

Yerra Sugarman, Ph.D.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of Houston, Houston, TX
Creative Writing (Poetry) and Literature, December 2016.
- Dissertation: *Spirit and Particle*, a Book of Poems with a Critical Afterword.
 - Dissertation Committee: Kevin Prufer, Director; Tony Hoagland; David Mikics; Martha Serpas; Grace Schulman, External Reader.
- M.A. The City College of The City University of New York
Creative Writing (Poetry).
- Thesis: *The Bag of Broken Glass*, a Book of Poems.
 - Thesis Director: Marilyn Hacker; Second Reader: Jane Marcus.
- M.F.A. Columbia University in the City of New York
Visual Arts / Painting with additional focus on Critical Writing and Special Work in Electronic Music at Columbia-Princeton Project.
- B.F.A. Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec
Visual Arts (magna cum laude).
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BOOKS

- The Bag of Broken Glass*, The Sheep Meadow Press, Riverdale-on-Hudson, NY, 2008.
- Poems from this collection were awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, among other honors.
 - A National Book Critics Circle “Recommended Book.”
 - Positively reviewed in *American Poet*, *Poetry International*, *New Works Review*, and elsewhere.
- Forms of Gone*, The Sheep Meadow Press, Riverdale-on-Hudson, NY, 2002.
- Recipient of the PEN/Joyce Osterweil Poetry Award for the Best First Book by an Emerging Poet.
 - Poems from this collection received a “Discovery”/ *The Nation* Poetry Award, among other honors.
 - Featured by Marilyn Hacker in *Ploughshares*.
 - A National Book Critics Circle Favorite First Book (Selected by Grace Schulman).
 - A “Recommended Book” in *Winning Writers*.
 - Positively reviewed in *American Book Review* and elsewhere.
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AWARDS AND HONORS (SELECTED)

- Pushcart Nomination for Poems in *AGNI*, Winter 2016
- Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Houston, Fall 2016
- Inprint Graduate Fellowship, 2012, 2016
- Doctoral Teaching Fellowship, University of Houston, 2012-2016
- National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship: Creative Writing (Poetry), 2011
- Glenna Luschei *Prairie Schooner* Award (Poetry), 2008
- Canada Council for the Arts Grant for Creative Writers (Poetry), 2008
- Poetry Society of America, Cecil Hemley Memorial Award, New York, NY, 2007 (Judge: Michael Palmer)
- PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award for Poetry for *Forms of Gone* (Collection of Poems), for a new and emerging poet and for “the promise of further literary achievement,” PEN American Center, New York, NY, 2005 (Judges: Linda Bierds, Carol Muske-Dukes, Grace Schulman)
- Chicago Literary Award for Poetry (sponsored by *ACM Another Chicago Magazine*), 2004 (Judge: Albert Goldbarth)
- Poetry Society of America, George Bogin Memorial Poetry Award, New York, NY, 2000 (Judge: Henri Cole)
- “Discovery”/*The Nation* Poetry Award, New York, NY, 1998 (Judges: Gerald Stern, Li-Young Lee, Deborah Digges)
- Meyer Cohen Graduate Critical Essay Award (The City College of New York), 2003
- Academy of American Poets Prize, Alice M. Sellers Award, (The City College of New York), 2002 (Judge: Dennis Nurkse)
- Raymond Patterson Poetry Prize (The City College), 2002 (Judge: Lynn Emmanuel)

POEMS IN ANTHOLOGIES (SELECTED)

- Still Life with Poem: Contemporary Natures Mortes in Verse*, edited by Jehanne Dubrow and Lindsay Lusby: “Still Life,” Literary House Press (Washington College), Chestertown, Maryland, 2016.
- The Book of Scented Things: 100 Contemporary Poets about Perfume*, edited by Jehanne Dubrow and Lindsay Lusby: “Questions Upon Smelling Sea Salt,” Literary House Press (Washington College), Chestertown, Maryland, 2014.
- Collective Brightness*, edited by Kevin Simmonds: “Sacred are the Broken,” Sibling Rivalry Press, Alexander, Arkansas, 2011.
- Letters to the World*, edited by Moira Richards, Rosemary Starace, and Lesley Wheeler: “To Miklós Radnóti,” Red Hen Press, Granada Hills, CA, January 2008.
- White Ink: Poems on Mothers and Motherhood*, edited by Rishma Dunlop: “a woman is a drawer — a keeper of threads —” from the sequence “My Bag of Broken Glass, 1939-1978,” Demeter Press, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, November 2007.
- Blood to Remember: American Poets on the Holocaust*, revised, second edition (edited by Charles Adés Fishman): “Because,” Time Being Books, St. Louis, MO, October 2007.
- The Torah: A Women's Commentary*, “Broken Prayer,” “Home Again,” URJ Press, New York, NY, December 2007.
- Prairie Schooner* (“Yidishkayt: Poetry and Prose”): “[July 1 2003, My Mother’s Youngest Sister,

- Coma Ward],” “[July 2 2003, Coma Ward, To My Aunt],” “[July 3 2003, Tel Aviv, Reflection],” “[July 5 2003, Coma Ward, To My Aunt]” from “Journal: Rai’ut Coma Ward, Tel Aviv-Yaffo, July 2003,” Volume 81, Number 1, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Spring 2007.
- Siècle 21* (“Littératures Du Canada” / “Canadian Literature”): “Because” (“Parce que,” translated into French by Jean Migrenne), pp. 51-52, Paris, France, Fall-Winter 2006.
- Europe* (“Poètes des États-Unis” / “Poets from the US”), section edited and introduced by Marilyn Hacker: “To Miklós Radnóti,” “Glass,” (“À Miklós Radnóti,” “Verre,” translated into French by Jean Migrenne), pp. 325-327, Paris, France, Fall 2004.
- Siècle 21* (“Ce qui reste de toi”), edited by Josette Rasle and Marie-Claudette Kirpalani: “Her Hands,” (“Ses Mains,” translated into French, by Jean Migrenne) in, p. 99, Paris, France, Fall-Winter 2004.
- 100 Poets Against the War*, edited by Todd Swift: “To Miklós Radnóti,” Salt Press, p. 151, Cambridge, 2003.

POEMS IN JOURNALS (SELECTED)

- Image Magazine*: “Elegy,” Forthcoming.
- Copper Nickel*: “Sunday Aubade: A Faithful Remix,” University of Colorado Denver, March 2017.
- AGNI*: “Cradle Song I,” “Cradle Song II” (from “Lullabies for the Dead”), Boston University, Volume 84, Fall 2016.
- Bellevue Literary Review*: “The Body’s Calendar,” Volume 16, Number 1, Spring 2016.
- Mississippi Review*: “On the Anniversary of My Mother’s Death-Day,” Volume 44, Numbers 1 & 2, 2016.
- Literary Imagination*: “On Learning,” “On Possession,” “By Faith,” “On Teaching,” Volume 17, Number 2, 2015.
- Cherry Tree*: “On Loving Others,” “On Loving Oneself,” Issue 1, February 2015.
- Ping Pong*: “On Knowing the Self: An Abecedarian,” “The Space Between Us Grazes Me,” “Words,” “Eurydice in the Underworld,” October 2015.
- Pleiades*: “[Morning Book: December 30, 2008],” “[Morning Book: January 7, 2009],” Warrensburg, Missouri, Volume L, Number 4, Winter 2010.
- The Massachusetts Review*: “[Morning Book: February 25, 2009],” University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA 01003, Volume 30, Number 1, Winter 2009.
- Zeek: A Jewish Journal of Thought and Culture* (Print Issue): “Ash and Scar,” San Francisco, CA, Summer 2009.
- Literary Imagination*: “Night Watch,” Volume 10, Number 2, 2008.
- Upstreet*: “We Were a Boat,” Number 4, Richmond, MA, June 2008.
- Verse Daily*: “One Body,” February 13, 2008.
- Zeek: A Jewish Journal of Thought and Culture* (Online Issue): “Ash and Scar,” “The Lamentations of the Crows,” “This Moment,” “And God,” San Francisco, CA, February 2008.
- Cimarron Review*: “One Body,” “Sacred are the Broken,” Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, Issue 162, Winter 2008.
- Literary Imagination*: “Daughter,” Volume 9, Number 3, 2007.
- Lyric Poetry Review*: “We Did Not Come to Let Go,” “Untitled Love Poem,” “On the Last Day of Saying Kaddish,” Number 10, Bloomington, Indiana, Spring 2007.
- Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* (Harvard Divinity School): “Pharaoh’s Daughter / King Solomon’s

- Wife: Fragments from Her Diaries,” “Pharaoh’s Daughter / King Solomon’s Wife: A Letter Home,” “From King Solomon’s Journal: Fragment of an Unsent Letter (Date Unknown),” Volume 23, Number 1, Cambridge, MA, Spring 2007.
- Nightsun* (edited by Alicia Ostriker): “[July 2, 2003: Reflection],” “[July 5, 2003: Reflection],” “[July 8, 2003: Coma Ward, Prayer]” from the sequence “Journal: Rai’ut Coma Ward, Tel Aviv-Yaffo, July 2003,” Volume 25, Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD, Fall 2006.
- ACM Another Chicago Magazine* “My Bag of Broken Glass, 1939-1978” (In Seven Parts), “Ghazal” (reprinted), Vol. 46, Chicago, 2006.
- The Walrus*: “And Flickering Tethers You to Me,” Toronto, Canada, April 2006.
- ACM Another Chicago Magazine*: “Getting Back to the Matter of Day and Night,” “Ghazal,” Vol. 44+45, Chicago, 2005.
- Verse Daily*: “How Easily the City Is Lost,” online, USA, December 7, 2003.
- The Nation*: “Hymn,” April 9, New York, NY, 2001.
- The Nation*: “The Osservanza Master,” New York, NY, February 19, 2001.
- The Nation*: “How Easily the City Is Lost,” New York, NY, February 15, 1999.
- Barrow Street*: “Forms of *Gone*,” “Transplant,” New York, NY, Fall 1998.
- The Nation*: “Before the Argument,” New York, NY, May 4, 1998.

TRANSLATIONS (SELECTED)

- Wherever I Lie Is Your Bed*, edited by Margaret Jull Costa and Marilyn Hacker: “In the Hot Wind,” translation from Yiddish to English of a poem by Celia Dropkin and an essay about the poet, Two Lines World Writing in Translation Series, San Francisco, CA, 2009.
- Poetry International*: “To My Son Who Gave Me Light Blue Beads,” translation from Yiddish to English of a poem by Celia Dropkin, issue 13 +14, Summer 2009.
- ekleksographia*: “A Summer-Sonata,” translation from Yiddish to English of a poem by Celia Dropkin, online journal, Italy, 2009.
- Pleiades*: “The Border,” “Between Being,” translation from Yiddish to English of poems by Celia Dropkin, 29.1, Warrensburg, Missouri, Spring 2009.
- Mima’amakim*: “To My Children,” translation from Yiddish to English of a poem by Celia Dropkin, New York, NY, 2008.
- Prairie Schooner* (“Yidishkayt: Poetry and Prose”): “My Hands,” “And Wonderful Words,” “To Lucifer,” translations from Yiddish to English of Celia Dropkin’s poems,” Volume 81, Number 1, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Spring 2007.
- Rattapallax 13*: “New York at Night by the Banks of the Hudson,” translation from Yiddish to English of Celia Dropkin’s poem, New York, NY, Spring 2006.

CRITICAL ESSAYS IN BOOKS

- Wherever I Lie Is Your Bed*, edited by Margaret Jull Costa and Marilyn Hacker: “Celia Dropkin (1888 - 1956),” Two Lines World Writing in Translation Series, San Francisco, CA, 2009.
- The Ultimate Insider’s Guide*: “Black Milk by Tory Dent,” Fang Duff Kahn Publishers, Robert Kahn series editor, Mark Strand editor, Oct. 20th 2009.
- Blood to Remember: American Poets on the Holocaust*, revised, second edition (edited by Charles

Adés Fishman): Commentary on poetry addressing the Holocaust and my poem “Because,” Time Being Books, St. Louis, MO, Fall 2007.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature (edited by Jay Parini): “Marilyn Hacker,” (an essay on the poet’s life and work), Oxford University Press, New York, NY, 2003.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature (edited by Jay Parini): “Emma Lazarus,” (an essay on the poet’s life and work), Oxford University Press, New York, NY, 2003.

ARTICLES AND REVIEWS

Lemon Hound: “Repetition in Paul Celan’s Poem ‘Death Fugue,’” September 2013.

Two Words, The Blog of the Center for the Art of Translation (online): “Invisible Desire: Celia Dropkin’s Poetry,” August, 2009.

Prairie Schooner: A Review of Jehanne Dubrow’s poetry books, *The Hardship Post* and *From the Fever-World*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Winter, 2009.

Pleiades: “Introduction to the Poetry of Celia Dropkin,” 29.1, Warrensburg, Missouri, Spring 2009.

Pleiades: “Marilyn Hacker’s *Desesperanto: Poems 1999-2002*,” Review, Warrensburg, Missouri, Spring 2005.

Pleiades: “Arthur Gregor’s *The Hand Upon His Head: Selected Poems 1947-2003*,” Review, Warrensburg, Missouri, Spring 2005.

How2: “Being Here: *Original Green* by Patricia Carlin,” Review, online, Bucknell University, Lewisburg PA, Spring 2004.

Rattapallax 7: “Foreword: A Tribute to Agha Shahid Ali,” New York, NY, Spring 2002.

CONFERENCES PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

- “A Reginald Shepherd Tribute”: Timothy Donnelly, Marilyn Hacker, Timothy Liu, Kevin Prufer, Evie Shockley, Susan Stewart, and Yerra Sugarman. Co-sponsored by Cave Canem, NYU and Poets House. Location: New York University, Lillian Vernon Creative Writers House, 58 West 10th Street, New York, NY. Thursday, March 12, 2009.
- “The Poetry of Torah, Voices from the Torah: A Women’s Commentary” Wednesday, Featuring poets Merle Feld, Jessica Greenbaum, Judy Katz, Yerra Sugarman, and Anna Ziegler, Moderated by Rabbi Hara Person. Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, New York, NY, October 29, 2008.
- “A Tribute to Marilyn Hacker: Poetry and the Art of Translation,” Panelist and presented paper. CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY, March 14, 2008.
- “The Modern Poetic Sequence: Encompassing Aesthetics.” Organizer and moderator of panel discussion, including Marilyn Hacker, Fady Joudah, Alicia Ostriker, Grace Schulman and Reginald Shepherd. Associated Writing Programs Conference, New York, NY, February 2, 2008.

- “As Far as the Eye Can See.”
Visiting Poet teaching Text and Art Workshop based on the art of Lawrence Weiner.
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, January 2008.
- “Crossing Lines: Contemporary Poetic Practices.”
Organizer and moderator of panel discussion and reading that included
Elizabeth Alexander, Elaine Equi, Kenneth Goldsmith, Marilyn Hacker,
Wayne Koestenbaum and Jerome Sala.
The City College of New York, NY, February 16, 2006.
- Discussion and poetry reading for conference participants.
The Space Between Literary Conference (For Study of Literature and Culture
Between the Wars).
Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, May 2003.
- “Ravishing Convergences: Witness, Exile, Elegy and the Fusion of Hindu-Muslim and
Western Literary Traditions in the Work of Agha Shahid Ali”:
Presented this paper on panel “Commemorating the Work of Agha Shahid Ali.”
Modern Language Association Convention, New York, NY, December 2002.
- “Modernist Women, Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust.”
Seminar participant based on an essay about first collection of poems, *Forms of Gone*.
Modernist Studies Association Convention, Madison, WI, November 2002.

INTERVIEW

Two Words, The Blog of the Center for the Art of Translation (online): “To Reconcile the Delicate
Borders: The Yerra Sugarman Interview,” August, 2009.

RADIO PROGRAMS

“Public Poetry: Yerra Sugarman”
Interview with Catherine Lu: Houston Public Media
October 3, 2014, Houston, TX.

“Almost Lost Languages Alive and in Translation.”
Elizabeth Macklin, Yerra Sugarman and Kirmen Uribe featured on Janet Coleman’s
“The Next Hour,” in a program about Basque and Yiddish poetry.
WBAI (Pacifica) Radio, April 15, 2007, New York, NY.

EDITORIAL WORK

- Reviewer of Poetry Submissions for *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* (Harvard Divinity School), Cambridge, MA, Fall 2007 - present
- Editorial Assistance to Grace Schulman, editor, *The Poems of Marianne Moore*, Viking, New York, NY, 2003
- Contributing Editor, *Rattapallax*, New York, NY, 2003
- “A Tribute to Agha Shahid Ali,” Special Section Editor, *Rattapallax* 7, New York, NY, April 2002

COLLABORATIVE WORK

Collaboration with the musical group, “Lunatics at Large.” Poem titled “Sanctuary,” composed for a collaborative performance: The Sanctuary Project, World Premiere Performance on Monday, March 21, 2011 at Carnegie Hall, New York City.

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

Spirit and Particle (third collection of poems and doctoral dissertation, recently completed, defended, and circulating among prospective presses for publication).

In the Hot Wind (Translations of Celia Dropkin’s Collection of Poems, *In Heysn Vint*).

TEACHING

TEACHING INTERESTS

- Poetry Writing
- Creative Writing (Multi-Genre, including Fiction, Creative Non-Fiction, Drama, and Poetry)
- English Renaissance Poetry and the Seventeenth-Century Devotional Lyric
- The Elegy in English
- Modern, Postmodern, and Contemporary American Poetry
- The Poetry of Witness and Remembrance
- Translation Studies (French and Yiddish Poetry)
- Holocaust Literature
- Rhetoric and Composition

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

- **DOCTORAL TEACHING FELLOW**, University of Houston, 2012-2016.
- **PART-TIME LECTURER**, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick Campus, Spring 2008-Fall 2011.
- **POET-IN-RESIDENCE**, Eugene Lang College The New School for Liberal Arts, Spring 2008.
- **FULL-TIME LECTURER IN ENGLISH**, The City College of New York (CUNY), September 2006-August 2007.
- **ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HUMANITIES**, New York University, Fall 2003-Spring 2006
- **ADJUNCT LECTURER**, The City College of New York (CUNY), Fall 2002-Spring 2006
- **VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**, Pratt Institute, Fall 2003 and Fall 2005.

COURSES TAUGHT (SELECTED)

GRADUATE

- Poetry Workshop, MFA Program (The City College of New York)
- Critical Practice (Craft of Poetry): The Modern Poetic Sequence, MFA Program (The City College of New York)

UNDERGRADUATE

- Literature Course: Introduction to Poetry (a survey of British and American Poetry from the Renaissance to the Twenty-First Century), (University of Houston)
- Literature Course: Introduction to Drama with Emphasis on Renaissance and Twentieth-century Plays (University of Houston)
- Poetry Workshops: Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced (University of Houston, The City College of New York, Rutgers University, Pratt Institute)
- Introduction to Creative Writing Workshops / Multi-genre (The City College of New York, Rutgers University, Pratt Institute)
- Advanced Reading for Writers, Poetry Workshop on the Poetry of Remembrance and Witness (Eugene Lang College The New School)
- Advanced Writing of Remembrance and Witness, Multi-Genre Creative Writing Workshop

(New York University)

- World Humanities / World Literature (The City College of New York)
- Expository Writing Classes (New York University)
- Freshman Composition (University of Houston, The City College of New York)
- Composition Online Facilitator (University of Houston)

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

- **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AWARDS COORDINATOR**, The City College of New York, September 2006-August 2007.
- **FACULTY ADVISOR FOR STUDENT LITERARY JOURNAL: *PROMETHEAN***, The City College of New York, September 2006-August 2007.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Made decisions regarding acceptances into MFA Program in Poetry.
The City College of New York, New York, Fall 2006.
 - MFA Registration.
The City College of New York, New York, August 2006, December 2006.
 - Organized reading including Elizabeth Macklin and the Basque poet Kirmen Uribe.
The City College of New York, New York, April 2007.
 - “Crossing Lines: Contemporary Poetic Practices”
Organized and moderated panel discussion and reading.
The City College of New York, New York, February 2006.
 - Organized and led a seminar for undergraduates to learn about graduate school programs in Creative Writing and in English literature.
The City College of New York, New York, NY, December 2004.
 - “The Contrapuntal Air: The Convergence of Islamic and Western Literary Traditions, the Poet Agha Shahid Ali, New Arab Poetry, and the Role of the Literary Journal.”
Organizer and moderator of panel discussion and reading.
The City College of New York, April 2002.
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MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE

- Served as a Member of the Houston Public Poetry Selection Committee, 2013
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REFERENCES

Dr. Jehanne Dubrow, Associate Professor of Creative Writing, Department of English,
University of North Texas, Auditorium 216, Denton, TX 76203-5017

Professor Tony Hoagland, Professor of Creative Writing, Department of English, University
of Houston, 3687 Cullen Boulevard, Room 205, Houston, TX 77204

Dr. David Mikics, John and Rebecca Moores Distinguished Professor of English, Department of
English and The Honors College, University of Houston, 3687 Cullen Boulevard, Room
205, Houston, TX 77204

Professor Kevin Prufer, Professor of Creative Writing, Department of English, University of
Houston, 3687 Cullen Boulevard, Room 205, Houston, TX 77204

Dr. Martha Serpas, Professor of Creative Writing, Department of English, University of
Houston, 3687 Cullen Boulevard, Room 205, Houston, TX 77204
