

Chris Girman

Department of Literature, Culture, and Society
Point Park University
201 Wood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

(956) 369-8680 (cell)
(412) 392-3957 (office)
cgirman@pointpark.edu

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2016-current Associate Professor of English, Point Park University
2022-2024 Chair, Department of Literature, Culture, and Society
2024-current Director, Point Park University Summer Youth Creative Writing Camp

EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D., English (Program for Writers), The University of Illinois at Chicago
2010 M.F.A., (Creative Writing), The University of Texas Pan-American
2002 J.D., The University of Texas at Austin
2002 M.A., Latin American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
1995 B.A., International Affairs, The George Washington University
1993 Universidad Católica (semester abroad – Perú)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Creative nonfiction pedagogy, childhood memoir, essayists, critical animal studies, cultural critique, law and literature, immigration narratives, queer travel, LGBTQ literature & culture, Spanish literary translation, Latinx literature, sports literature & culture, critical masculinity theory, resistance narratives, 19th Century naturalism

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2007 *The Chili Papers*. Velluminous Press. 2007.
2004 *Mucho Macho: Seduction, Desire, and the Homoerotic Lives of Latin Men*. Haworth Press: Gay and Lesbian Studies Series. 2004.

Essays & Poetry

2026 “My Father Needs a Urine Sample.” *The Palisades Review*. Issue 4. Fall 2026.
2026 “Mariah Carey in the Americas” *OxMag*. Issue 56. Spring/Summer 2026.
2026 “Austin, 2001.” *Bull.* May 2026.
2026 “What to Do With a Cocksucker Tattoo.” *Jet Fuel Review*. May 2026.
2026 “The Long Road Home, 2011” *Panorama: The Journal of Travel, Place, and Nature*. April 2026.
2025 “What’s Left of You.” *Eclectica Magazine*. Oct/Nov 2025.
2024 “The Seat Next to Me.” *Novus Literary and Arts Journal*. Spring 2024.

- 2023 "Promises." *San Antonio Review*. Dec 2023.
- 2023 "Most Likely To." *Novus Literary and Arts Journal*. Fall 2023.
- 2023 "What the Finch Wants to Say." *Sequoia Speaks*. Fall 2023.
- 2023 "Tennis Lessons, 1983." *Hobart*. Aug 2023.
- 2023 "Latin America, 101" *The Rumen*. Aug 2023.
- 2021 "How a Boy Gets Broken." *Salt Hill Journal*. Spring 2021 | Issue #45.
- 2020 Selected Poems ("Laney"/ "Pinch"/ "Swath Myself in Gratitude"). *Dreich Magazine*. Aug. 2020 | issue #8).
- 2009 "Love Poem to My Son." *Glass: A Journal of Poetry*.

Journals/Anthology/Book Reviews/Drama

- 2025 "Little Essays, Big Ideas: Interpretative Freedom and the US Constitution." In *The CEA Critic*. Nov 2025.
- 2018 "Refurbishing." Posted in *During Office Hours* (writing activity and pedagogy).
- 2018 "Wrestling Windmills." In *What I Didn't Know about Becoming a Teacher*. Ed. Lee Gutkind. In Fact Books. October 2016.
- 2016 "Happily Lost" (Review of Sara Einstein's *Mot: A Memoir*). *American Book Review*. Spring 2016.
- 2012 "Diaries, Dicks, and Desire: How the Leaky Traveler Troubles Dominant Discourse in the Eroticized Caribbean." *Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change*. March 2012.
- 2009 "A Different Kind of Paradise." *The Monitor*. August 2009.
- 2002 "*Blowing Bujarrones: Desde Santo Domingo hasta San Antonio*, a Performative Ethnography." Performed at The University of Texas at Austin.

LECTURES/READINGS/CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2026 Referee of "Feel the temperature rising: Eroticism in the workplace of Argentinean gay men" for *Sexuality & Culture*.
- 2025 "Little Essays, Big Ideas: Interpretative Freedom and the U.S. Constitution." College English Association Conference, Philadelphia.
- 2025 "Unaccompanied Minors and the U.S. Immigration System." Public Policy CENG 704. Public Policy Seminar Panel – with Dr. Tamirah Walker. Pittsburgh.
- 2025 "Voice & Dialect in Percival Everett's *James*." Point Park University Writer's Club Guest Speaker.
- 2024 "Rambunctious Delights: Toward a Restoration of the Natural World in the Queer Texts of Camille Dungy, Ross Gay, and Aimee Nezhukumatathil." College English Association Conference, Atlanta.
- 2023 Referee of "The Jungian Theory of Masculine Archetypes in the Projection of National Images of

Latin American Countries” for *The Journal of Men’s Studies*.

- 2023 “Writing the ‘Other’ in James Baldwin’s Fiction: The Center, the Margins, and the Politics of Representation.” College English Association Conference, San Antonio.
- 2022 “*Y no se lo tragó la tierra*: The Place of Anti-Oppressive Education in South Texas Resistance Narratives.” College English Association Conference, Birmingham.
- 2022 Interview and Introduction for Yiyun Li. City of Asylum Book Series: *The Book of Goose*. Pittsburgh.
- 2021 “(Not-So) Happy Objects.” Engage with Research October 2021 Panel on Sara Ahmed’s work. Point Park Department of Community Engagement Reading Series.
- 2019 “Let’s Get Woke: Critical Consciousness in the CNF Classroom.” College English Association Conference, New Orleans.
- 2019 “I Don’t Know What the Finch Wants to Say.” Featured Reader. *Saturday Reading Series*, City Books.
- 2018 “Refurbishing: How to Reimagine Actual People in CNF Characterization.” Creative Nonfiction Magazine Annual Conference, Pittsburgh.
- 2018 “Wrestling Windmills.” Featured Reader. *Poetry Reading Series*. Riverstone Books, Pittsburgh
- 2018 Select Flash Nonfiction. Featured Reader. *Duquesne University Coffee House Reading Series*, Pittsburgh
- 2017 “Telling Sexy Stories: Sex and the Memoir.” HippoCamp Nonfiction Conference. Lancaster, Pennsylvania
- 2017 “The Artistry of Characterization.” Creative Nonfiction Magazine Annual Conference, Pittsburgh
- 2017 “What I Didn’t Know about Teaching.” Special Guest. *BlogTalkRadio Today*. Author discussion.
- 2017 “The Role of LGBTQ Literature in the Present Political Climate.” Special Guest Contributor. *On Point with Politics w/ Dannys Marrero*, Pittsburgh.
- 2014 Referee of “Gay Tourists: A Niche too Far?” for *Tourism Management*, September 2014.
- 2013 “The Role of Story and Voice in Central America’s Illegal Child Immigrants.” UNAM Young Lawyers Summer Program Presentation, Chicago.
- 2010 “All About the Kids: Teacher Man Revisited.” Region One Educational Forum, Edinburg, Texas.
- 2007 “Mucho Macho: Resistance or Reinscription?” Abriendo Brecha Conference, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2005 “Historical Representations of Same-Sex Desire in Esteban Echeverría’s ‘El Matadero’ and Reinaldo Arenas’s ‘Comienza el Desfile.’” Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, Caribbean Marginalities Conference, Dominican Republic.

ADDITIONAL ROLES

- 2024-Present Manuscript Referee, *Sexuality & Culture*
- Provide feedback for submitted manuscripts
- 2023-Present Manuscript Referee, *The Journal of Men's Studies*
- Provide feedback for submitted manuscripts

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Point Park University

ENGL 120: Introduction to Literature
 ENGL 147: Writing Studio I
 ENGL 148: Writing Studio II
 ENGL 200: Introduction to Creative Writing
 ENGL 252: The Art of Creative Nonfiction
 ENGL 254: The Art of the Short Story
 ENGL 255/SJS 200: LGBTQ Literature & Culture
 ENGL 255: Latino Literature
 ENGL 255: Sports Literature
 ENGL 300: Queering the Essay
 ENGL 301: Animals in Literature
 ENGL 301: Latinx Literature & Culture
 ENGL 301: Banned Books
 ENGL 365: Creative Nonfiction Workshop I
 ENGL 401: Intermediate Creative Nonfiction Workshop II
 ENGL 402: Advanced Creative Nonfiction Workshop III
 ENGL 300: Animals in Literature
 ENGL 301: Latino Literature & Culture
 ENGL 305: James Baldwin
 ENGL 420: Senior Symposium
 POLS 402: Constitutional Law
 HUMA 495: Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone (thesis)
 HUMA 496: Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone (practicum)
 JOUR 596: Independent Study

Independent Studies (sample)

- Advanced Creative Nonfiction (Gianna Balsamico)
- Graduate Creative Nonfiction (Amy Philips-Haller)
- Advanced Creative Nonfiction (Jay Nese)
- Advanced Creative Nonfiction (Maya Sukula)
- Interdisciplinary Studies (Rabia Maclaren)

Honors Projects (sample)

- Sydney Jones – “Scene and Reflection: How Narrative Modes Drive Creative Nonfiction”
- Sarah Juba – The “The Power of Romance Novels”
- Taylor Fife – “The Basic Essentials of Nature Essay Writing”
- Michelangelo Pellis – “Joan Didion”

Senior Capstone Advisor/Mentor/Reader (sample)

- AJ Addison Domingo – “More Than Meets the Eye” (*CNF & Poetry*)
- Alec Ebeling – “A Thousand Points of Remembering: Collected Works 2015-2018” (*Poetry*)
- Alex Snow – “How Does She Do it?” (*CNF & Fiction*)

- Anna Shields – “Smashing the Magic Mirror: An Analysis of Feminist Politics in Fairytales New and Old” (*Literature & Gender Studies*)
- Cassie Bruno – “I Could Have Starred on Dance Moms” (*CNF & Fiction*)
- Cloe Loosz – “Chasing a Woman in the Margins” (*Lyrical CNF & Feminist Studies*)
- Elizabeth Anderson – “Voiceless Laughter, Silent Screaming, Tearless Weeping” (*CNF & Poetry*)
- Giovoni Lebrun – “Living Life in the 21st Century: How Thoreau Wanted It” (*Literary Analysis*)
- Halle Compton – “On Youth, Trauma and Flaws” (*CNF & Fiction*)
- Holly Spenser – “Leaning into My Margins” (*CNF & Fiction*)
- Julian Hall – “The Art of Absurdism: The Examination of Commentary through the Absurdist Eye” (*Fiction*)
- Karisa Sosnoski – “Honored Men, Stagnant Women: A Study of Hegemonic Masculinity in Detective Fiction” (*Literature & Gender Studies*)
- Lauren Hunter – “things I say to my therapist at 4:59 pm” (*Poetry & CNF*)
- Linda Dewey – “Don’t Tell Me to Be Silent” (*CNF & Fiction*)
- Maddie Mikaska – “The Invisibility of Queer Domestic Abuse” (*LGBTQ Literary Criticism & Cultural Critique*)
- Maria Buren – “The Coexistence of Religious Liberties and LGBTQ Rights Post-Obergefell and Political Polarization under the Trump Administration” (*LGBTQ Cultural Critique*)
- Mia Belgie – “The Monachopsis Monologue” (*CNF & Race Studies*)
- Mia Folino – “The Myth of the Cowboy: Examining Gender and Masculinity in Anthony Mann’s Westerns, *Unforgiven*, and *Brokeback Mountain*” (*Film & Gender Studies*)
- Sara Hilty – “Please Don’t Notice Me (but Don’t Ignore Me)” (*CNF & Fiction*)
- Shalace Moore – “I’m Not as Nice as I Think I Am” (*CNF & Fiction*)
- Wes Stuckey – “For Me, It’s Always Like This: Symbols and Storytelling in *Silent Hill 2*” (*Multimedia & Gender Studies*)

Illinois Institute of Technology (Adjunct Instructor)

Lit 380: Latino Literature
 Hum 201: Introduction to Academic Writing
 Lit 380-1: Anthropology of Masculinity
 Com 380/Lit 380-2: Nonfiction Workshop
 Com 380/Lit 380-1: Gender and Sexuality Literature
 Lit 380-2: Sports in Literature
 Lit 380-2: Literature of Travel
 Lit 380-1: Real Men in Fiction

University of Illinois at Chicago (Graduate Instructor)

ENGL 105: English and American Fiction
 ENGL 117: Literature of Gender and Sexuality
 ENGL 201: Creative Nonfiction Workshop
 ENGL 160: Introduction to Academic Writing I
 ENGL 101: Understanding Literature
 ENGL 161: Introduction to Academic Writing II

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Point Park University

2024-present Director, PPU Creative Writing Summer Camp

- Develop curriculum and instructional design
- Provide faculty and staff leadership
- Ensure student safety and community culture development
- Provide administrative and operational oversight

	• Produce final student showcase anthology
2025 (fall)	Interim Coordinator of Creative Writing (Spring 2025) • Worked with Chair to schedule and staff upper- and lower-division CW courses • Met with Chair to discuss course schedule and staffing concerns • Organized Spring 25 Sarah Shotland Master Class and Creative Reading • Arranged Point Park Writer's Club events, including guest speakers • Sponsored (Faculty), PPU Writer's Club – winner PPU Student Club of the Year
2025 (fall)	PhD Dissertation Committee Defense (Lourdes Sierra) – <i>Education and LatinX Communities</i>
2025	Attendee, Spring 25 LCS Symposium & Fall 25 Honors Poster Session
2025-present	Member, Student Affairs and Enrollment Committee
June 2022- August 2024	Chair, Department of Literature, Culture, and Society • Oversaw the integration of multiple departments into the Department of Literature, Culture, and Society • Worked closely with Arts & Sciences Dean Josie Brown to coordinate programs and develop an overall School of Arts & Sciences ethos • Supervised multiple Interdisciplinary Senior Seminar projects/papers while reorganizing the Interdisciplinary Studies capstone system • Developed curriculum with program coordinators • Managed department budget, securing funding and organized workshops for faculty research, creative writing projects, and pedagogical innovation. • Led searches for tenure-track and adjunct faculty, ensuring a diverse and highly qualified pool of candidates aligned with departmental goals. • Conducted annual reviews, observed classroom instruction, and provided mentorship to junior faculty regarding tenure and promotion requirements. • Mediated internal disputes and addressed faculty concerns to maintain a collaborative and productive working environment.
2022-current	Founder and Faculty Sponsor of PPU's creative writing club
Spring 2022	Co-Organizer, Literary Arts / SJS Undergraduate Research Symposium
Spring 2022	Interim Literature Program Coordinator • Designed, co-lead, and participated in English Program Assessment • Worked with Chair to schedule and staff upper- and lower-division Literary Arts courses • Solicited and discussed part-time faculty proposals for ENGL 255 and upper- level literature courses • Rated ENGL 255 and upper-level literature courses for inclusion into the schedule • Met with Chair to discuss course schedule and staffing concerns • Solicited feedback from part-time faculty about scheduling, student concerns, course expectations, and other topics.
2021-2022	Nominated for the Point Park University Distinguished Teaching Award
2021-2023	Member, Student Affairs and Enrollment Committee

2021	Faculty Sponsor, Out N'Open LGBTQIA Creative Reading as part of National Coming Out Week – Sponsored by Name (Pen)ding and GSSA
2021	Member, LGBTQ+ Media Planning Committee for Fall 2021 campus CMI event • Reviewed QBurgh Magazine archive data base to select images for event • Coordinated evening event – “50 Years of coming out: a celebration of queer media in Pennsylvania” – with QBurgh and National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) • Planned campus “Coming Out Week” events in conjunction with the Office of Equity & Inclusion and Dr. Jehnie Burns
2021	Interviewee, Point Park University Profile with Nicole Chynoweth
2020-2021	Chair, Campus Academic Resources Committee • Set agenda and lead meetings • Worked with CARC and Provost’s Office to review policies and procedures for faculty development funding requests • Worked with the Center for Inclusive Excellence and Faculty Graduate Committee to plan faculty and graduate student research presentations • Put out nominations for Distinguished Teaching Award (DTA) • Organized subcommittee to lead the DTA selection process 2020 Co-Chair, Distinguished Teaching Award Subcommittee • Logged and compiled campus nominations • Distributed and reviewed application packets • Drafted and distributed Provost congratulatory letter • Proposed changes for subsequent selection criteria
2019-20	Member, Campus Academic Resources Committee
2019-25	Faculty Organizer and Sponsor, Point Park Name Pen(ding) CW Club
2019	Observer, Creative Writing Program (<i>conducted multiple faculty observations, evaluations, and conference reports</i>)
2019	Panel Participant, “Frank Discussions about Diversity,” hosted by Point Park’s SHRA
2019	Co-organizer, PP student publishing media announcement
2018	Lead Organizer, Visiting Poet Annah Browning
2018	Member of SafeZone, LGBTQ support
2018	Lead Organizer, Hispanic Heritage Month campus events
2017-2018	Member, Student Affairs Committee • Sole Author, proposal to Dean of Students to better regularize athlete absences and support services
2017	Video Interview, Guest interviewee w/ Sarah Mullin on Hispanic Heritage Month events
2017	Faculty Sponsor, <i>All Things Horror Club</i> Hispanic Appreciation Movie Night
2017	LGBTQ Panel Organizer, Literary Arts Undergraduate Research Symposium

2017-Present	Participant, Faculty & Student “Ten Evenings” local readings
2017-Present	Panel Moderator, Literary Arts Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium
2017-Present	Writer, Student Recommendation Letters (50+)
2017-Present	Reader, Senior Seminar Capstone Portfolios (50+)
2017-Present	Participate in assessment for Creative Writing Program
2017-Present	Participate in assessment for Literature Program
2016-2018	Liaison and Student Coordinator, <i>Creative Nonfiction Magazine</i> 2017 & 2018 Conference • Assisted conference logistics with the Center for Media Innovation and CNF Magazine • Organized student volunteers and select scholarship participants • Assisted guest speakers, attendees, and Point Park community member • Presented on characterization at the conference
2016-Present	Represent ENGL/ CW at Open House events, Accepted Student Days, and Pioneer Days
2016-Present	Attendee, campus creative writing guest lecturers and speakers
2016-Present	Attendee, Literary Arts/LCS faculty meetings

The University of Illinois-Chicago & The Illinois Institute of Technology

2015	Director. UIC Senior Honors Thesis Committee (2015)
2015	Supervisor, UIC First Year Writing Program Portfolio Review Committee.
2014	Participant. First Year Writing Program UIC Panel Discussion.
2013-15	Judge. Illinois Institute of Technology Lewis Department of Humanities Undergraduate Writing Contest.
2013-15	Member, UIC First Year Writing Program Portfolio Review Committee

Relevant Related Experience:

2025-Current	AP Grader: AP English Language and Composition.
2010-2013	English and Literature AP Specialist: College Preparatory Reading and Writing SAT/ACT Classes (Univ. of Chicago Woodlawn High School; Univ. of Chicago Laboratory High School).
2006-2010	B.L. Garza Middle School History Teacher and Bilingual Specialist.
2008-2009	Pro Bono Attorney, South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project, PROBAR, Harlingen, Texas. Legal support of undocumented children at the US/Mexico border.

LANGUAGES

Spanish: speaking, writing and reading proficiency

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/LICENSES

Association of Writers and Poets (AWP)
Modern Language Association (MLA)
College English Association (CEA)
State Bar of Texas
National Council for Teachers of English

REFERENCES

Karen Dwyer, Associate Professor of Creative Writing and Director of the Creative Program, Point Park University /
Email: kdwyer@pointpark.edu

Jessica McCort, Associate Professor of Composition and Rhetoric, Point Park University Email:
jmccort@pointpark.edu

Jesus Ramirez-Valles, Director Health Equity Institute, San Francisco State University Email: jrv@sfsu.edu