

JOHN DERMOT WOODS, PHD

johndermotwoods@gmail.com

www.johndermotwoods.com

PROFILE

- Accomplished novelist and cartoonist, having recently published both a critically acclaimed novel, *The Baltimore Atrocities* (Coffee House Press) and graphic novel, *Mortals* (Radix Media).
- Fifteen years experience teaching Creative Writing, Comics, and Visual Rhetoric at the college level. Unique ability to both write and draw comics. Notable expertise in developing comics curriculum as creative writing discipline.
- Granted tenure, promotion, and sabbatical by Nassau Community College. Awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities.
- Awarded the Viebranz Creative Writing Professorship at St. Lawrence University, in recognition of professional accomplishments and teaching success.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA • Athens, GA • Ph.D. English, 2007

- Concentration: Fiction/Critical Theory
- Research assistant to Claudia Rankine. Collaborated on her book *Don't Let Me Be Lonely*.
- Committee: Reginald McKnight, Judith Ortiz Cofer, Jed Rasula

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY • Baltimore, MD • M.A. Writing Seminars (Fiction), 2002

- Thesis advisors: Stephen Dixon and Alice McDermott

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY • Washington, DC • B.A. English and Studio Art, 1999

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

SUNY NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE • Garden City, NY

Full Professor (tenured), Department of English, Creative Writing Program (2007-present)

MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE • Purchase, NY

Visiting Professor, MFA Program, Comics and Graphic Fiction Workshop

SAINT LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY • Canton, NY

Viebranz Visiting Professor of Creative Writing (2014-2015)

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY • Montclair, NJ

Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of English (2006-2007)

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY JAPAN • Tokyo, Japan
Lecturer, Depts. of English and Intellectual Heritage (2005-2006)

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS (AS AUTHOR)

Mortals, New York, NY: Radix Media, 2022. (Graphic novel)

Always Blue, New York, NY: Radix Media, 2019. (Novella with illustrations, inaugural volume in the *Futures* science fiction series)

The Baltimore Atrocities. Minneapolis, MN: Coffee House Press, 2014. (Novel with illustrations)

Activities. Baltimore, MD: Publishing Genius Press, 2013. (Comics collection)

A Natural Family. Baltimore, MD: Publishing Genius Press, 2013. (Comics chapbook)

No One Told Me I Was Going to Disappear. Seattle, WA: Jaded Ibis Press, 2012. (Image-text novel, co-written with J.A. Tyler)

The Complete Collection of people, places & things. Buffalo, NY: BlazeVox Books, 2009. (Image-text Novel)

BOOKS (AS ILLUSTRATOR)

The Translations by Andrea Kneeland, New York, NY: Sententia Books, 2015.

Paper Champion by Shane Jones, Fairfax, VA: Civil Coping Mechanisms Press, 2014.

SERIES

Animals in Midlife Crises (collab. with Lincoln Michel), comic strip featured at *The Rumpus*, 2011-2012.

ANIMATION

Watching the Detectives (collab. with David Rice), premiere sponsored by Bindle & Keep, Brooklyn, NY, June 2017.

RECENT CREATIVE WORK (SHORT FICTION AND COMICS)

"Werner Herzog: Park Ranger," *The Believer*, forthcoming serial, 2021.

"Meat / Eat / At: The Author as Narrative's Appetizer, First Course, Entrée, and Dessert" (with Pedro Ponce), graphic essay from the anthology *Food for Thought: Graphic Essays on Anthropophagy*, December 2018.

Excerpt from *Werner Herzog: Park Ranger, The Believer*, Summer 2018.

"First in Line at the Peepshow," "Holiday Party," *The Rumpus*, 2014.

"Night-Light," *TimeOut New York*, "Best New Fiction in NYC Special," 2014.

RECENT ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS

"Conversation with Mike Meginnis," *Pixelated*, March 2015.

"Interview with Scott McCloud about *The Sculptor*," *Electric Literature*, February 2015.

"Ten Comics for the New Year," *Electric Literature*, December 2014.

"Book Notes for *The Baltimore Atrocities*," *Largehearted Boy*, December 2014.

RECENT INTERVIEWS (AS SUBJECT)

"Community Spotlight: John Dermot Woods," Radix Media, October 2018.

"Interview with John Dermot Woods," by Devin Kelly, *Full Stop*, January 2015.

"Interview: John Dermot Woods, author *The Baltimore Atrocities*," by Guy Brookshire, *Electric Literature*, January 2015.

"Interview with John Dermot Woods," by Dylan Loring, *Weekly Reader*, WKMSU, December 2014.

"Gone But Not Forgotten; We talk to the author of *The Baltimore Atrocities*," by John Lewis, *Baltimore Magazine*, December 2014.

"Pursuit, Not Discovery: An Interview with John Dermot Woods," by Kristen Iskandrian. *The Fiction Writers Review*, November 2014.

"The Baltimore Atrocities" by Nathan Sterner, *Maryland Morning*, WYPR, October 2014.

"Conspiracies, Scandals, and Disappearance: John Dermot Woods on *The Baltimore Atrocities*," by Tobias Carroll, *Vol. 1 Brooklyn*, October 2014.

"Featured Writer: John Dermot Woods," by Jamie Iredell, *Atticus Review*, January 2013.

"Not Verner Herzog: An Interview with J.A. Tyler and John Dermot Woods," *Heavy Feather Review Podcast*, 2013.

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

SUNY CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING (2022)

Current nominee.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE SABBATICAL AWARD (2020-2021)

Awarded year-long sabbatical to complete my graphic novel, *Mortals*.

SUNY CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES (2020)

Given this prestigious award, conferred on a small group of professors within the state university system every other year, in recognition of my influence within the field of comics and fiction writing.

CATWALK ART RESIDENCY (2018)

Awarded a collaborative residency with writer Lincoln Michel to work on a graphic novel.

VIEBRANZ VISITING PROFESSOR OF CREATIVE WRITING • St. Lawrence University (2014-2015)

Served as campus writer-in-residence, teaching workshops in fiction writing and making comics. I hosted a series of monthly readings and workshops for both faculty and students. I also served as a reader for senior theses and oversaw an independent study.

LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL PROJECT SPACE RESIDENCY (2014)

Awarded a five-month residence on Governor's Island to work on my graphic novel, *Werner Herzog: Park Ranger*.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE SABBATICAL AWARD (2013-2014)

Awarded year-long sabbatical to complete my novel, *The Baltimore Atrocities*.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP • University of Georgia (2003-2005)

Awarded assistantship to collaborate with Claudia Rankine on her poetry collection, *Don't Let Me Be Lonely*.

ELLIOTT COLEMAN FELLOWSHIP • Johns Hopkins University (2002-2003)

Awarded post-graduate fellowship to complete my first novel under the advisement of Stephen Dixon.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Relevant Tones Live: Cosmicomics, Symphony Space, New York, NY, 2023.

"The Path to Publishing Your First Collection," Conversations and Connections Conference, Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA, 2018.

Dramatic reading of *We Don't Make Mistakes*, Lit Live! Reading Series, Nassau Community College, 2018. (In collaboration with students.)

"From Words to Images: Making Comics (for Writers)," AWP Conference, Tampa, FL, 2018.

"Salvation in the Short Fiction of Flannery O'Connor," guest lecture, Regis High School, New York, NY 2018.

"Finding Truth in Fiction," IDEAS Symposium, Nassau Community College, 2018.

"Werner Herzog: Park Ranger," presentation of graphic-novel-in-progress, as part of the NCC Retention Committee's "Works-in-Progress" series, April, 2018.

"Teaching Writing through Comics," address to NCC Faculty Forum, October, 2015.

"Object and Subject: The Illustrated Book," AWP Conference, Minneapolis, MN, 2015.

"Collecting Atrocities," Viebranz Professor Lecture, St. Lawrence University, February 2015.

"Creating Books and Making Books," workshop with MFA students in Writing and Publishing program at University of Baltimore, October 2013

"21st Century Lit as Mashup," &NOW Festival, San Diego, CA, October 2011.

"Understanding Comics as Creative Writing," panel chair, AWP Conference, Washington, DC, 2011.

"Ethics in the Application: Using Old and New Technologies to Create a Literary Community at a Two-Year Campus and Beyond," AWP Conference, Washington, DC, 2011.

"Shared Locality: Fostering Community and Creating Posterity through Online Reading Series," AWP Conference, Denver, CO, 2010.

"The Future of Literary Magazines at 2-Year Colleges," AWP Conference, Denver, CO, 2010.

"Words and Pictures: Life After Rupture in Image-Text Collaboration" (Critical Presentation), &NOW Conference, SUNY Buffalo, NY, 2009.

RECENT INVITED READINGS

Brooklyn Book Festival, Featured Author, September 2022.

Mortals, Graphic Novel Launch, Brooklyn, NYC, March 2022.

Radix Presents: John Dermot Woods interviewed by Kevin Nguyen, Online, March 2022.

Radix Roundtable: Discussing *Mortals*, Online, September 2020.

Radix Presents: FUTURES, McNally Jackson Books, New York, NY, November 2019

Radix Showcase, Quimby's Books, Brooklyn, NYC, June 2019

Lost Signals Series, Brooklyn, NY, October 2018.

Fiction Stranger than Fiction Series, Brooklyn, NY, September 2016

Franklin Park Reading Series, Brooklyn, NY, August 2015

Coffee House Book Showcase, KGB Reading Series, New York, NY, February 2015

Baltimore Atrocities Book Launch, Brooklyn, NY, January 2015

Texas Book Festival, Austin, TX, October 2014

Publishing Genius AWP Showcase, Seattle, WA, March 2014

Vol. 1 Brooklyn Reading Series, Brooklyn, NY, November 2013

Solar Anus Reading Series, Atlanta, GA, October 2013

Three Tents Reading Series, Washington, DC, October 2013

Old Dominion University MFA Student Readings Series, Norfolk, VA, October 2013

Bergen Street Comics, Brooklyn, NY, October 2013

Atomic Books, Baltimore, MD, September 2013

KGB Reading Series, New York, NY, January 2013

Word Books, Brooklyn, NY, March 2012

Franklin Park Reading Series, Brooklyn, NY, March 2012

INSTRUCTION

GRAPHIC FICTION WORKSHOP

I created this upper level writing workshop in making comics and other image-text works. We follow theory into practice. The class attracts students in the humanities, not necessarily students of visual art.

FICTION WORKSHOP

Upper-level writing workshop.

CREATIVE WRITING

Multi-genre workshop in poetry, fiction, and dramatic writing.

DRAMATIC WRITING

Upper-level writing workshop that looks at the principles of writing for stage and screen.

INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHIC STORYTELLING

Lectured and conducted workshops on the role of graphic image in literature.

COMICS AS NARRATIVE

Upper-level writing class in which students critically examine works of sequential art with the goal of producing their own.

SATIRE

Upper-level literature class focusing on the critical analysis and practice of satirical work.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Critical study of the evolution of children's literature from 1850-present.

INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE I

An undergraduate survey of cultural history from antiquity to the Middle Ages. Topics include Greek tragedy and philosophy, the Bible, and Shakespeare.

DEVELOPMENTAL WRITING, ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM

Selected to teach the pilot section of this innovative approach to college composition based on a model of diversity, including students of varying abilities in the same classroom. Due to the pilot's success, it has become the focal point for our department's composition program.

COLLEGE COMPOSITION

Created a course that encourages students to look at art critically and teaches them to respond in an academic manner. This course emphasizes the use of multimedia.

INTRODUCTION TO FICTION AND POETRY I AND II

An undergraduate course in which students survey a diverse selection of fiction and poetry and respond with creative works of their own.

CONTEMPORARY RHETORIC

Upper-level course surveying rhetorical practice from Aristotle to Stanley Fish. Students use this study to analyze a selection of contemporary political and commercial communications.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

NASSAU REVIEW, EDITORIAL BOARD (chair)

Manage the board of our college's national literary magazine, published for almost fifty years.

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB AND STUDENT LITERARY MAGAZINE (faculty advisor)

For my first decade at NCC, I advised this student club. Each year, we produce the award-winning literary magazine *Luna*.

NCC CREATIVE WRITING PROJECT (member, co- chair)

Active member of this departmental committee that manages a vibrant Creative Writing program and reading series. As chair, I oversaw a successful proposal to SUNY to establish a Creative Writing A.A. degree on our campus.

RETENTION COMMITTEE (member, past chair)

Founding member and chair of committee that promotes the liberal arts to students outside the classroom through various events celebrating arts and literature.

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (secretary and member)

Member of this committee that identifies and assesses specific learning goals within our department's curriculum. Particularly instrumental in a study of our Creative Writing classes' effect on Cultural Literacy.

HIP-HOP COMMITTEE (member)

Member of this campus-wide committee tasked with a creating a symposium focused on the intersection of academia and hip-hop culture.

NCC ACADEMIC SENATE (departmental representative)

For seven years, I have represented the English Department at this body of faculty and administrators that sets campus policy, and I have informed my colleagues of campus-wide news and concerns.

THESIS ADVISOR/CREATIVE WRITING MENTOR

Act as a mentor and editor for Creative Writing majors completing their studies, at both NCC and SLU. I advise students both on their work and their artistic futures.

ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Comics, Graphic Novels, and Illustrated Fiction

Creative Writing (Fiction)

Dramatic Writing (Play and Screenwriting)

Critical Theory of the Historical Avant Garde

Contemporary and Modern American Fiction

REFERENCES

Lydia Conklin, cartoonist, Professor of Creative Writing, Vanderbilt University

Sarah Gates, Craig Professor of English, St. Lawrence University

Paul Graham, Professor and English Dept. Chair, St. Lawrence University

Johannes Goransson, Professor of English, Notre Dame University

Matt Madden, series editor for *Best American Comics*

Reginald McKnight, Professor of English, University of Georgia

Claudia Rankine, Professor of Creative Writing, Yale University

Jarod Roselló, cartoonist and Professor of Creative Writing, University of South Florida

Shanthi Sekaran, Professor of Creative Writing, California College of the Arts

Sid Sondergard, Professor Emeritus, St. Lawrence University

Tim Wood, Professor of Creative Writing, SUNY Nassau Community College