

Jody Lisberger, Ph.D., M.F.A.
Associate Professor, The Gender and Women's Studies Program
Office: 314 Roosevelt Hall, 401-874-4620
jlisberger@uri.edu

Education

Ph.D. in English, Boston University, 1991, University Fellow
M.F.A. in Writing, Vermont College, Montpelier, VT, July 1999, merit scholarship (Fiction)
M.A. with Distinction, Boston College (English), Awarded Full Fellowship
B.A., Smith College (Anthropology); Junior Year Abroad, Paris and Geneva

Teaching and Leadership Awards and Honors

Guest Fiction Editor, *The Louisville Review*, 2017
The URI Arts and Sciences Administrative Excellence Award, 2015
The Susan Currier Visiting Professorship for Teaching Excellence, Cal Poly, 2013-2014
The URI Faculty Excellence Award in Diversity Leadership and Service, 2011
The URI Lecturer Excellence in Teaching Award, 2008
The URI Uhuru Sasa Certificate for Teaching Excellence, 2007/2008

Teaching Experience

The University of Rhode Island, Gender and Women's Studies Program (Director 2008-2015),
Associate Prof. (2012), Asst. Prof. (2009), Lecturer (2007-2009); Part-time faculty (2004-2006)

- Graduate Colloquium in Feminist Theory (GWS 500)
- Creative Writing and Publishing (ENG 499 Capstone)
- Crossing Borders: Writers Writing Their Lives (GWS 490H, GWS 490, GWS/WRT/ENG 492, HPR 411)
- Critical Issues in Feminist Scholarship (GWS 400 Capstone)
- Violence and Nonviolence in Theory and Fiction—Feminist Alternatives (GWS 351)
- Feminist Thought Into Action (GWS 320)
- Feminist Theory and Methodology (GWS 315)
- Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality (GWS 310)
- Advanced Fiction (ENG 305)
- The Short Story (ENG 243)
- Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies (GWS 150)

Fiction (F) and Creative Nonfiction (CNF) Publications

“Animal Teeth,” *Jabberwock Review*, F, Summer/Fall 2019
“Two Halves,” *Six Hens*, CNF, December 2016
“No Telling,” *Timberline Review*, F, Summer/Fall 2016
“Hand Me Up, Hand Me Down,” *The Fem*, F, May 2016
Remember Love, short stories, Fleur-de-lis Press, May 2008
“In the Mercy of Water,” *Fugue*, F, Summer 2005

“Point of Distraction,” *Thema*, F, Fall 2002

“Crucible,” *Michigan Quarterly Review*, F, Winter 2002

“Don’t Let the Bastards Grind You Down,” *The Louisville Review*, F, Fall 2001

“Bush Beating,” *Confrontation*, Spring/Summer 2001, also reprinted in *The Way We Knew It* (Fiction Anthology published by Vermont College/Union Institute & University), 2006

Writing Prizes, Nominations, and Commendations

Story “Animal Teeth” nominated for a Pushcart Award, November 2019

Finalist Editor’s Reprint Award, *Sequestrum Literary Journal*, “In the Mercy of Water,” May 2018

Story collection *Remember Love* nominated for a National Book Award, August 2008, and the Hemingway Foundation and Winship/PEN New England Awards, Dec. 2008

Story “Crucible” nominated for Pushcart Award, December 2008

“This I Believe,” WRNI.FM, Rhode Island NPR affiliate, aired July 16, 2008

Boston Globe, *Remember Love* review, “Short Takes” by Amanda Heller, Sunday, June 29, 2008: “This first-rate collection of short fiction... starts out strong and keeps on accelerating.”

Louisville Courier-Journal *Remember Love* review, May 24, 2008, “10 Perfect Tales”

Women’s Review of Books, *Remember Love* review, Jan/Feb 2009, “Short and Frisky”: “Of the three writers, Lisberger is the slyest... each story builds to a ratcheting tension, carefully nurtured through the accretion of small details.”

“In the Mercy of Water,” *Quarterly West* Fiction Contest, Finalist 2004; *American Literary Review* 2003 Fiction Contest, 3rd place

“William Blake’s Thel: Living Without (Ab)use,” awarded the David Bonnell Green Prize for the Best Essay in English or American Romanticism, Boston U., 1991

Fiction Works in Circulation: *You Don’t Know the Half Of It*

Fiction Works in Process: *House Pets and Other People*, stories; *Behind the Barrier*, novel

Stories and CNF in circulation “Seedlings,” “Sleeping With Skunk,” “If We Go to Maui,” “Migration,” “How To Forgive Your Mother” (CNF)

Presentations on Creative Writing and Writing Pedagogy

Northeastern Modern Language Association NEMLA, March 2019, “Challenging the seat of power: When antagonists threaten to take over a story, then what?”

NEMLA, April 2018, “Border Crossers and Crossings: Taking Risks in Writing Fiction”

NEMLA, March 2017, “The Beast Down Under,” based on my story “Down Under.” Panel: “The Coyote in the Parking Lot: Writers Invoking Animals in an Increasingly Wild World”

“The Uses of Memory in Fiction,” invited speaker, Prof. Rae Ferguson’s graduate history seminar (HIS 507) on “History and Memory,” Apr. 2016

NeMLA March 2016, “Gimmee Shelter: Creative Writing About Rescued Animals.” Reading and discussion of “Animal Teeth”

Introduction to Fiction Writing (workshop faculty) “Writing or Wanting to Write a Novel or Book-length Memoir—Strategies for Success” and Introduction to Fiction Workshop, Ocean State Summer Writing Conference, June 2014

“Bringing In/Bringing Out Diversity,” Instructional Innovation Showcase, Cal Poly, February 2014

Conversations With CalPoly Authors, Feb. 7, 2014:

<http://lib.calpoly.edu/outloud/2014/02/10/remembering-love-with-jody-lisberger/>

“Teaching the Maze Backwards: Helping Students Arrive at Arguments,” Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology, Cal Poly, January 2014

“Where/What Fiction and Nonfiction Can Learn From Each Other: Dramatic Tension in Dialogue, and Moving Between Seen/Scene and Unseen,” Ocean State Summer Writing Conference, June 2013

“Shaping Scene in Fiction and Nonfiction,” Ocean State Summer Writing Conference, June 2012

“From Hickeys to House Burning, or Breaking the Patterns of the Master Narrative: Honing Nonfiction Craft,” 75-minute solo workshop, National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, Nov. 2011

“To Dialogue or Not to Dialogue,” Ocean State Summer Writing Conference, June 2011

“The Craft of Memoir and Creative Nonfiction,” Osher Lifelong Learning Seminar, March-April 2011

“From Hickeys to House Burning: Why Leaps in Creative Nonfiction Matter,” Spalding University MFA in Writing, Nov. 2010

“Writing Down the Body: Honing Fiction Craft, Making the Invisible Visible, the Silent Spoken,” 75-minute solo workshop, National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Denver, CO, Nov. 2010; also given at SUNY Cortland, Invited Guest Lecturer, Women’s History Month, March 2010

Writer in Residence: Lyon College, Arkansas, Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2011

Visiting Writer, “Writing As If Your Life Depends On It,” U. of Pittsburgh/Bradford, Oct. 2009

“Dialogue: Strategies for Using It and Not Using It,” Ocean State Summer Writing Conference, June 2009

Intensive Advanced Fiction Weekend Workshop, The Writer's Circle, Providence, RI, Feb. 2009

"Dramatic Tension and the Seeds of Fiction," Feinstein College of Continuing Ed., July 2008

"Powering the Unseen in Fiction," Emerging Writer's Retreat, Stonington, RI, June 2008

"My Truth, Your Truth, and The Truth," Ocean State Summer Writing Conference, June 2008

"Taking Place (and Time)," Ocean State Summer Writing Conference, June 2008

"Writing Fiction and Being Brave," Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL, May 2008

"Fiction 101, 201, 301, 401: Going Deeper," Spalding MFA in Writing Program, May 2008

"Claiming Ownership Over Your Writing—And Your Life," Spalding MFA, Nov. 2007

"Exposure and Reflection," Spalding MFA in Writing Program, May 2007

"The Art of Character Development," Ocean State Summer Writing Conference, June 2007

The Art of Memoir, North Kingstown Library, sponsored by the RI and N. Kingstown Arts Councils, Winter 2007, Summer 2005, 2004

Foster Library, Fiction Class for Home-Schooled Teens, October 2005

North Kingstown Library, May 19, 2004, speaker, "Getting Started as a Writer"

Harvard Writer's Forum, November 2003, keynote speaker, "Getting Started and Restarted"

New Orleans Jewish Community Center, January 2003, guest speaker, "Writing Memoir"

Fiction Readings since 2008

Accents—A Radio Show for Literature, Art and Culture on WRFL, 88.1 FM, Lexington, KY: Interview and Reading from *You Don't Know The Half Of It*, July 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eQIm7yRwJ4&t=16s&fbclid=IwAR2bDEXivpJ7t2jtfiwF4f7CBbQz51j0Dq-UW3ejjNX0Pm123PThEW96xRc>

NeMLA, "The Coyote in the Parking Lot: Writers Invoking Animals in an Increasingly Wild World." Reading of "Down Under," 2017

Portland, OR, Annie Bloom Bookstore, "No Telling," October 2016

NeMLA, "Gimme Shelter: Creative Writing About Rescued Animals." Reading of "Animal Teeth." March 2016

The University of Rhode Island, June 2014

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA, Feb. 2014

Spalding University MFA in Writing Program, May 2016, May 2014, May 2012, July 2011

George School, Newtown, PA, May 2011

Spalding University MFA in Writing Program, Louisville, KY, Nov. 2010

Lyon College, Batesville, Arkansas, Nov. 2010

SUNY Cortland, NY, Oct. 2010

KGB Bar, Writers Series, New York City, Oct. 2009

University of Pittsburgh/Bradford, Oct. 2009
Creative Writing Festival, Norwalk Community College, Nov. 2008
Mothering, Violence, Militarism, War and Social Justice Conference, Toronto, Oct. 2008
Portland, Maine, Public Library Brown Bag Lunch Series, Aug. 2008
Books Etc., Falmouth, Maine, Aug. 2008
Cushings Island Readers, Maine, August 2008
Books on the Square, Providence RI, June 2008
Ocean State Summer Writing Conference, Kingston, RI, June 2008
Borders Books, Louisville, KY, May 2008
Borders Books, Normal, Illinois, May 2008
Spalding University MFA in Writing Program, Louisville, KY, May 2008
East End Book Group, New York City, May 2008
Poetry of the Wild, Kettle Pond Visitor's Center, Charlestown, RI, April 2008
Gorham Maine Readers, April 2008
Read/Write Series, URI, April 2008

Additional Fiction Reviews and Interviews

Accents—A Radio Show for Literature, Art and Culture on WRFL, 88.1 FM, Lexington, KY: Interview and Reading from *You Don't Know The Half Of It*, July 2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eQIm7yRwJ4&t=16s&fbclid=IwAR2bDEXivpJ7t2jtffwF4f7CBbQz51j0Dq-UW3ejjNX0Pm123PThEW96xRc>

Conversations With CalPoly Authors, Feb. 7, 2014:
<http://lib.calpoly.edu/outloud/2014/02/10/remembering-love-with-jody-lisberger/>

Accents: WRFL 88.1 FM Lexington, KY, November 2009, Interview streamed worldwide:
http://www.katerinaklemer.com/audio/accents_101609.mp3

The Short Review, March 2009, <http://www.theshortreview.com/>

Rain Taxi Review of Books 13.4, Winter 2008/2009

The Ithaca Journal, June 28, 2008 “Lisberger’s *Remember Love* Tackles Complex Relationships...”

The Sun and *Wood River Press*, May 22, 2008

WGLT.FM (NPR Affiliate, Bloomington, Illinois) interview segments, May 21, 2008

The Providence Journal, May 4, 2008, “Dissecting Desperate Characters”

The Northeast Independent, March 27, 2008 “Loss and Reckoning Endure in Artful Prose”

The Narragansett Times, March 19, 2008

Gender and Women’s Studies Publications

“The Politics of Data: Gender Bias and Border Mentality in the EEOC Job Category Compliance Chart and How Transnational Gender Mainstreaming Can Offer Best Practices for Change,”
Wagadu, Journal of Transnational Women’s and Gender Studies, Fall 2011

“DES and Diflucan: Pharmaceutical Marketing Choices—Why Women Should Take Heed,” in *(Re)Interpretations: The Shapes of Justice in Women’s Experience*, Cambridge Scholar Press, 2009

“Acupuncture and Menopause: Where Has All the Yin Gone?” *Sojourner*, March 1995

“Medical Abortions: The Wave of the Future?” *Sojourner*, January 1995

“Helping Kids Decipher the Basics: Health Educators Discuss Their Role in the Wake of Jocelyn Elders’ Firing,” *Belmont Citizen Herald*, January 1995

“June Barrett: ‘Somebody’s Got to Stand,’” *Sojourner*, December 1994

Gender and Women’s Studies Presentations

“Plutonium: The toxic silences and illusions behind patriarchal notions of safety and remediation, as exposed in Sharma Shields’ 2019 novel, *The Cassandra*.” Northeastern Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Boston, March 2020

“Ecology, Gender, and Nuclear Waste: The Perils of Not Knowing About Hanford, the Largest Nuclear Waste Site in the U.S.” Dana Shugar Colloquium, URI, February 2020.
<https://myvideo.uri.edu/Mediasite/Play/ab7ddb436702462e916a3689228c1e1d1d>

“Current Issues in Race and Feminism,” Invited Guest Speaker for PINK Annual Unsung Heroes Banquet, April 2016

“Support vs. Solidarity: Why Support Isn’t Enough,” Women’s Leadership Conference, URI, March 2016

“Integrative Learning: What is it and how can we teach it?” Invited guest speaker for the first Advancement of Teaching and Learning Conversation Series, URI, Oct. 8, 2015

“Growing Your Program—Successes and Challenges,” Invited speaker, National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) Regional Meeting, Cambridge, MA Feb. 2015

“The University as Nation-State: Transnational remedies,” National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA), Puerto Rico, November 2014

Gender and Women’s Issues in *Seminar*, invited post-show guest panelist, URI, October 2014.

“Teaching to Disrupt Gender: Challenging the Myth of Disposable Women,” Susan Currier Lecture, Cal Poly, Feb. 12, 2014; and (with altered content) March 26, 2014, Claremont Colleges, sponsored by Intercollegiate Women’s Studies and the Center for Writing and Public Discourse

“Professional opportunities, challenges, and transformations implicated in interdisciplinary work today,” Invited panelist, URI Graduate Conference, April 2013

“Feminist Co-Mentoring as a Model for Changing Institutional Behavior,” New England Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Boston, March 2013

“Creating Innovative Grad School Applications and Tackling Academic Job Market Anxieties,”

Invited panelist, URI Graduate Conference, April 2012

“Disposable Women, Border Mentalities, and Militarization in Academia: The Deep Structures in Exploitative Institutional Patterns,” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference (NWSA), Oakland, November 2012.

“From Hickeys to House-burning, or Breaking the Patterns of the Master Narrative: Honing Nonfiction Craft,” 75-minute solo workshop, NWSA, Atlanta, Nov. 2011

“Writing Down the Body: Honing Fiction Craft, Making the Invisible Visible, the Silent Spoken,” 75-minute solo workshop National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Denver, CO, Nov. 2010

“Writing Down the Body: Making the Invisible Visible, the Silent Spoken,” SUNY Cortland Women’s History Month, Invited Guest Lecturer, March 2010;
<http://www.cortland.edu/webcast/webcast.asp?VideoID=163>

“The Politics of Data: Concealed gender bias in the EEOC Job Category Compliance Chart and how transnational gender mainstreaming can offer best practices for change,” Succeeding as Women in Higher Education Conference, SUNY/Cortland, Oct.23-25, 2009

“DES and Diflucan: Pharmaceutical Marketing Choices—Why Women Should Take Heed,” Southern Connecticut State University’s Women’s Studies Conference, “Women’s Health: Colonized, Resisted, Reclaimed,” Oct. 2006

“Feminized Forms in Male Frames: Navigating the Other Side of *The Shipping News*,” Boston Great Decisions Reading Group, March 1995

“Featuring the Virgin Mary: Problematic Cloaking in *Death Comes for the Archbishop*,” Willa Cather Santa Fe Conference, August 1988

Ph.D. Dissertation (1991)

“Violence and the Lost Maternal: Problems of Sacrifice, Biblical Authority, and Feminine Desire in Narrative.” Works addressed: *The Prairie* by James Fenimore Cooper, *The Book of Thel* by William Blake, *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte, and *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather

This dissertation examines how narrative reinforces notions of the Maternal that work against the validation of feminine presence and desire. It sees feminine desire as countering notions of desire derived from phallogocentric conceptions of the mother and her body as forbidden, repressed, and absented. Noting the similar tendency of biblical, narrative, and phallogocentric traditions to revere but absent the actual mother, the thesis examines how both *The Prairie* and “The Book of Thel” reveal metonymic and metaphoric sacrificial orders and consequent violence against women, though Blake achieves critical distance from that violence. The thesis then examines *Wuthering Heights* and *Death Comes For the Archbishop* to explore the possibility of narrative strategies that counter the sacrificial order of traditional narrative. It finally ponders whether the association of desire and violence is so embedded in the Western imagination and narrative tradition that

nonviolent conceptions, representations, and fulfillments of feminine desire in narrative are not rarely expressed but rarely understood.

Grants and Funding

Funded \$1,500 by Research & Economic Development, A & S, and GWS to travel to Hanford, WA. June 2019 for 10 days to interview, tour, and do archival research about Hanford, where plutonium for the atom bomb was produced in the 1940s and where, today, the largest nuclear waste site in the U.S. remains

Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH) grant recipient to sponsor four distinguished women writers at URI, 2011, in conjunction with Crossing Borders: Women Writing Their Lives

Distinguished International Scholar Host and Grant Recipient with the Departments of Economics and Africana Studies to bring Dr. Bola Akanji to URI from the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, Spring 2008

Service, The University of Rhode Island

A & S

Director Gender and Women's Studies 2008-2013, 2014-2015 (at Cal Poly 2013-2014)

Committee and Rationale Writer for GWS Department Name Change Proposal July 2020

Committee member for Africana Studies Department Name Change Proposal July 2020

Search Committee, Landscape Architecture Lecturer search, November 2019-February 2020

Arts and Sciences Strategic Planning Committee, 2017-2020

Panelist: Toni Morrison, In Memoriam, November 2019

Honorary Degree Nominator: Wrote letter to nominate Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha for Commencement Honorary Degree Awardee and Speaker, November, 2019

Ocean State Summer Writing Conference, fiction faculty and steering committee, 2007-2019

Mental Health Planning Committee Summer 2020

Honorary Degree Committee, URI, 2015-2017

President's Committee on the Status of Women, 2008-2013

Women's Development Council, 2008-2013

Equity Council, 2008-2015 (on leave 2013-2014)

Provost's Interdisciplinary Committee, 2010-2011

Student-centered projects:

Student trip to Washington, DC: Garnered full funding, organized, and accompanied 11 students to Washington, DC, March 3-4, 2020, including tours of the Senate, House of Representatives, Supreme Court, historic sites and museums, and meetings with Senators Reed and Whitehouse, The Center for Reproductive Rights, National Women's Law Center, etc.

Student internship RI connections: Developed internship links for GWS students with Day One, The Womxn Project, The RI Statehouse, Planned Parenthood, The South County Domestic Violence Center, Sunrise RI, etc.

Student trips to the Radcliffe Advanced Institute Gender Conferences: Garnered full funding, organized, and accompanied 35-40 students and 3-5 URI faculty to the Annual day-long Gender Conferences on Immigration, The Arab Spring, Confronting Violence, Global Citizenship, and Sexual Rights and Wrongs: Global Perspectives, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2018. The 2020 conference cancelled due to COVID.

Student J-term trip January 2016 (PSC 475): Faculty chaperone for URI J-term trip to the Dominican Republic (12 days)

Student trip to Nepal, Spring 2013: Faculty co-chaperone for Nonviolence and Peace Studies (10-days)

Gender and Women's Studies Advisor 2006-present

Writing Women's Issues, March 2018; taught Op.Ed. writing for WRT event

"Out of Diversity: We Speak," Faculty/Student Diversity Week Speaker Series, 2008-2014

Curriculum Reforms

General Education: Designed and gained approval of New General Education Outcomes for GWS 150 (Diversity and Inclusion), for GWS 320 (Integrate and Apply; Civic Knowledge), and for GWS/WRT/ENG 492 (Integrate and Apply; Writing)

Assessment GWS 320: Organized, evaluated, and filed report, Spring 2019; Commendation for Excellence in Assessment, Spring 2019

Writing Consultancy

Writing adviser for Marie Schwartz's *Ties That Bound* (2017) and upcoming new book

Writing adviser for Rae Ferguson's completed memoir

Editorial assistance for NIH Summer grant submission for Katie McIntyre (she won!)

Reference for Jessica Frazier's application to the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program

Op. Ed. teacher and editor for two URI students with Op.Eds. in the *ProJo* and *Uprise RI* (2019)

Documenting RI: Guest speaker for Rob Widell's History class, 2017

Professional Affiliations

American Association of University Women; Associated Writing Programs; National Women's Studies Association; PEN New England; RINOW, Planned Parenthood, ACLU

Related Job Experiences

Grant writer: Massachusetts Corporation for Educational Telecommunications (MCET). Nonprofit, interactive satellite broadcast agency for programming in literacy, health, science, and social studies. Raised more than \$9.5 million; May 1996-May 1997

Editor: Houghton Mifflin, Co., Social Studies, School Division, Citizenship Features Editor. Responsible for developing and designing 40 new case studies and projects, based on the work of activists in all fields around the country. Designed to teach children how to participate, make decisions, and resolve conflicts; included in all new social studies books, grades 3-6. Case studies emphasized important women and people of color not previously introduced in the social studies curriculum; also developed ancillary materials for teachers; Sept. 1995-April 1996

Journalist: *Sojourner*. Articles, reviews, and essays pertaining to politics, the arts, and women's health for monthly feminist newspaper with over 40,000 worldwide readers, 1993-1998; *Belmont Citizen Herald*, freelance writer, 1994-1995

Writer and Proofreader: Arthur D. Little, Inc., international management consulting firm, Boston, MA. Proofread monthly glossy magazine and wrote the accreditation review for in-house MBA program, Aug. 1995-1999

Brandeis Humanities and the Professions Program: Literature teaching to judges, doctors, and professionals, 1994-1997

Boston Women's Reading Group: Paid to lecture and lead discussions on Dorothy Allison, Margaret Atwood, Kate Chopin, Anita Desai, Nadine Gordimer, Zora Neale Hurston, Jamaica Kincaid, Audre Lorde, Toni Morrison, Ben Okri, E. Annie Proulx, 1994-95

Book Reviewer: Belmont Library, 1993-1996