstract published in *Proceedings of the South Dakota Academy of Science* 66 (1987): 110.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING AND CURATING

Curated the exhibit, *Avian Art: Birds in Image and Word*, Western Oregon University,

March 21 – June 20, 2011. Selected and created supporting text for J.J. Audubon prints. Collected, selected, captioned, edited and displayed contemporary mixed media art and writing.

Directed the symposium: *The Whale in Science and Culture*, Western Oregon

University, January 18 - 21, 2005. Conceived and planned event involving eight

speakers, multimedia presentations, two films and a library exhibit.

Curated the exhibit, *Whiteness*, Hamersly Library, Western Oregon University, January 3 - March 18, 2005. Collected, selected, captioned and displayed specimens, artifacts, images, art and literature related to the color and concept of white.

Principal organizer of the *Melville in the Marquesas Conference*, Tahiti and the

Marquesas Islands, June 29 - July 10, 2003. On the web at

www.wou.edu/~hughesh/melville/

TEACHING

Professor of English, Western Oregon University, 9/11- Present

Writer-in-Residence, Summer Fishtrap, Wallowa Lake, July 2011

Writer-in-Residence, Northern Michigan University, July 2010.

Associate Professor of English, Western Oregon University, 9/06 – 6/11

Assistant Professor of English, Western Oregon University, 9/02 – 6/06

Graduate Instructor, Purdue University, 8/87-5/90; 8/97-5/02

Adjunct Instructor in English, Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y., 9/96-7/97

Foreign Expert in English, Beijing Foreign Studies University, China, 9/94-7/96

English Teacher, Yoshida Junior High School, Japan Exchange and Teaching

(*JET*) Program, Japanese Ministry of Education, Niigata, Japan, 8/91-7/94

READINGS AND COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS (Selected)

Over 150 public poetry readings, literature-related talks, and writing workshops in Oregon, Washington, California, Colorado, South Dakota, Indiana, Michigan, Montana, North Carolina and New York.

Two appearances on Oregon Public Broadcasting’s “Think Out Loud,” October 7, 2008; June 22, 2016. Several appearances on national and local radio programs including KMUZ Salem, OR and WZON Bangor, Maine.

“The Sensual Fish: the 2019 Montana State University Trout Lecture.” Rialto Theater, Bozeman, Montana, April 2, 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UidlY1JETPs>

“Britain’s Culture of Angling and Fisheries Management.” Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (Upper Willamette RM&E Program). Oregon State University. 14 Jan 2015.

“The Culture and Literature of Angling.” Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (Upper Willamette RM&E Program). Oregon State University. 16 Jan 2014.

Opperman Distinguished Alumni Lecture. Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, South Dakota. 17 September 2013.

“Writing Out Of Our Heads: a Poetry Workshop.” Willamette Writers Coast Branch. Newport Public Library, Newport, OR. 18 Sept. 2012.

“The Literature of Angling.” Summer Fishtrap. Wallowa Lake, OR. 12 July 2012.

“Fishing as Poetry for Life.” Conference on Extraordinary Living. Umpqua Community

College. Roseburg, OR. 14 Sept. 2012.

“The Poetry of Fishing.” Oregon State Library Lecture Series, Salem, OR. 11 April 2012.

“The Meanings of *Moby-Dick*.” The Virginia Yerxa Community Read, Colusa,

CA, 14 May 2011.

“Poetry Culture.” Interview on Michigan Public Radio and public reading

at Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI. July 14-15, 2010.

“Pale Imitations and Stolen Gold: What Poetry Takes from Itself.” With David

Hargreaves. Keynote Address: The Northwest Poets’ Concord. Newport, OR.

7 May 2010

“Character and Context in Arthur Miller’s *Death of a Salesman*.” Pentacle Theatre,

Salem, OR. 10 February 2009.

“Crossing (Class) Lines: Art, Meat, and the American Angler.” Oregon Council for the

Humanities’ Summer 2008 Commonplace Event. Bend, OR. 6 June 2008. Guest on

“Think Out Loud” OPB Radio, 7 Oct. 2008, discussing fishing and culture.

“Poetry and the Reading Life.” Oregon Library Association Conference, Wilsonville,

OR. 20 July 2007.

Commencement Address, Western Oregon University, June 16, 2007.

Read and Discussed Poetry on WALK, Long Island, New York, 19 September 2004;

KBOO, Portland, OR, 1 November 2004 and 21 Nov. 2011.

Presented the Lecture and Slide Show, "Melville at Sea," Academy of Lifelong

Learning, Oregon State University, November 3, 2005.

PRESS AND JOURNAL REFEREEING

Read book-length manuscripts of creative non-fiction and write detailed suggestions for editing and publishing: Oregon State University Press, The University of Nebraska Press, and the University of Nevada Press.

Read manuscripts of scholarly articles and write detailed suggestions for editing and publishing: *Pennsylvania English*, *PMLA (Publications of the Modern Language Association)*, *Leviathan: a Journal of Melville Studies*, *Clio: A Journal of Literature, History and Philosophy*, and *Journeys: The International Journal of Travel and Travel Writing.*

EDITING & PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

Deputy Editor, *Flyfishing & Tying Journal*, Amato Books, Oregon, 2017 - 2022.

Editor, *River Poems* (2022), *Fishing Stories* (2013) and *The Art of Angling: Poems About Fishing* (2011), Everyman’s Library, Alfred A. Knopf, Penguin Random House.

Editor, “Melville in the Marquesas,” a Special Issue of *Leviathan: a Journal of Melville Studies.* 11.2 (June 2009), 100 pages.

Editor-in-Chief, *Sycamore Review*, Purdue University, 9/88-5/91

- Founding editor of Purdue's national literary & arts journal

Radio Host, Purdue Poets Series, Indiana Public Radio, WBAA, 2/88-1/91

AWARDS

2023 Sherwin Howard Award for the Best Poems Published in *Weber: The Contemporary West.*

2022 Austin Hogan Award for the Best Article in the American Museum of Fly Fishing’s publication, *The American Fly Fisher.*

2020 Boating Writers International Prize for “Against the Grain” [appearing in *Anglers Journal*]. BWI, Miami, Florida. February, 2020.

2017 First Prize. “Fish Hooks in the Landfill.” Oberon Poetry Magazine, New York.

2017 Excellence in Craft Award: First Place for a Newspaper Story on Fishing. Northwest Outdoor Writers Association. April, 2017.

2014 Kenneth O. Hanson Award for the poem, “Oregon City Shad,” *Hubbub*, Reed College, Portland, Oregon

2012 Oscar Wilde Prize for the poem “Action,” Gival Press, Arlington, Virginia.

2012 Pastega Award for Excellence in Scholarship, Western Oregon University.

Finalist, Oregon Book Award for *Moist Meridian* (Judge, Robert Pinsky), 2011

Mellon Foundation Grant for the study of Herman Melville at the National

Humanities Center, Research Triangle, North Carolina, July 2006.

Oregon Book Award in Poetry for *Men Holding Eggs*, 2004.

Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of English, Purdue University, 2000

Best Essay on Japan, Indiana Subaru-Isuzu Prize, 2000

Best Poem Written by a Graduate Student, Kneale Award, Purdue University, 2000

Best Essay in Ethnography, Department of Anthropology and Sociology,

Purdue University, 2000

Best Research Paper in Foreign Language and Literature, Purdue University, 1999

Excellence in Teaching Award. Department of English, Purdue University, 1990

Best Poem by a Graduate Student, Barriss Mills Award, Purdue University, 1990

First Prize for Series of Poems by a Graduate Student, Purdue University, 1989

First Prize for Poetry by a University Student, Florida State Poetry Contest, University of Central Florida, 1988

WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY SERVICE

WOU Tree Advisory Committee, 2021 – Present

Chair, English department search committee for a new assistant professor of World and Comparative Literatures—search successful!

Chair, Academic Excellence Showcase, English Department, 2017- Present

Chair, Peter Sears Prize for Poetry, 2017 - Present

Script Editor, *Coming Out Monologues*, 2015, 2016, 2017.

Chair, Humanities Curriculum Committee, 2013 – 2016.

Oregon Arts Commission Committee—Selecting Art for Campus Buildings.

9/08 – 5/15

Faculty Senate, 9/09 – 6/11.

Personnel Review Committee, Humanities Division, 9/07 – 9/09

President’s Committee to Investigate Free Speech and Student Media, 2008.

Judging Committee, Richard and Lotte Meyer Prize in Literature, 9/02 – Present.

Board of Directors, Jensen Arctic Museum, 9/03 – 9/07

University Honors Committee, 10/04 – 9/08

University Media Board, 3/02 - 3/04

Co-Advisor, Sea Wolves, University SCUBA Club, 5/03 - 6/04

Curriculum Committee, 9/03 – 6/05

Faculty Panel, Academic Advising and Learning Center, 2004, 2005

Salem Arts Fair, Smith Fine Arts Series Representative, 2004, 2005

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Over 150 poetry and literature-related presentations and workshops at high schools, libraries and community centers across Oregon and outside the state.

Judge, Paper Gardens Contest and Anthology, Yamhill County, 2022

Judge, Vi Gale Award for Poetry, Reed College, 2017

Judge, Poetry Society of American, 2015, 2016.

City Council, Falls City, OR. 4/10 – 12/12

Committee to Select the Poet Laureate of Oregon, February 2010.

Judge, Tranquil Relief Through Nature Poetry Contest. Kaiser Westside Medical

Center, Hillsboro, OR, 2011.

Judge, Honoring Our River Anthology Contest, 2009.

Community Advisory Board, Salem Repertory Theatre, 2004 - 2006

Member, Monmouth-Independence Arts Association, 2004 - 2006

Reader, Magic Barrel: a Reading to Fight Hunger, Corvallis, 2005, 2013

The Race for the Cure, Portland, Manhattan, 2004-2006

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

**-** Creative Writing: Poetry and Creative Nonfiction.

- Angling Literature, Nature Writing, Natural History (writing about fish and birds)

- Contemporary Poetry and Nonfiction

- 18th & 19th-century American Literature: Travel Writing, Orientalism,

Literature of the Sea & Rivers, Emerson, Thoreau, Melville;

-Japanese and Chinese Literature and Culture

CERTIFICATION

- SCUBA, CMAS Open Water

- Teaching English as a Second Language, Purdue University, 2000

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Museum of Fly Fishing

International Game Fish Association

The Melville Society

Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)

REFERENCES

Prof. David Hargreaves Prof. Christina Thompson, editor

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