

Monica L. West

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EDUCATION

M.F.A., Creative Writing, Iowa Writers' Workshop, 2017

Concentration: Fiction Writing

Thesis: *Revival Season*

M.A., English and American Literature, New York University, 2003

Concentrations: American Literature, The Novel, Modernism

Thesis: "Life in the Fishbowl: Exploring Visible Invisibility in William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*"

B.A., English Literature, Duke University, 1999

Minors: Spanish and African American Studies

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sackett Street Writers' Workshop, New York, NY

September 2021-Present

Instructor

Advanced Fiction Workshop; Manuscript Generator

Teach online workshops for advanced writers with a regular practice; offer verbal and written feedback for fiction and nonfiction projects; design specialized craft lectures.

The University of Washington, Creative Writing Program, Seattle, WA

Part-Time Lecturer

September 2024-March 2025

Novel Writing (Winter 2025 Quarter)

Taught upper-level undergraduate creative writing seminar focused on generation and revision of a novella-length project; conducted individual conferences to discuss novel plans.

The Craft of Prose (Fall 2024 Quarter)

Taught upper-level undergraduate creative writing seminar focused on reading, writing, workshopping, and revising short stories; evaluated student work in portfolios.

Community of Writers, Olympic Valley, CA

July 2024

Fiction Faculty Member

Delivered comprehensive craft feedback on student manuscripts in individual meetings; participated in panels about voice, characterization, and sustaining a writing life.

University of San Francisco, MFA in Writing Program, San Francisco, CA

Visiting Assistant Professor of Fiction

August 2021-June 2022; August 2023-May 2024

Special Topics: The "Magic" of Realism (Spring 2024)

Facilitated discussion-based seminar focused on the evolutions of magic realism as a genre; led students in genre lectures, craft talks, and close readings of short stories and novels.

Thesis II (Fall 2023; Spring 2024)

Advised final-semester students on novel-length thesis projects; held individual sessions scaffolded to meet students' particular craft needs; prepared projects for future publication.

Long Fiction Workshop (Fall 2023)

Facilitated student-centered workshop model focused on craft elements specific to long fiction; focused on revision during the process of conceptualizing and writing novels.

Techniques of Long Fiction: Autofiction, Epistolary, and Novel-in-Stories Seminar (Spring 2022)

Designed curriculum for discussion-based seminar about different novel forms; led craft-focused discussions that enabled students to experiment with said forms in their fiction.

Mixed Fiction Workshop (Fall 2021; Spring 2022)

Implemented collaborative, student-centered workshop model to disrupt traditional workshop structures; allowed authors to contribute to discussions of their fiction.

Special Topics: Rethinking Reliability in Fiction Seminar (Fall 2021)

Designed curriculum for discussion-based seminar prioritizing BIPOC and international authors; led craft-focused discussions about short stories, novellas, and novels.

Adjunct Faculty Member

September-December 2022

Thesis II

Offered personalized feedback for each submission during individual meetings; assigned readings tailored to each writer's needs; ensured that theses met departmental guidelines.

Lick-Wilmerding High School, San Francisco, CA

2011-2015 and 2017-2022

Visiting Writer, Upper School English Teacher, Ninth-Grade Team Leader

- Planned collaboratively to design reading- and writing-based lessons, courses, and electives
- Scheduled and facilitated all curriculum meetings for ninth-grade teaching team
- Designed workshop-based fiction and creative nonfiction writing electives

Iowa Young Writers' Studio, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Summer 2017

Summer Instructor

- Tailored craft lectures for high-school students in selective summer program
- Selected diverse pieces of published fiction to teach students elements of fictional craft
- Led generative, craft-based, large-group writing sessions for all participants

Iowa Writers' Workshop, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

2016-2017

Instructor

- Designed creative writing curriculum to teach poetry, fiction, and nonfiction to non-majors
- Selected published readings in different literary genres to teach craft elements
- Assessed student poetry, fiction, and nonfiction in comprehensive portfolios

The Park School of Baltimore, Brooklandville, MD

2006-2011

Upper School English Teacher; Class Advisor

- Created and taught reading- and writing-based English electives for multiple grade levels
- Instructed seminars for all grades using research-based educational methodologies
- Conducted class meetings, retreats, and other co-curricular activities for the Class of 2011

School of New Resources, College of New Rochelle, New York, NY

2004-2006

Adjunct Humanities Professor

- Taught literature, research, and writing courses for working adults in specialized program
- Designed instruction to help nontraditional students acclimate to college coursework
- Scaffolded lessons to differentiate instruction for various instructional backgrounds

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Black Women Write Seattle, Seattle, WA

January 2024-Present

Co-Founder

- Lead monthly meetings focused on craft and publishing for Black women writers.
- Curate content for emerging to veteran writers on the path to publication.

Iowa Writers' Workshop, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Spring 2017

Graduate Research Assistant

- Organized lunches with Workshop director and students to discuss diversity issues
- Coordinated inaugural diversity symposium with universities in Washington, D.C.

Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, New York, NY

2004-2006

Project Editor-Department of Assessment

- Wrote and edited standards-based assessments for national reading program (*Treasures*)
- Worked under strict deadlines to research state standards and customize assessments

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

The University of San Francisco

AWP: Intro Journals Project

August 2023-May 2024

Coordinator

- Solicited writers in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry to judge AWP student writing contest
- Acted as point person for program-specific questions from applicants and judges

Life After MFA Series

August 2021-May 2022; August 2023-May 2024

Coordinator

- Brought publishing professionals to campus to present to current students and alumni
- Offered sessions about publishing topics from writing query letters to submitting to journals

Admissions Committee

August 2021-May 2022; August 2023-May 2024

Application Reader

- Read applications from all prospective fiction students and rated them on a 1-5 scale
- Called all accepted students and served as their point of contact for MFA program questions

Graduate Program

August 2021-May 2022; August 2023-May 2024

Advisor

- Provided curricular and scheduling information to first- and second-year students
- Registered students in individual meetings during fall and spring semesters

**Graduate Program Thesis Committee
Reader**

August 2021-May 2022; August 2023-May 2024

- Read seven fiction and nonfiction theses to ensure adherence to graduation requirements
- Wrote detailed feedback letters to students containing specific revision suggestions

**MFA Post-Graduate Teaching Fellowship
Chair**

August 2021-May 2022; August 2023-May 2024

- Read applications and interviewed students applying for fall and spring teaching fellowships
- Consulted on syllabi, observed classes, and offered teaching feedback for selected fellows

PUBLICATIONS/CONTRACTS

- *Revival Season: A Novel*, Simon & Schuster hardcover (May 2021); paperback (May 2022)
- *Light the Way: A Novel*, under contract with Putnam (Penguin Random House) for publication in Spring 2027

WRITING AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS/RESIDENCIES

2026 Hawthornden Brooklyn Residency (upcoming)
 2026 Alice Judson Hayes Social Justice Fellow at Ragdale (upcoming)
 2024 Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Le Moulin à Nef Residency
 2023 John Gardner Fellow in Fiction at Bread Loaf Writers' Conference
 2022 Conference on Christianity and Literature Book-of-the-Year Award
 2022 50th Anniversary Fellow at Virginia Center for the Creative Arts
 2022 Virginia Commonwealth University Cabell First Novelist Award Short List
 2022 Hedgebrook Writer-in-Residence
 2022 *Christianity Today* Book Award (Fiction)
 2021 *The New York Times* Editors' Choice
 2021 Barnes and Noble Discover New Voices Selection
 2015 Rona Jaffe Graduate Fellow, Iowa Writers' Workshop
 2014 Kimbilio Fellow at Southern Methodist University

PRESENTATIONS/APPEARANCES

2025 Bellairs Research Institute Cell Biology Conference: "Storytelling for Scientists, Part Two"
 2025 AWP Conference Panelist: "Informal Writing Collectives, Community & Kinship"
 2024 Bellairs Research Institute Cell Biology Conference: "Storytelling for Scientists"
 2024 University of Washington Creative Writing Program: "Short and Long Lines of Tension"
 2023 Duke University Women's Weekend Panelist: "In Her Own Words" Alumnae Authors
 2023 Hedgebrook Live Webinar Series Presenter: "Getting into the Mind of Your Character"
 2022 Duke Northern California Alumnae Talks Speaker: "Experiences Worth Sharing"
 2022 Atlanta University Center Consortium Symposium: Panelist and Craft Seminar Facilitator
 2022 LitQuake Literary Festival: Porchlight Series Featured Speaker
 2022 Pasadena Festival of Women Authors, Breakout Group Author
 2022 Bay Area Book Festival: "Secrets and Revelations, Lies and Love: Family Legacies in Fiction"
 2021 The Park School of Baltimore Resident Writer