

# JOSHUA SCHRIFTMAN

University of Pittsburgh / Department of English  
526 Cathedral of Learning  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

412-657-6266  
joshua.schriftman@gmail.com  
<http://www.joshuaschriftman.com>

## EDUCATION

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
MFA, Creative Nonfiction, August 2010  
Certificate in Composition, Literacy, Pedagogy, and Rhetoric, April 2010

**VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC AND STATE UNIVERSITY**, Blacksburg, Virginia  
MA, English Literature, May 2001  
Thesis: *Other Places Among the Lilies: Gloria Naylor's (Re)visions of Sacred Space and Time*  
3.9 GPA; President, English Graduate Student Organization (2000-01)

**VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC AND STATE UNIVERSITY**, Blacksburg, Virginia  
BA, English Literature and Medieval Studies, *cum laude*, 1996

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Creative Writing Workshop Instructor, Young Writer's Institute, National Writing Project. July 2009.  
Co-taught workshop for gifted fourth- and fifth-grade writers.

Instructor, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. 2008. Designed and taught literature and writing courses to a senior student body.

Adjunct Instructor, Community College of Allegheny County and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. 2003–2005. Designed and taught a wide range of first-year composition courses at three Pittsburgh campuses to a diverse student body. Courses ranged from advanced composition, in which we read literary theory, to introductory courses concentrating on the fundamentals of mechanics and style.

Graduate Composition Instructor, Virginia Tech. 1999–2001. Designed and taught two first-year composition classes per semester.

## COURSES TAUGHT

*Writing the Travel Essay*. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI).

*Travel Writing from the Margins: Travel Literature from Underrepresented Groups*. OLLI.

English 089: Basic Writing Techniques. Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) Allegheny Campus.

English 100: Basic Principles Composition. CCAC: Allegheny Campus and Homewood-Brushton Center.

English 101: English Composition 1, *Critical Literacy*. CCAC: Allegheny Campus and Homewood-Brushton Center.

English 102: English Composition 2, *Working Literacy*. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), CCAC Allegheny Campus.

English 111: Technical English. IBEW.

English 1105: Critical Literacy. Virginia Tech.

English 1106: Critical Literacy II. *Revisions and Recenterings*. Virginia Tech.

English 1106: Critical Literacy II. *Hauntings and other problems with linear time*. Virginia Tech.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

Academic Year 2009–2010

Service on Composition Award Committee

Service on Library Committee

Funding Director, Fall 2009 Creative Nonfiction Retreat

Judge, Sixth Annual Writers' Café/Prosody Undergraduate Writing Contest

Academic Year 2008–2009

Vice President, University of Pittsburgh Creative Nonfiction Society. The officers of the CNF Society committed to and achieved a number of goals, including:

- Facilitating communication with faculty
- Organizing events, including:
  - Biannual CNF New York trip to meet editors and agents
  - Fall 2008 Creative Nonfiction Retreat
  - professional-development events
- Providing CNF students with access to the *CNF MFA Survival Guide*, a growing, comprehensive guide to the ins and outs of the professional life of current and post-MFA students
- Hosting five agenda development meetings over the course of the year

- Aiding in department recruitment efforts by extending personal invitations to our community to all students accepted into the University of Pittsburgh's CNF MFA program

We achieved our aims through either direct action of our own or by delegation to committees elected at our meetings.

#### Academic Year 2007–2008

Editor, *The Creative Nonfiction Society Survival Guide, 2008 Edition*.

- Responsibilities included fact-checking and expanding the 2007 edition.
- Eleven new articles were commissioned and published in the 2008 edition.
- New articles covered writing conferences and publishing in academic and nonacademic venues.
- Three new successful-alumni interviews were also added to the *Guide*.

#### PUBLICATIONS

##### Essays

"On Silence." *Ninth Letter*. Spring/Summer issue, 2010.

"How to Build Your Own Labyrinth." *The Pinch*, Spring, 2010.

##### Reviews

*The Lost Origins of the Essay*, John D'Agata. Review. *Hot Metal Bridge*. March 2010 (forthcoming).

##### Journalism and Feature Writing

###### *Pitt Magazine*

"Richard Garland: Gang Violence, One Vision One Life." Summer 2010 (forthcoming).

"Art Among Us: Attack Theatre Takes Art to the People." Summer 2009.

"She Touched the World: Laura Bridgman." Spring 2009.

###### *Pittsburgh City Paper*

"Displays of Affection." Cover story. September 23, 2004.

"Prophet Sharing." Cover story. March 3, 2004.

Various local travel stories and reviews. 2003–2004.

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Multimodal

#### Compositions

“On Silence.” An interactive composition based on my essay by the same name.  
Available by password (“Guest”) at <http://www.joshuaschriftman.com/silence>.

#### Technical proficiencies

##### Programming languages:

- ActionScript
- HTML

##### New media applications

- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Dreamweaver
- Adobe Flash
- Adobe Premier
- Audacity

### Editorial

Creative Nonfiction Editor, *Hot Metal Bridge*. 2009. Responsibilities included soliciting interviews and submissions, judging submissions, and editing selected submissions.

Reader, *Hot Metal Bridge*. 2007–2008.

Proofreader, *Dorrance Publishing Company*. 2006.

Editorial Assistant, *Latin American Literary Review/Press*. 2003–2005. For the press, I worked with authors, agents, translators, graphic designers, printers, and distributors to guide manuscripts through the production process. For the peer-reviewed journal, I managed copyright issues, wrote correspondence, and brought each journal submission from receipt to revision to possible publication.

### Research/Miscellaneous

Funded Graduate Research position under Distinguished Professor Paul Bové. 2007–2010.

Responsibilities include general research, managing conference logistics, and hosting guest speakers such as Eric Lott, George Lamming, and Anthony Bogues.

Responsibilities have also included proofreading Professor Bové’s shorter publications and copyediting and indexing his 2009 book, *Poetry against Torture: Criticism, History, and the Human*.

### Professional

Communications Representative, University Marketing Communications Department, University of Pittsburgh. 2005–2007. Coordinated production and design for high-quality university publications. Daily activities included copywriting, copyediting, and communicating with designers, clients, and printers. Projects included book-length University of Pittsburgh signature pieces.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

*So Sorry about India: a memoir.* The book tells the story of the half-year I spent travelling in India in 1997, a time when my ideas of India were based on myths, romantic stories, and personal dreams—a time when I knew myself only on similar terms. *So Sorry about India* essays an anti-romantic portrayal of this overly romanticized place in the world, and time in my life. I have completed 150 pages, and I plan to complete 200 by August.

“How to Build Your Own Labyrinth.” This multimodal composition is being designed in Dreamweaver and Flash (using ActionScript 3.0) and features short films made in Adobe Premiere.

## READINGS AND GUEST LECTURES

“Schooled.” Fuel and Fuddle Reading Series. Scheduled for April 13, 2009.

Excerpts from *So Sorry about India*. Fuel and Fuddle Reading Series. October 21, 2009.

Excerpts from *So Sorry about India*. Sarah Lawrence College. July 13, 2009.

“On Michele Morano’s ‘Subjunctive Mood’.” Faith Adiele’s Introduction to Creative Nonfiction. December 5, 2007.

## AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

Certificate in Composition, Literacy, Pedagogy, and Rhetoric. Expected in May 2010. Graduate certificate recognizing sustained, advanced study in composition, literacy, pedagogy, and rhetoric at the University of Pittsburgh.

Scholarship, Summer Writer’s Institute, Sarah Lawrence College, New York, NY. 2009.

Named to Who’s Who Among Students In American Universities and Colleges. 1997.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

Panelist. “Labyrinthine,” College English Association. March 2009.

Panelist. “The Oppositional Travel Guide, or How to Avoid Summer Romance,” International Society for Travel Writing. September 2002.

Panelist. “The Semiotics of Six: The Construction of Sacred Space in *Mama Day*,” James Madison University Graduate Studies Conference. March 2001.

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Modern Language Association  
Association of Writers and Writing Programs  
College English Association

## REFERENCES

### **Paul Bové**

Editor of *boundary 2*, Distinguished Professor  
Department of English  
University of Pittsburgh  
526 Cathedral of Learning  
4200 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260-0001  
412-624-6523; bove@pitt.edu

### **Joel Lovell**

Story Editor & Correspondent at *GQ*, Visiting Professor  
Department of English  
University of Pittsburgh  
526 Cathedral of Learning  
4200 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260-0001  
412-624-5553; Joel\_Lovell@condenast.com

### **Faith Adiele**

Distinguished Visiting Writer  
Mills College  
Mills Hall 130  
Oakland, CA 94613  
510-430-2217; fadiele@mills.edu

Also available for comment:

### **Judith Bobenage**

Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
University of Pittsburgh  
452 Cathedral of Learning  
4200 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260-0001  
412-624-7072; bobenage@pitt.edu