

AMY M. ALVAREZ

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EDUCATION

MFA in Creative Writing University of Southern Maine	2010
MAT in English Education City College of New York	2005
BA in English William Smith College	2001

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

West Virginia University—Morgantown Associate Teaching Professor of English	2023-Present
Assistant Teaching Professor of English	2018-2023
English Lecturer	2016-2018

Secondary Education

Boston Day and Evening Academy Lead English Teacher	2013-2016
English Teacher	2005-2013

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Makeshift Altar. University Press of Kentucky, 2024.

Co-editor, *Essential Voices: A COVID-19 Anthology*, West Virginia University Press, 2023.

Selected Poems

“Queensborough,” *Obsidian*, Vol. 49.1, Summer 2023 (Furious Flower Poetry Prize Finalist, 2022).

“Four Postcards from New Roots Farm,” *Writing the Land: Foodways and Social Justice*. Edited by Lis McLoughlin, NatureCulture, 2022.

“Carolina Beach,” *The Cortland Review*, no. 90, 2022.

“On Flying Over the Border Wall at Christmas,” “An Old White Woman Touched My Hair at Rising Creek Bakery.” *Huizache*, no. 9, Fall 2022.

- “Inheritance,” “Come, Holy Skin, Bring Your Voices.” *Diode Poetry Journal*, no. 15.2, August 2022.
- “Marriage Counseling: Lancaster, PA” *Malabat Review*, no. 219, Summer 2022.
- “Gloria, In Excelsis.” *Salamander*, no. 54, Spring/Summer 2022.
- “Hadeology.” *Ploughshares*, no. 151, Spring 2022.
- “Boondocks,” *Anomaly*, no. 34, April 2022.
- “Jibara Negra.” *River Styx*, no. 105/106 Winter 2022.
- “Aerodynamics.” *Cherry Tree*, no. 8. February 2022.
- “Chiba.” *New Ohio Review*, no. 30. Winter 2022.
- “Spring Semester.” *The Cincinnati Review*, miCRo series, November 2021.
- “In Virginia,” “Dear Gaia,” “What My Mother Taught Me.” *Sou’wester*, May 2021.
- “Gathering Ingredients for Sancocho in Appalachia During a Pandemic.” *Mass Poetry*, April 2021.
- “8:46,” “lighting candles on my stoop/ watching the wind snuff them out.” *The Acentos Review*, June 2020. (“lighting candles on my stoop...” reprinted in Split This Rock’s *The Quarry*, 2020).
- “Appalachia → LGA,” “Morgantown, West Virginia,” Monongahela Means Falling.” *Crazyhorse*, no. 97, Spring 2020.
- “Cebu City.” *Lily Poetry Review*, no. 4. Summer 2020.
- “I Could Almost Mistake This Gold Peninsula for Gospel.” *PRISM international*, no. 58.3, Spring 2020.
- “149th Street Notebook.” *The Missouri Review (web)*, February 2020.
- “Street Corner Market, Philadelphia.” *Alaska Quarterly Review*, Winter/Spring 2020.
- “Date of Last Period.” *Choice Words: Writers on Abortion*. Edited by Annie Finch, Haymarket Books, 2020.
- “When You Ask Why My Arms Are Empty.” *Rattle*, Winter 2019.
- “Polaris.” *Sugar House Review: Tenth Anniversary Edition*. 2019.
- “Amphibious,” “Shaped into a Kind of Life,” “(this is my body--).” *TIMBER*, Summer 2019.
- “Sometimes.” *Storm Cellar*, vol. VIII, no. 1. Summer 2019.

“Easter, 1986.” *The New Guard Review*, vol. VIII. 2019. (Knightville Poetry Contest Semi-Finalist)

“How to Date a White Boy.” *Rattle*, Summer 2019. (Semi-Finalist for The Rattle Poetry Prize; reprinted in *Literature & Composition: Reading | Writing | Thinking*, 3rd ed., Macmillan Learning, 2020)

“Landscape with Young Solider.” *The New Guard Review Online: BANG!* featured writer, October 2016.

“H Block.” *The New Guard Review*, Vol. V. 2016. (Knightville Poetry Contest Semi-Finalist; reprinted on *Poetry Foundation* site as “Hood Aesthetic,” 2023).

“Dominant/recessive.” *The Wide Shore: A Journal of Global Women’s Poetry*, May 2014.

“Observation,” “Miles’ Little Church,” “Fly.” *Black Renaissance Noire*. New York University, Summer/Fall 2010.

Nonfiction

“A Queens Girl’s Guide to Roaming & Teaching.” *Travel with Nas*. Edited by Steven Dunn, (Forthcoming, 2024).

Co-author, “How Black Poets and Writers Gave a Voice Affrilachia.” *The Conversation*, April 2021.

“*Lowest White Boy: An Interview with Greg Bottoms.*” *Los Angeles Review of Books (Blog)*. May 2019.

“*The Atlas of Reds and Blues: An Interview with Novelist and Poet Devi S. Laskar.*” *The New Guard Review Online*. May 2019.

Fiction

“Where the Time Went.” *Street Lit: The Teaching and Reading of Fiction in Urban Schools*. McGraw Hill, 2009.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Grants

Research and Scholarship Advancement Grant. West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, 2023.

Eberly Racial Justice Grant. Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, 2020, 2021.

Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation Grant, 2021.

Writing Fellowships

Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA), Amherst, Virginia, 2021.

Macondo, Texas A&M University, San Antonio, Texas, 2021, 2022, 2023.

CantoMundo, University of Arizona Poetry Center, Tucson, Arizona, 2021.

Furious Flower Poetry Center, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 2019.

Voices of Our Nations (VONA), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2017, 2021.

Teaching Fellowships

EarthWatch, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, 2008.

New York City Teaching Fellows Program, New York, New York, 2003-2005.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Rowe Award. West Virginia University Center for Women and Gender Studies, Morgantown, WV, 2019.

Merit Scholar. University of Southern Maine, Portland, Maine, 2008.

PRESENTATIONS (INVITED)

Poetry Readings

Featured Reader. "Macondo Celebrates National Poetry Month." Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, Apr. 2023, online.

Featured Reader. "Orchestrate Your Whole F*cking Life." AWP Offsite Event, Slip Gallery, Seattle, Washington, Mar. 2023.

Featured Reader. Indiana University, Bloomington. Bloomington, Indiana, Nov. 2022.

Featured Reader. Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival. Newark, New Jersey, Oct. 2022.

Featured Reader. "Affrilachian Poets 2022 Inductee Celebration." Lexington, Kentucky, Jun. 2022.

Featured Reader. Wheeling Poetry Series. Wheeling, West Virginia, May 2022.

Featured Reader. Calypso Muse Reading Series. Brooklyn, New York, Apr. 2022, online.

Featured Reader. "Choice Words: Writers on Abortion." Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mar. 2022.

Featured Reader. University of California, Merced. Merced, California, Nov. 2020, online.

Featured Reader. Western Connecticut State University. Danbury, Connecticut, July 2020, online.

Featured Reader. abrasiveMedia. Nashville, Tennessee, May 2018.

Featured Reader. Bowery Poetry. New York, New York, Jun. 2018.

Featured Reader. Newtonville Books Reading Series. Newton, Massachusetts, Sep. 2015.

Featured Reader. East Meets West Books Reading Series. Cambridge, Massachusetts, Apr. 2015.

Featured Reader. Berklee College of Music. Boston, Massachusetts, Apr. 2015.

Panels and Talks

Panelist. "Queer/Trans Eco-Literatures by Writers of Color." Association of Writers and Writing Programs. Seattle, Washington, Mar. 2023.

Moderator. "From the Valley to the Hills: Hip Hop Appalachia." Marshall University. Huntington, West Virginia, Feb. 2023.

Panelist. "The Affrilachian Poets on Identity and Transformation." Indiana University, Bloomington. Bloomington, Indiana, Nov. 2022.

Panelist. "Wearing Two Hats: Writers Teaching High School." Association of Writers and Writing Programs. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mar. 2022.

Moderator. Latinx Writers Caucus. Association of Writers and Writing Programs. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mar. 2022.

Panelist. "Poetry is Not a Luxury: A Poetry Workshop for Today's World." National Women's Studies Association Conference. Chicago, Illinois, Oct. 2021, online.

Caucus Leader. Afro-Latinx Caucus Leader. National Latinx Writers Gathering. Oct. 2021, online.

Panelist. "Inheriting Indelible Futures: Queer/Trans Editors and Publishers of Color." Outwrite. Washington, D.C., Aug. 2021.

Guest Lecture. "One Art: Becoming Your Own Best Editor." Stonecoast MFA. University of Southern Maine. Portland, Maine, July 2020, online.

Panelist. Boston Public Schools ELA Secondary Lead Teachers Convening. Boston, Massachusetts, 2015.

Panelist. (MassGrad Showcase. Leominster, Massachusetts, 2015.

Panelist. Convergence Center for Policy Resolution: Re-imagining Education. Washington, DC, 2015.

Lecturer and Workshop Facilitator. Nellie Mae Education Foundation Cross Site Learning Institute. Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 2014.

Panelist. Mothers of Modern Poetry, T'ang poetry of June Jordan. Massachusetts Poetry Festival. Salem, Massachusetts, 2013.

Facilitator. Responsive Education Alternatives Lab (R.E.A.L.) Institute. Boston, Massachusetts, 2011-2015.

CAMPUS TALKS AND READINGS

Moderator. “Hip Hop Geographies.” WVU Humanities Center. Morgantown, West Virginia, Oct. 2022.

Presenter. “Teaching Diverse Appalachian Poetry.” Teachers as Leaders and Writers Conference. National Writing Project at WVU. Morgantown, West Virginia, July 2022.

Panelist. “Race, Racialization, and Writing.” Historicizing Heritage: WVU in Collaboration with the Folger Institute. Morgantown, West Virginia, May 2022.

Panelist. “On Track: Teaching and Service Professors.” Eberly College, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, Sep. 2021.

Featured Reader. Black History Month Reading Hosted by Sigma Delta Tau. West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, Feb. 2021.

Panelist. “Affrilachian Writers of Color Series: Gendering Affrilachia.” West Virginia University. Morgantown, West Virginia, Dec. 2020.

Discussion Co-Facilitator. Global to Local Film Series: *Do the Right Thing*. West Virginia University. Morgantown, West Virginia, Nov. 2020.

Presenter. “(Mis)Understanding Art Through Writing: Infusing Ekphrastic Experiences into Writing Pedagogy.” Lunchtime Looks Series. Art Museum of West Virginia University. Morgantown, West Virginia, Feb. 2020.

Presenter. “Appalachian Poetry, Appalachian Identities.” National Writing Project at WVU. Morgantown, West Virginia University. Morgantown, West Virginia, Apr. 2018.

Co-Host. Annual Africana Studies Lecture. Department of History, Morgantown, West Virginia University. Morgantown, West Virginia, Feb. 2018

Presenter. “Poetry in the High School Classroom.” Teachers as Leaders and Writers Conference. National Writing Project at WVU. Morgantown, West Virginia, Nov. 2017.

Panelist. Gender-Related Challenges in Higher Education. Women’s Resource Center and LGBTQ+ Center. West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, Nov. 2017.

Panelist. “Careers in Secondary Education for English PhD and MFA Candidates.” West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, Oct. 2017.

COURSES TAUGHT (Selected)

West Virginia University (2016-Present)

- Introduction to Creative Writing Workshop [face-to-face and online]
- Intermediate Poetry Workshop [face-to-face and online]
- Black Appalachian Poetry and Poetics [face-to-face]
- Hip Hop Nation: Conceptual Foundations of a Movement [face-to-face]
- Composition and Rhetoric [face-to-face and online]

- Research, Composition, and Rhetoric [face-to-face and online]

Boston Day and Evening Academy (2005-2016)

- Stranger in a Strange Land: Unpacking Octavia Butler's *Kindred*
- Writing Poetry for Page and Stage
- Digital Storytelling
- Hip Hop Culture: Music Appreciation, US History, and Creative Writing
- Research Writing
- Understanding Shakespeare through Performance
- From Holler to Hip Hop: African Music in the Americas
- Urban Decay, Urban Renewal

SERVICE

Professional

Senior Poetry Editor. *Harbor Review*, 2023-Present.

Leadership Team Member. AWP Latinx Writers Caucus, 2020-Present.

Judge. Poetry Out Loud, West Virginia State Finals, 2020, 2021.

Departmental and University

Member. Art Museum of WVU Director Search Committee, 2023.

Member. English Faculty Evaluation Committee, 2021-2022.

Member. Academic Work Group for Racial Justice, 2020.

Member. LGBTQ+ Commission, 2018-2022.

Member. Campus Read Committee, 2019-2020.

Member. Department of English Development Committee, 2018-2020.

Member. Fiction Visiting Assistant Professor Hiring Committee, 2018.

Presenter. "Image as Text: Rhetorical Analysis of Advertisements and Art."
English 101 Instructor Training, Aug. 2018.

Judge. WVU's Russ MacDonald Graduate Writing Contest, 2017.

Secondary

Teacher Leader, Boston Teacher Collaborative

Elected Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees

Member, Instructional Leadership Team

Member, Hiring Committees for Faculty and Administration

MEDIA COVERAGE

Television and Web

Tombs, Jeremy. "Appalachian Poets hold mega reading for Juneteenth." WKYT, 20 June 2022. Television and Web.

Clayton, Allen. "West Virginia University hosts 'Appalachian Writers of Color' series to open dialogue about working against stereotypes in the region." 12WBOY, 17 Dec. 2020. Television and Web.

Published Interviews

Bandele, Makalani. "Interview with Prof. Amy Alvarez." *Pluck!: The Journal of Appalachian Arts and Culture*. Summer 2020. Web.

Suess, Mackenzie and Phoung T. Vuong. "On Poetry with Amy M. Alvarez." *TIMBER*. Summer 2020. Web.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Writers & Writing Programs

National Council of Teachers of English