

# ADELE ELISE WILLIAMS

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## EDUCATION

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### **PhD, Literature and Creative Writing (Poetry), University of Houston (exp. 2025)**

Dissertation: *Sacrosanct*

Exam Specializations: Contemporary Poetry and Critical Poetics: Gender and Sexuality Studies, Working-class ecologies, and the Avant-garde.

### **M.F.A., Creative Writing (Poetry), Virginia Tech (2020)**

Poetry, Thesis: *Wager*

Thesis committee: Bob Hicok, Erika Meitner, Carmen Giménez

**Graduate Certificate**, Women and Gender Studies (2020)

### **B.A., Creative Writing (Poetry), Appalachian State University (2011)**

Honors: Watauga College (interdisciplinary and experiential learning)

### **Research Interests:**

Gender and Sexuality Studies, Outsider Art and Americana, Cultural Artifacts and Object Relations, Low-brow and No-class Aesthetics, and Theological Studies.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **University Teaching Experience:**

Instructor of Record, *University of Houston* – Houston, TX (2020-present)

English 2306: Introduction to Poetry (1 section Spring 2023)

English 3331: Beginning Creative Writing Poetry (1 section Fall 2022, 1 section Fall 2023)

English 1301: First Year Writing I (2 sections Spring 2022)

English 1301: First Year Writing I (1 section Fall 2021)

Teaching Assistant, *University of Houston* – Houston, TX (2020–2021)

English 2318: Creation and Performance of Literature (1 section Fall 2023)

English 6322: Graduate Poetry Workshop (1 section Fall 2021)

English 2330: Writing in the Discipline of English – Online (1 section Spring 2021)

English 1303: First Year Writing I – Online (1 section Fall 2020)

Writing Center Coach, *University of Houston* – Houston, TX (2020–2021)

Honors Thesis Tutor, *University of Houston* – Houston, TX (2020–2021)

Instructor of Record, *Virginia Tech* – Blacksburg, VA (2018–2021)

WGS 1824: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies – Online (1 section Fall 2021)

English 2744: Introduction to Creative Writing (1 section Spring 2020)

English 1105: First-Year Writing (2 sections Fall 2018, 2 sections Fall 2019)

English 1106: First-Year Writing (1 section Spring 2018, 2 sections Spring 2019)

Teaching Assistant, *Virginia Tech* – Blacksburg, VA (2019)

English 2744: Introduction to Creative Writing (1 section Spring 2019, 1 section Fall 2019)

### **Community Teaching:**

Instructor, Women in Literary and Visual Arts (WiLVA) – Houston, TX (*August 2023*)  
Conducted a three-hour poetry workshop crafted specifically for WiVLA on editing and revision.

Instructor, *Grackle and Grackle* – Houston, TX (*2023–present*)  
Creates and leads six-week creative nonfiction writing workshops. Winter 2023, Summer 2023.

Instructor, *The Poetry Foundation* – Houston, TX (*2021*)  
Conducted a two-hour poetry workshop crafted specifically for The Poetry Foundation titled “Engaging the Ordinary: Using poetic form and your own ‘clutter’ to self-archive.”

Instructor, *Boldface Writing Conference* – Houston, TX (*2021*)  
Conducted a two-hour poetry workshop for five consecutive days titled “Outlaw Poetry: Womyn at the Wheel”.

Instructor, *Inprint* – Houston, TX (*2021–present*)  
Creates and leads writing workshops on both poetry and creative nonfiction for community members, educators. Workshops range from two-day intensives to eight weeks. Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Winter 2022, Summer 2022, Summer 2023.

Organizer, *Fulton County Jail* – Atlanta, GA (*2013–2016*)  
Mentored incarcerated women regarding addiction and self-care. Led monthly group meetings which focused on creativity, discussion and goal setting.

Organizer, *Raleigh Women’s Prison* – Raleigh, NC (*2012–2013*)  
Mentored incarcerated women regarding addiction and self-care. Led monthly group meetings which focused on creativity, discussion and goal setting.

**Teaching Interests:**

Poetry and Poetics, Creative Nonfiction, Hybrid Forms, Early American Literature, 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Literature, Literatures of the Global South, and Women and Gender Studies.

**Additional Work Experience:**

Specialist, *Human Resources–Talent Development, Virginia Tech* – Blacksburg, VA (*2018–2019*)  
Executive Pastry Chef, *4th & Swift* – Atlanta, GA (*2014–2017*)  
Sous Chef (Pastry), *Ferrington Restaurant* – Chapel Hill, NC (*2013–2014*)

**SERVICE**

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**Editorial Experience:**

Co-editor with Dana Levin, *Unsung Masters Series* – Houston, TX (*2022–2023*)  
Nonfiction Editor, *Gulf Coast Journal* – Houston, TX (*2020–present*)  
Associate Editor, *Noemi Press* – Blacksburg, VA (*2018–2020*)  
Poetry Editor, *the minnesota review* – Blacksburg, VA (*2017–2018*)

**Lectures, Talks and Workshops:**

*On Teaching Creative Writing*, UH Graduate Teaching Orientation– Houston, TX (*August 2023*)  
*Bert Meyers: An American Master*, Jung Center Feature – Houston, TX (*March 2023*)  
*On Publishing*, Rice University Creative Writing Editors’ Panel – Houston, TX (*January 2022*)

**Reading Series Organizing:**

*Bert Meyers, Unsung Master* – (*July 2023*)

Organized reading celebrating the publication of *Bert Meyers: On the Life and Work of an American Master*. Featured readers included Amy Gerstler, Dana Levin, Maurya Simon, and Sean Singer.

*Basket Books* – (March 2023)

Moderated reading and discussion by Dana Levin and Christopher Brean Murray.

*Word is Bond #7, Asian American Writers Workshop* – (May 2022)

Co-hosted series with poets and series founders Anthony Thomas Lombardi and Kate Sweeney. Featured readers included Ross Gay, Joy Priest, Ruth Awad, and Khadija Queen.

*Newman Library Collaborations* – Blacksburg, VA (Spring 2019–Fall 2019)

Coordinated with Newman Library to plan and lead community Poetry & Prose Playdates on sensory-driven writing methods.

*Glossolalia* – Blacksburg, VA (Spring 2019)

Worked with undergraduate student leaders to organize the 2019 literary festival, featuring Jamaal May, Tommy Pico, Colin Nissan, and Anjali Sachdeva.

*New River Revival MFA Reading Series* – Blacksburg, VA (2018–2020)

Planned, executed and hosted quarterly MFA reading series off-campus in coordination with Virginia Tech MFA program.

## BOOKS

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Williams, Adele Elise. *Wager*. Fayetteville, University of Arkansas Press, 2024.

Levin, Dana and Adele Elise Williams, editors. *Bert Meyers: On the Life and Work of an American Master*, Pleiades Press, 2023.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Poetry:

“Idolatry for Dummies,” *Poets.org* (August 2023).

“Essay on the Devil,” *New Ohio Review* 33 (forthcoming Fall 2023).

“Deconstructing Milk Baby” and “Winning With Rules,” *Indiana Review* (forthcoming 2023).

“head fulla moonbeams, pocket fulla,” “Peeps, Spots, and Thangs,” *DIAGRAM* (forthcoming 2023).

“Say What,” “Communion,” “Gal,” *Air/Light* 7 (Winter/Spring 2023).

“i don’t believe in no” and “you owe me a” with Henry Goldkamp, *Biscuit Hill* 5 (December 2022).

“polar pop,” “aporiasm,” “nose bleeds” with Henry Goldkamp, *Tyger Quarterly* 3 (Fall 2022).

“Idolatry for Dummies,” *The Georgia Review* (Winter 2022).

“Resentful and Ready,” *New Orleans Review* 49 (Fall/Winter 2022).

“Fieldnotes” and “Livestock Advice,” *Crazyhorse* 102 (Fall 2022).

“The Road to Rehab is Paved,” *Broadsided Press* (July 2022).

“Art Hag,” “Don’t Pretend You Don’t Care,” “Conflation Elegy” *Annulet* (January 2022).

“Covetous Ode,” *Damnation* (December 2021).

“Dear Diary,” “—Lenten Rose, Gardenia—” *Damnation* (September 2021).

“Take the Bait,” *Guernica* (June 2021).

“Voyeuristic Intentions,” *Barzakh* (Spring 2021).  
“Housewarming,” *Cream City Review* 45.2 (Winter 2021).  
“Misadventures in Hope,” *Bear Review* 7:2 (2021).  
“Earliest Memory Prompt” and “New Blooms,” *Tammy 11* (2021).  
“I do not know how to write pretty poems,” *Split Lip Magazine* (November 2020).  
“It Comes From Having a Body,” *Quarterly West* 98 (2019).  
“Essay On Causation,” *SAND* 20 (2019).  
“Violence,” *Crab Creek Review* 2 (2019).  
“When You Are Ready the World Gives You a Gift” and “Tift Merritt is breastfeeding in the bathroom stall,” *Still: The Journal* 29 (2019).  
“Hey Hannah Take My Body,” *Beloit Poetry Journal* 68:2 (2018).

### **Essays:**

“How to Leave a Mark,” *Poetry Northwest* (Summer/Fall 2023).  
“On Bert Meyers,” *Copper Nickel* 36 (Spring 2023).  
“Engaging the Ordinary,” *The Poetry Foundation* (January 2022).  
“Tethered,” *The Florida Review* 45.2 (Fall 2021).  
“Best Worst Advice When Submitting to Literary Journals,” *the minnesota review* (2018).  
“Poem Prompts From the Vault 2.0,” *the minnesota review* (2018).  
“Poem Prompts From the Vault,” *the minnesota review* (2017).  
“Best Worst Advice When Applying to Creative Writing Programs,” *the minnesota review* (2017).

### **Reviews and Interviews:**

“Born Lonely: A Review of Emily Kendal Frey’s *Lovability*,” *Gulf Coast* 34.2 (Summer/Fall 2022).  
“A Conversation with Denise Duhamel,” *The Adroit Journal Online* (Fall 2021).  
“On Genre, Transcendence, Dogs, and Workshop: A Conversation with Jo Ann Beard,” *Gulf Coast Online* (June 2021).  
“A Conversation with Susannah Nevison,” *The Adroit Journal Online* (2020).  
“Interview: *Bone Bouquet*,” *the minnesota review* (2018).  
“Interview: Lynne Knight, Anhinga Press,” *the minnesota review* (2017).

### **Podcasts:**

“Idolatry for Dummies,” *The Slowdown with Major Jackson* 936 (August 2023)

## **SELECT AWARDS AND HONORS**

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Finalist, 2024 Miller Williams Poetry Prize – first book (*June 2023*)  
Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center Interdisciplinary Fellow, The University of Houston (*2023-2024*)  
Runner-up, The Helene Wurlitzer Foundation Residency (*May 2023*)  
Winner, Inprint Marion Barthelme Prize in Creative Writing (*January 2023*)  
Winner, Academy of American Poets Prize (*January 2023*)  
Semifinalist, ON HIGH with Henry Goldkamp, *Quarterly West* Chapbook Competition (*November 2022*)  
Pushcart Prize Nomination, *Broadsided Press* (*December 2022*)  
Finalist, *The Georgia Review* 2022 Loraine Williams Poetry Prize, (*August 2022*)

Winner, Inprint Donald Barthelme Prize in Poetry (*January 2022*)  
Poetry Fellow, UCROSS Residency (*May-June 2022*)  
Runner-up, The Helene Wurlitzer Foundation Residency (*May 2021*)  
Cullen Student Success Fellowship, The University of Houston (*October 2020*)  
Inprint Nina and Michael Zilkha Fellowship, The University of Houston (*August 2020*)  
Semifinalist, Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown (*May 2020*)  
Winner, Virginia Tech Composition Program Teaching Award (*April 2020*)  
Runner-up, Emily Morrison Poetry Prize (Virginia Tech), Judge Magdalena Zurawski (*April 2020*)  
Finalist, Virginia Tech/Poetry Society of Virginia Prize, Judge Keetje Kuipers (*November 2019*)  
Pushcart Prize Nomination, *Crab Creek Review* (*November 2019*)  
Finalist, *Crab Creek Review* Poetry Prize, Judge Jericho Brown (*August 2019*)  
Winner, Emily Morrison Poetry Prize (Virginia Tech), Judge Rebecca Morgan Frank (*April 2019*)  
Poetry Fellow, Appalachian Writers Workshop, Hindman Settlement School (*July 2018*)  
Finalist, Virginia Tech/Poetry Society of Virginia Prize, Judge Tess Taylor (*November 2017*)

## READINGS AND PERFORMANCES

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*Poison Pen* – Houston, TX (*August 2023*)

*Bert Meyers, Unsung Master* – Virtual (*July 2023*)

Reading celebrating the publication of *Bert Meyers: On the Life and Work of an American Master* with Dana Levin, Amy Gerstler, Sean Singer and others.

*Basket Books* – Houston, TX (*April 2023*)

Reading with Sadie Dupuis.

*Inprint* – Houston, TX (*April 2023*)

Reading celebrating the 2023 Inprint prize winners.

*AWP offsite reading with Rescue Press, Annulet, and CSU Poetry Center* – Seattle, WA (*March 2023*)

Invited to read alongside Valerie Hsiung, Phil Metres, and Sarah Minor.

*Gulf Coast Reading Series with Erika Meitner*– Houston, TX (*January 2023*)

Invited to read alongside Erika Meitner, Scott Repass, and KT Herr.

*New Third World* – Virtual (*September 2022*)

Reading celebrating Issam Zineh's book launch for *Unceded Land*. Other readers include Carolina Ebeid, Ruth Awad, George Abraham and Issam Zineh.

*Splice Poetry Series* – New Orleans, LA (*August 2022*)

Featured reader at New Orleans's iconic Saturn bar alongside Henk Russouw. Reading series sponsored by Poets and Writers.

*Inprint* – Houston, TX (*April 2022*)

Reading celebrating the 2022 Inprint prize winners. Read alongside writers Aris Kian, Madeleine Maillet, Joy Priest, Dan Kennedy, Pritha Bhattacharyya, and Tayyba Maya Kanwal.

*Inprint* – Virtual (*March 2022*)

Featured writer for Inprint's monthly Lit Bit spotlight series.

*Public Poetry* – Virtual (*February 2022*)

Invited to read alongside poets J. David, Vinh Hoang, and Nick Rattner.

*The Poetry Foundation* – Virtual (*February 2022*)

Reading celebrating the first cohort of Poetry Foundation Teaching Artists. Read alongside poets Michael Frazier, Crista Siglin, and Cindy Juyoung Ok.

*Gulf Coast Readings Series with Cameron Dezen Hammon* – Virtual (*November 2020*)

Invited to read alongside Cameron Dezen Hammon, Gabriella Adriana Iacono, and Robbie Howell.

*Public Poetry – Virtual (July 2021)*

Invited to read alongside poets J. David, Vinh Hoang, and Nick Rattner.

*Poetry and Prose – Houston, TX (November 2021)*

University of Houston's Creative Writing Program bi-annual reading series.

*Disconnection Hotline – Houston, TX (April 2021)*

Headline reader for local reading series.

*Delgado Reading Series – Virtual (March 2021)*

Invited to read with performance poet Henry Goldkamp.

*Gulf Coast Readings Series with Eileen Myles – Virtual (November 2020)*

Invited to read alongside Eileen Myles, Aris Kian, and Katie Edkins Milligan.

*Poetry and Prose – Houston, TX (October 2020)*

University of Houston's Creative Writing Program bi-annual reading series.

*New River Revival – Blacksburg, VA (2017–2020)*

Virginia Tech's MFA quarterly reading series.

*Living Beyond “Southern Living”: Personal Narratives of Southern Women – Blacksburg, VA (2019)*

Member of a four-woman monologue-based autobiographical performance which explored gender expectations, religious beliefs, sexuality, and the physical body. Performances at libraries and other local venues.

*Predictions – Charleston, West Virginia (2015)*

With poet Jenny Hudson, artist Kate Hampel, poet imogen xtian smith, and others. Co-curator and contributor to this interactive poetry project/exhibit. Featured poet.

## CONFERENCE AND PANEL PRESENTATIONS

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Presenter, New Orleans Poetry Festival, “Writing About Illness, Recovery, Pain, and Survival” with Henry Goldkamp, Nikki Ummel, Karisma Price and Carolyn Hembree– New Orleans, LA (*April 2023*)

Presenter, “Living Beyond *Southern Living*,” Women and Gender Studies Conference – Blacksburg, VA (*April 2019*)

Poster Presentation, “Conversation: Adapting the Principles of GTA and New Teacher Mentoring to Multiple Contexts,” Conference on Higher Education and Pedagogy – Blacksburg, VA (*April 2018*)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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**Poetry Society of America**, Member (*2021–present*)

**Common Field**, Member (*2021–dissolution*)

**The Justice Arts Coalition**, Member (*2017–present*)

**Association of Writers & Writing Programs**, Member (*2017–present*)

**North Carolina Writers Network**, Member (*2015–2019*)

\*References furnished upon request: Erika Meitner, Carmen Giménez, Bob Hicok, Audrey Colombe