

Iris Cushing

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English April 2021
The Graduate Center
of the City University of New York
Dissertation: *Pierce and Pine: Diane di Prima, Mary Norbert Korte,
and the Meeting of Matter and Spirit* completed under supervision of Professor Ammiel Alcalay
Research interests include New American Poetry, Pragmatism, Poetics and Political Philosophy

M.F.A. in Poetry May 2011
Columbia University
New York, New York

B.F.A in Interdisciplinary Arts and Letters December 2006
Prescott College
Prescott, Arizona

TEACHING & CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

Expert Admissions June 2021-Present
Writing Specialist
New York, NY

- Working with students from a variety of backgrounds on the college application process: interpreting assignments; drafting, editing, and revising applications materials.

United States Military Academy at West Point October 2020-June 2021
Postgraduate Writing Fellow
West Point, NY
Mounger Writing Center

- Working with West Point cadets and faculty on all aspects of academic writing, including crafting an argument, interpreting assignments, integrating sources, understanding audience, and developing individual approaches to revision. Cadets and faculty come to the Mounger Writing Center with assignments from a wide variety of disciplines, including literature, military history, and political science and philosophy.

College Transitions September 2018-March 2020
College Essay Coach
Remote

- Worked with high school juniors and seniors from across the country on all stages of the college admissions essay-writing process. Communicated with students via phone, email, and videoconferencing to gather information for applications and brainstorm responses to prompts; guided students through drafting and revision of personal statement essays, Common App essays, and other prompt-based application essays unique to the colleges the students were applying to. Students I worked with were admitted to colleges including Georgetown, Northwestern, the University of Texas at Austin, and Emory.

Columbia University New York, NY

Composition Instructor
Summer Bridge Program Instructor
Writing Center Consultant

September 2017-May 2018
May-July 2018
September 2012-May 2014

- Designed syllabus for and taught the Contemporary Essays section of Columbia's University Writing course. Course assignments aim to bring students into conversation with other academic writers through the discovery and exploration of intellectual problems, using methods such as close reading, rhetorical analysis, research, collaboration, and revision. For Summer Bridge Program, taught two summer sections of University Writing to recipients of need-based scholarships who had been accepted to Columbia for the Fall of 2018. For Writing Center, tutored Columbia graduate and undergraduate students in all aspects of composition and revision and led weekly writing workshop for students from SIPA (Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs).

Queens College
Literature and Composition Instructor
Graduate Center Teaching Fellow

August 2015-May 2018
Flushing, NY

- Designed syllabus for and taught English 130 (Writing About Literature), English 161W (Introduction to Narrative) and English 110 (College Writing) courses. 110 course focuses on building students' academic writing skills in a context of cultural diversity and interdisciplinary approaches to research and scholarship; 130 Course focuses on marshaling writing skills toward analyzing contemporary and historical works of literature; 161W course critically explores different facets of written narrative (including poetry, essays and prose).

Macaulay Honors College
Mellon Writing Mentor

September 2016-June 2017
New York, NY

- Worked one-on-one with six Macaulay Honors College students from Queens College and the City College of New York; writing projects included creative pieces, school assignments and job/internship applications. Met regularly at MHC with other Mentors and director Sondra Perl.

Baruch College
Writing Consultant

September 2013-May 2019
New York, NY

- Worked one-on-one with Baruch students on a wide range of writing skills, including extensive work with International students and English Language Learners, and students from Baruch's Zicklin School of Business. Regularly participated in Inquiry Groups (staff development), which focus on sharing innovative elements of Writing Center pedagogy.

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Argos Books
Founding Co-Editor
www.argosbooks.org

2010-Present

- With Elizabeth Clark Wessel, co-founded independent press focused on publishing poetry, hybrid-genre work, and work in translation, with the aim of facilitating critical literary dialogues between diverse communities, genders and languages.

- Work with Argos includes selecting and editing manuscripts, corresponding with authors, designing layouts in InDesign, managing distribution and publicity, securing grants, coordinating readings and events, and working with interns.
- Argos titles are in the collections of several major libraries, have received grants from the Council of Literary Magazines and Presses and the Arts Initiative from Columbia University, and have appeared several times on Small Press Distribution's Bestseller List. Our work has been featured, in the form of articles and interviews, in *Poets & Writers*, The Poetry Society of America's website, Words Without Borders, and the Poetry Foundation's Harriet Blog.

Lost and Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative

2015-2019

Editor for Series VI & VIII

New York, NY

- Edited Diane di Prima's previously-unpublished 1984 lecture "*Prometheus Unbound as a Magickal Working*," a feminist/hermetic study of Percy Bysshe Shelley's lyrical drama, for Series VIII in the Fall of 2019. Project included interviewing di Prima and writing introductory essay contextualizing the lecture.
- Edited Bobbie Louise Hawkins' *The Sounding Word* for Series VI; project included conducting research on Hawkins, transcribing archival recordings of Hawkins' lectures, traveling to Colorado to interview Hawkins, and writing introductory essay and biographical notes.
- With Iemanjá Brown, edited Judy Grahn's *Blood, Bread and Roses: How Menstruation Created the World*; project included conducting research on Grahn, editing selections from Grahn's out-of-print book, traveling to California to interview Grahn, and collaborating on introductory essay and biographical notes.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Recent Nonfiction Writings

"Seeing the Unspeakable," essay on Loie Hollowell's paintings for exhibition publication, Loie Hollowell: *Sacred Contract*, Koenig Gallery, Berlin, Germany, April 2021. Essay published in English and German.

"On Diane di Prima," critical essay on di Prima for *Granta* magazine, London, UK, November 2020

"Diane di Prima's Guidebook to Revolution," essay for *Frieze*, London, UK, November 2020

"Remembering Diane di Prima," critical essay on di Prima for the St. Marks Poetry Project Newsletter, New York, NY, October 2020

The First Books of David Henderson and Mary Korte: A Research, critical essay/memoir on poets Henderson and Korte, published in the 2020 Pamphlet Series with Ugly Duckling Presse, New York, NY, July 2020

Prometheus Unbound as a Magickal Working, critical essay introducing Diane di Prima's 1984 lecture on Percy Bysshe Shelley's lyrical drama, published with Series VIII of the Lost & Found Poetics Document Initiative, The Center for the Humanities at the CUNY Graduate Center, November 2019

Into the Long Long Time: How Mary Korte Saved the Trees, essay/memoir on Mary Norbert Korte's environmental activism, published as a chapbook by Ink Cap Press, New York, NY, September 2019

"Loba, Part 1", critical essay on Diane di Prima's 1973 book *Loba*, published on the Digital Collections website at Poet's House (poetshouse.org), New York, NY, May 2019

"A Labor of Freedom: Reading the *Floating Bear* at the Berg," essay on my archival work with Diane di Prima and Amiri Baraka's poetry newsletter (held at the Berg Collection at the New York Public Library), published on the Center for the Humanities' blog, August 2017

"Book/House/Machine/Mind: On *A House of Dust's* Conditions", essay in publication accompanying *Alison Knowles: A House of Dust* exhibition at the Amie and Tony James Gallery, New York, NY, Fall 2016

Poetry

Wyoming, full-length poetry collection selected by poet Thomas Devaney for the 2013 Furniture Press Poetry Prize, published January 2014

Four poems from manuscript *Umbels* published in the exhibition catalogue for painter Loie Hollowell's show *Plumb Line*, Pace Gallery, New York, NY, September 2019

The *Boston Review* Poets' Sampler, seven poems with a critical introduction by Katy Lederer, January 2012

Poems and interviews have also appeared, between 2007 and 2021, in The Academy of American Poets' *Poem-A-Day* Series, *Abraham Lincoln*, *Alligator Juniper*, *Apercus Quarterly*, *Barrelhouse*, *Bomblog*, *The California Journal of Women Writers*, *Counter*, *The Conversant*, *FENCE*, *Fine Print*, *Gigantic Sequins*, *No, Dear*, *Paperbag*, *Two Serious Ladies*, *La Fovea*, *The Sakura Review*, *Vestiges*, the *West Wind Review*, the *Washington Square Review* and on WNYC 93.9 FM.

PUBLIC TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"The Craft We Didn't Learn: Retroactive Writing Advice from the Archives," panel presentation for the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) Virtual Conference, March 2021

"Celebrating Ten Years of Argos Books," panel presentation for the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) Conference, March 2020

"Dwelling, Dislocation and the Digital," reading and discussion with poet Meena Alexander and art historian David Joselit at the Amie and Tony James Gallery, CUNY Graduate Center, moderated by myself and Daisy Atterbury, September 2016

"Digital Poetics: A Roundtable," The English Program, The Graduate Center, CUNY, February 2016

"Inhabited Text: Meaning, Materiality and Possibility in Alison Knowles' *A House of Dust*," International Conference on Consciousness, Theatre, Literature and the Arts, St. Francis College, Brooklyn, NY, June 2015

“Robert Lax: Negative Theology and Spiritual Affinity,” Trance: CUNY Graduate Center ESA Student Conference, New York, NY, March 2015

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

Dissertation Year Fellowship, awarded through the Graduate Center of the City University of New York for the 2018-2019 year in support of my dissertation, *Pierce and Pine: Diane di Prima, Mary Norbert Korte, and the Meeting of Matter and Spirit*

Diane di Prima Fellowship, awarded through the Center for the Humanities at the CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY, Summer 2016, 2017 & 2018. Provided funding for research trips to meet with Di Prima in San Francisco, CA.

Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Process Space Residency, New York, NY, Fall 2014

National Parks Service writer-in-residence award for residence at Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona, Summer 2011

National Endowment for the Arts grant for summer residency at Byrdcliffe Artist's Colony, Woodstock, NY, Summer 2010