

JUSTIN TUSSING

24 St. Lawrence Street, Apt. 1, Portland, ME 04101
(207) 272-2957
jtussing@usm.maine.edu

EDUCATION

- M.F.A. Fiction Writing, University of Iowa Writers' Workshop
Iowa City, IA, May 1999
Thesis: *Photons and Other Possible Worlds*, short stories
Advisor: James Allen McPherson
- B.A. English/Women's Studies, The University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH, December 1992

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME 2007 – Present

Taught creative writing, fiction writing, short fiction workshop, writing the novel, and college writing. Advised students in major. Advised honor theses.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR, 2005 – 2007

Taught introductory and advanced fiction writing; introduction to short fiction; and international short fiction. Developed and taught multiple genre survey, "The Literature of Catastrophe." Developed and taught Major Figures seminar comparing the social novels of Paula Fox and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Supervised independent studies.

Adjunct Faculty, Bay Path College, Longmeadow, MA, 2004 – 2005

Taught four sections of "Introduction to Genres," a literature survey examining short fiction, drama, poetry, and the novel. Acted as advisor and oversaw independent projects.

Iowa Young Writers' Studio, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, 2000 – 2002

Developed and taught creative writing workshops and literature seminars for high school summer writing program. Curriculum included the contemporary novel, modernist and experimental short fiction, and creative non-fiction.

Fiction Writing Instructor, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, 1998 – 1999

Taught two sections of undergraduate fiction writing. Selected by faculty to serve on graduate admissions committee. Evaluated and ranked application manuscripts for Writers' Workshop.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Interim Director, Stonecoast MFA, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME

2013 – Present

Appointed to directorship of top-ranked low-residency graduate writing program. Hired faculty. Responsible for recruitment, admissions, curriculum, and all program direction. Supervised associate director.

Director, Stonecoast Writers' Conference, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME

2007 – Present

Proposed and implemented extensive cost-saving strategies. Hired faculty. Redesigned website and produced online content to attract new students. Developed extensive extra-curricular events schedule. Streamlined application process. Responsible for the coordination of housing, curriculum, and all program direction.

Writing Program Coordinator, Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA 2001 – 2004

Managed all aspects of creative writing fellowship program. Acted as liaison between fellows, larger organization, and community. Scheduled and arranged winter reading series of preeminent U.S. and International authors. Oversaw fellowship application process, including receipt of more than five-hundred applications. Arranged travel plans and housing for two juries of readers. Evaluated application manuscripts. Produced press releases and maintained archival records.

Director, Iowa Young Writers' Studio, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 2000 – 2001

Director of summer residential program serving eighty U.S. and International high school students. Responsible for the coordination of housing, curriculum, and all program direction. Hired faculty and staff. Created and maintained web pages. Managed program budget. Wrote catalog and other promotional materials. Led daily meetings and mentored students.

Coordinator, Iowa Summer Writing Festival, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 1998 – 2001

For annual festival, acted as liaison between University and students. Varied duties included constructing catalog, processing registration and billing, and assisting students. Oversaw readings and weekend sessions. Prepared course materials, introduced and moderated daily lecture series.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Vexation Lullaby*, novel, Catapult Press, Spring 2016
- “The Runner” in *A Public Space*, Issue 14, 2011
- “Off the List” (essay) in *Cincinnati Review*, forthcoming (Summer 2011)
- “The Women of Kansas City” in *Dossier*, Issue 6, 2010
- *The Best People in the World*, novel (paperback edition), HarperCollins, February 2007
- “Step Nine” in *Esquire.com*, February 2007
- “We Are Dwarf Tiger” in *Columbia: A Journal of Literature and Art*, Winter 2007
- “Call Me Local” (personal essay), *New York Times*, August 2006
- “Photons” in *Nerve*, February 2006
- *The Best People in the World*, novel, HarperCollins (U.S.) & Fourth Estate (U.K.), February 2006
- “The Laser Age” (novel excerpt) in *The New Yorker* Debut Fiction Issue, June 13/20, 2005
- “Going to the Birds” in *Boston Globe Sunday Magazine*, November 23, 2003
- “A Fine Madness” in *Boston Globe Sunday Magazine*, June 22, 2003
- “The Artificial Cloud” in *TriQuarterly*, May/June 2000
- “The Tiny Man” in *Third Coast*, Spring 2000
- “Heat Wave” in *Nerve*, March 2000
- “The Big Man” in *Shankpainter*, Spring 2000
- “Lottery” in *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, April 1999

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

- One of five writers invited to participate in the *Cincinnati Review*'s Special Review Feature: "A New Winner of the 1961 National Book Award"
- "The Women of Kansas City" nominated for a Pushcart Prize
- Lannon Foundation Residency, Marfa, TX, June 2010
- Finalist, Virginia Commonwealth University's First Novelist Award, 2007
- Panelist, "Recruiting and Supporting Students Through Summer Writing Workshops," Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Chicago, IL, February 2009
- Unfinished short story collection nominated by University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop for \$7500 Scholarship, June 2008
- Jurist, Millay Colony, Austerlitz, NY, Fall 2007 – Winter 2008
- Lannon Foundation Residency, Marfa, TX, June 2010
- *The Best People in the World*, Winner 2006 Oregon Book Award
- "The Laser Age" selected a notable story, *Best American Short Stories 2006*, ed. Ann Patchett
- Jurist, MacColl Johnson Fellowship, Rhode Island Foundation, Providence, RI, 2006
- James Michener/Copernicus Society of America Fellowship, 2002-2003
- "The Artificial Cloud" selected for *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror: Fourteenth Annual Collection*, eds. Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, 2001
- Winter Residency Fellowship, Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA, 1999-2000
- Teaching/Writing Fellowship, University of Iowa, 1998–1999

READINGS & TALKS

- Panel, “MFA vs NYC vs RCjr,” SPACE Gallery, Portland, ME 2015
- Guest Lecturer, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME, October 2012
- Guest Lecturer, Phillips Andover Academy, Andover, MA, September 2012
- Reading, Portland Hive, One Longfellow Square, Portland, ME, July 2012
- Reading, UMF, Farmington, ME, March 2012
- Reading, Bates College, Lewiston, ME, March 2012
- Reading, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME, February 2012
- Reading, Portland Hive, Portland, ME, August 2011
- Reading, Featured Reader for Writers’ Day, Hamden Hall Country Day School, Hamden, CT, November 2010
- Reading, Marfa Book Company, Marfa, TX, June 2010
- Reading and Talk, Marfa Public Radio, KRTS, 93.5, Marfa, TX, June 2010
- Reading, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME, September 2008
- Reading, University of California, San Diego, CA, February 2007
- Reading, Oregon Book Award Reading, Portland, OR, November 2006
- Reading, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA, September 2006
- Reading, Behind the Book, KGB Bar, New York, NY, June 2006
- Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR, April 2006
- Reading, University of Southern Washington, Ellensburg, WA, April 2006
- Reading, Bennington College, Bennington, VT, March 2006
- Ten-city reading tour, February and March 2006
- Reading, Loggernaut Reading Series, Portland, OR, December 2005
- Reading, “Artists on their Work,” Nauset High School, Wellfleet, MA, April 2001
- Reading, Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA, January 2000

I think the distinction of "professional" experience is important, because being paid to do a job implies that you did a good enough job that someone paid you to do it (and were, presumably, satisfied with your work often enough to keep paying you). If you have years of volunteer experience, I think that's fantastic. Include that - it often helps, and depending on where you're applying, this might be a big plus. I'd mention any volunteer experience or other possibly useful but not directly related experience elsewhere in an application.