

MEGHAN O'ROURKE

EDUCATION

Warren Wilson College, M.F.A in Poetry Asheville, NC, 2005

Yale University, B.A. in English, *magna cum laude*, New Haven, CT, 1997

- Distinction in the major; Phi Beta Kappa. Honors thesis on the long poem in American literature. Recipient of award for Senior. Recipient of awards for outstanding student in English and Best Senior Thesis.

TEACHING

New York University, New York, NY

2010 – present.

- Graduate literature courses and poetry workshops, including Craft Courses on Shakespeare, Originality, and Literary Borrowing; “The Poem of the Act of the Mind” How does the Lyric Poem Think?; The Decisive Moment: Pivotal Books in 20th Century American Poetry; and an undergraduate Master Class in Nonfiction. Thesis supervisor in the MFA program.
- Assisted with the development of NYU’s Low-Residency MFA Program in Paris. Designed and wrote the curriculum.

Scripps College, Claremont, CA 2015.

- Mary Routt Chair in Creative Writing. Honorary chair for one semester.

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, 2008- present

- Visiting lecturer and thesis supervisor in undergraduate creative writing program

The New School, New York, NY, 2007- 2009

- Instructor of graduate literature courses and workshops and thesis supervisor in the MFA program. Courses taught include a literature class on Cultural Anxiety in Postwar American Poetry and Examining the I: Looking at the Radical First Person in American and English Poetry.

The Kenyon Summer Writers Workshop, Gambier, Ohio, 2006 and 2008.

- Visiting instructor in weeklong summer writing workshop for adults. Fellow, 2006.

MAGAZINE EDITING

Slate, New York, NY, 2002-2013.

- Culture critic, 2008-2011. Wrote a monthly column on cultural issues ranging from film to books to politics.
- Culture and literary editor, 2002-2008. Created and ran the culture and arts section at an ASME-award winning national magazine; managed a staff of five and a \$500,000 budget; was responsible for hiring editors, critics and overseeing the half of the magazine related to the arts. Also wrote a bi-weekly column on books, film, and art.
- Host and Creator, Audio Book Club. Creator and former host of a monthly podcast about books with thousands of subscribers. 2006-2013

T Magazine of The New York Times, New York, NY, 2013-present.

- Poetry editor and curator. Edit a monthly page called “A Picture and a Poem” for the *New York Times*’ Style magazine.

Open Book, New York, NY, 2009-2010. Co-host and co-creator of *Open Book*, a video interview series with writers on *Slate*, co-sponsored by NYU.

Double X and Double X Podcast, New York, NY, 2008 to 2009.

- Founding editor of a new website of politics and culture for women, launched in May 2009. Conceptualized, created, and oversaw a website with a \$1 million operating budget and approximately 1 million users per month. Hired and oversaw a staff of six; defined our internal budget; worked with publisher to build advertising revenue.

The Paris Review, New York, NY, 2005 to 2010.

- Poetry editor. Selected work for publication in quarterly magazine. Commissioned interviews with poets. Built online submission system, and created reading partnerships with NYU and the Academy of American Poets.

The New Yorker, New York, NY, 1997-2002.

- Senior Editor, 1999-2002. Edited staff writers, commissioned essays, edited manuscripts.
- Fiction editor, 1999-2002. Worked closely with writers as one of several fiction editors.
- Editorial assistant to Bill Buford, Fiction and Literary Editor, 1997-1999.

Grand Street, New York, NY, 1998-2001.

- Contributing Editor and Freelance Editor. Recommended writers and story ideas, edited fiction and nonfiction.

Yale University Press, Yale Younger Series of Poets, New Haven, CT, 1997 and 1999.

- Read manuscripts and selected finalists for prize and publication.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Ill: An Inquiry into Mysterious Diseases*, Riverhead Books, forthcoming. A cultural examination of poorly understood chronic illnesses.
- *Sun In Days*, W.W. Norton, 2017. Collection of poetry and hybrid lyric essays.
- *The Long Goodbye*, Riverhead Books, 2011. A memoir and study of grief and mourning in America.
- *Once*, W.W. Norton, 2011. Collection of poetry.
- *Half-life*, W.W. Norton, 2007. Collection of poetry.

Anthologies

- *Brooklyn Poets*, ed. Jason Koo (2017)
- *The Best of Poetry Daily* (2015)
- *Sugar in My Bowl*, ed. Erica Jong (2011)
- *The Best of Best American Poetry* (2011)
- *The Best American Poetry 2007*
- *The Best American Poetry 2008*
- *The Pushcart Prize Anthology, 2006, 2008*
- *Poems on Fatherhood*
- *The Art of Losing: Poems of Grief*, ed. Kevin Young
- *Bloodlines*, ed. Jason Starr (2007)

Poems (Selected):

Individual or groups of poems published in:

- *A Public Space* (“Frontier”)
- *The Awl* (“Poem for My Son”)
- *Brooklyn Magazine* (“Mothered” and “My Mother”)
- *Daedalus* (“Ophelia to the Court”)
- *Guernica* (“Chemotherapy”)
- *Gulf Coast* (“The Window at Arles”)
- *The New Republic*
- *The New Yorker* (“Unforced Error,” “Navesink,” “Poem of Regret for an Old Friend,” “My Aunts,” Apartment Living,” “Troy,” and more)
- *Poetry* “Sun In Days,” “Mediations on a Moth,” “My Life as a Subject,” “On Marriage”
- *Slate*, (“Descent” and “Half-life”)
- *The Kenyon Review* (“Unnatural Essay,” “Mistaken Self-Portrait as Mother to an Unmade Daughter,” “Preparation,” “Once,” “Twenty-First Century Fireworks,” “Appeal to the Self”)
- *Lit Hub* (“Idiopathic Illness”)
- *The New York Times Magazine* (“Self-Portrait as Myself”)
- *The New York Review of Books*
- *Poetry Northwest*
- *Ploughshares* (“A Note on Process”)
- *The Paris Review* (“Sex, Again” and “Poem for My Stranger”)
- *Tin House* (“Expecting,” “Churchyard” and “Faith”)
- *32 Poems* (“The Resistance to Metaphor”)
- *The Rumpus*
- *Washington Square* (“Localized” and “Magnolia”)
- *The Yale Review*
- *The Best American Poetry 2007*
- *The Best American Poetry 2008*
- *The Best of the Best American Poetry*, and more.

Essays, Reviews, and Criticism (Selected):

More hundreds of pieces published, including:

- *Associated Writing Programs*: “On W.S. Merwin” (2017)
- *The Atlantic Monthly*, “Robert Lowell, Elizabeth Bishop, and Confessional Poetry” (2017)
- *The Atlantic Monthly*, “On Gymnastics”
- *The Atlantic Monthly*, “Doctors Tell All: What’s Gone Wrong in Our Healthcare System” (2014)
- *Bookforum*, On Ben Lerner’s “The Hatred of Poetry” (2016), Harvey Mansfield’s *Manliness*, and many more
- *The Guardian*, On Jennifer Egan’s “Manhattan Beach” (2017) and more
- *Harper’s Magazine*: “On Marilynne Robinson’s *Lila*” (2014)
- *The Nation*: “She’s So Heavy: On Carolyn Forché (2002)
- *New York*: “Caitlin Flanagan’s *Girl Land*” (2012)
- *The New Yorker*: “Nancy Drew’s Father” (2004)
- *The New Yorker*: “Good Grief,” (2010),
- *The New Yorker*: “The Unfolding: On Anne Carson’s *Nox*” (2010)
- *The New Yorker*: “Writing a Mother’s Death” (2011)
- *The New Yorker*: “What’s Wrong With Me?” (2013)
- *The New York Review of Books*: “On Ann Beattie” (2011)
- *Poetry*: “On Gwendolyn Brooks’ *Riot* and Political Eros” (2017)

- *Poetry*: “Subject Sylvia: Re-evaluating the Poetry of Sylvia Plath” (2004)
- *Poetry*: “Is There Such a Thing as Women’s Poetry” (2005)
- *Poetry*: “On Lorine Niedecker” (2003)
- *Slate*: Essays include
 - “The Case for Difficult Books” (2001);
 - “On Edna St. Vincent Millay and Emily Dickinson” (2001)
 - “How *The Hours* Misinterpreted Virginia Woolf” (2003)
 - “Poetry’s Lioness: Defending Sylvia Plath” (2003)
 - “Ryszard Kapuscinski: Defending Literary License in Nonfiction” (2003);
 - “Only Connect: The Problems of Literary Biography” (2004)
 - “On Anne Carson” (2004)
 - “Ariel Redux: The Latest Chapter in the Sylvia Plath Controversy” (2004)
 - “Against Love: A New Book Evaluates the Case Against Domesticity” (2004)
 - “The Instruction Manual: How to Read John Ashbery” (2005)
 - “Tricked Up: Alice Munro’s Realism”(2005)
 - “The Lion King: C. S. Lewis’ Narnia Trilogy” (2005)
 - “A Working Girl Can Win: The Literature Against Staying at Home” (2006)
 - “Precocious Realism: The New Fiction” (2006)
 - “Debating the Best American Fiction: In Praise of ‘Small’ Novels” (2006)
 - “Casual Perfection: On the Uncollected Elizabeth Bishop” (2006)
 - “A Pessimist in Flower: The Love Poems of Thomas Hardy” (2007)
 - “Autobiography and Poetry” (2007)
 - “On Literary Plagiarism” (2007)
 - “The Incisive Moment: Henri Cartier-Bresson at Work” (2007)
 - “On W. H. Auden” (2007)
 - “Hell is Other People’s Cubicles: The New Novel of Work” (2007)
 - “Wrinkles in Time: Rereading Madeleine L’Engle” (2007)
 - “The Poetry of Guantanamo” (2007)
 - “On Anne of Green Gables” (2008)
 - “The Long Goodbye: Essays on Grief” (2009)
 - “On A Vindication of Love: Cristina Nehring’s Case for Passion” (2009)
 - “Joan Didion’s Blue Nights” (2011)
 - “What Grief is Really Like: A Survey and Study” (2011)
 - “Alison Bechdel’s Are You My Mother?” (2012)
 - “The Will to Change: Remembering Adrienne Rich” (2012)
- *The New York Times Book Review*, Selected reviews include:
 - Claire Louise Bennett, *Pond* (2016)
 - James Tate, *Dome of the Hidden Pavilion* (2015)
 - Czeslaw Milosz’s *Second Space* (2004)
 - Mary Gaitskill’s *Veronica* (2006)
 - Charles D’Ambrosio’s *The Dead Fish Museum* (2006)
 - Claire Messud’s *The Emperor’s Children* (2007)
 - Brendan Stosuy’s (ed.) *Up is Up and Down is Down* (2007)
 - Les Murray’s *Killing the Black Dog* (2011)
 - Paul Auster’s *Winter Journal* (2012);
 - Cover essay on Contemporary Literature of Dying (2013), and more.
- *The Kenyon Review*: “On the Yale Younger Series of Poets” (2008).
- *The Yale Review*: “Alexander Hemon’s Post-Colonial Fiction” (1999)
- *The Yale Review*: “Parlor Games: The Fiction of Zadie Smith and Ian McEwan” (2000)

DISTINCTIONS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

- Whiting Nonfiction Award, 2017, for *Ill* (work in progress)
- Guggenheim Fellowship, 2014

- The Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University, Fellowship 2014-15
- The Books For a Better Life Award, Finalist, 2012 (*The Long Goodbye*)
- *O Magazine* Top 5 Nonfiction Book of the Year, 2011 (*The Long Goodbye*)
- *Publisher's Weekly* Top 100 Book of the Year 2011 (*The Long Goodbye*)
- *San Francisco Chronicle* Top Book 100 Of the Year (*The Long Goodbye*)
- *The L Magazine*, Top 10 Book of the Year, 2011 (*Once*)
- MacDowell Colony Fellowship, 2009, 2011
- Yaddo Resident, 2011
- The Forward First Book Award, Britain, Longlist 2009
- The May Sarton Award for poetry, Academy of Arts and Letters, 2008
- Finalist for the Prix de Rome in Literature, Academy of Arts and Letters, 2008
- Pushcart Prize, Pushcart Foundation, 2006, 2007
- Lannan Residency Fellowship, 2007
- The Poetry Foundation's Union League Civic and Arts Poetry Prize, 2005
- The Newswomen Club Award For Best Online Criticism, 2005
- Peter Taylor Poetry Fellowship, Kenyon Review, 2005
- Named one of "30 influential editors under 35" by *Columbia Journalism Review*, 2002
- Named one of "30 Under 30" in publishing, *Folio*, 1999
- The Tinker Prize in English, Yale University, 1997
- Lloyd Mifflin Prize in English, Yale University, 1997
- J. Albert Cook Prize for Poetry, Yale University, 1997
- Francis Bergen Memorial Prize for Poetry, Yale University, 1997
- Edward McLaughlin Prize for Excellence in Composition and Study, Yale University, 1996
- 3rd Place, Gordon Barber Memorial Prize for Poetry, Yale University, 1996

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, MEMBERSHIP:

- Guest Curator, Academy of American Poets, Poem-A-Day, 2018
- Judge, Kingsley and Kate Tufts Awards, 2017 (and 2019-2020)
- Judge, PEN American Volcker Award for Essay Collections, 2015
- Radcliffe Institute Fellowship External Review Committee, Radcliffe Institute Fellowship Partners Program with Students 2014-15, 2018
- Judge, Poetry Society of America Prizes, 2011
- Organizer of Russian Samovar reading series, New York, NY, 2002-2004. Ran a distinguished monthly reading series with approximately a hundred guests per reading.
- Board, Housing Works Used Bookstore and Café, 2003-2008

APPEARANCES (SELECTED):

Poetry and Nonfiction Readings:

Boston College, 2017
 Black Mountain Institute at UNLV, 2016
 City College of New York, 2007
 Denison University, 2008
 Gettysburg College, 2008
 Montclair State University, 2007
 The New School, 2008
 New York University, 2007, 2008, 2017
 Northwestern University, 2014
 Poetry Foundation, 2

NYU Summer Writers Workshop in Paris, 2010-2016
Syracuse University, 2005
Texas Tech University, 2009
The College of New Jersey, 2006
University of North Texas, 2009
University of Connecticut, 2009
Virginia Commonwealth University, 2008
University of Cincinnati, 2012
University of Florida at Gainesville, 2008
KGB, 2008
Half-King, 2017
The Roerich Museum, 2017
Shakespeare & Company, Paris, 2010-2015
Scripps College, 2013

Lectures, Panels at Festivals, Conferences, and Reading Series (selected):

AWP
Aspen Institute
Brooklyn Academy of Music Eat, Drink, Be Literary
The New Yorker Festival
Poet's Forum/Academy of American Poets
The *Los Angeles Times* Book Festival
KGB Reading Series
The Lannan Foundation
Ireland Now Festival in Dun Laoghaire
Princeton University
NYU Journalism Program
Columbia Journalism School
Syracuse University Journalism Program
Los Angeles Times Book Festival
Book Expo America
Sewanee Writers Conference
Texas Book Festival
Miami Book Festival
Brattleboro Literary Festival
Yale University

Interviews:

New York Times Op-Ed Section (with Joyce Carol Oates)
The Kenyon Review Online
The Paris Review Daily
Publisher's Weekly
The Rumpus
Washington Square