

Emrys Donaldson

Curriculum vitae

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University of Alabama, Department of English
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EDUCATION

M.F.A. Prose, The University of Alabama, 2019

Thesis: *The Festival* (novel)

B.A. Cornell University, 2012

Summa Cum Laude in English, minor in Cognitive Science

Thesis: On Wandering & Conceptual Loss in Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*

FICTION PUBLICATIONS

2019: “Bubbies vs. Crims: Deathmatch Vol. IV”—*cream city review*

2018: “Prayer to St. Wilgefortis”—*Gigantic Sequins*

“The Albatrosses”—*Fairy Tale Review*

—nominated for *Best Small Fictions*

2017: “Boy Bodies”—*Entropy Magazine*

“The Oracle of Exit 24”—*Necessary Fiction*

—republished on *Longform*

2013: “Cola Bottle Light”—*Little Bird Stories*

“Bird and Whaler Street Race”—*Pea River Journal*

—multimedia version screened at *Mixing Realities Digital Performance Festival*, Sweden

NONFICTION PUBLICATIONS

2018: “Troubleshooting my Haptic Cock”—*Sundog Lit*

2017: “Genrequeer and Genderqueer in Alabama”—*VIDA Review*

“Review of The Lost Daughter Collective by Lindsey Drager”—*Black Warrior Review*

2014: “The Tangible and Strange: an Interview with Gina Keicher”—*PANK* (under former name)

2013: Regular online column—*Ploughshares* (under former name)

BOOK PROJECTS

The Festival—novel

A group of friends make a sacred pilgrimage to a music festival in the deep woods. Climate change has rendered necrotic the landscape through which they walk. Along the way, they tell each other stories which seek truths at odd angles, stories which tell it slant. One of the main narrators hybridizes Middle English with modern text-speak.

Into the Darkness We Go—novel

In a flooded future where safety from the sun exists only deep at the bottom of the sea. There, a biohacker named Joules joins forces with an intelligent genetically-modified octopus named A-OK. Together, they search for her missing ex-girlfriend alongside a light-worshipping religious cult. Background research focused on communication between humans and invertebrates.

Embodied—short story collection

These stories move beyond common tragic narratives—queer death, botched transition—and create space for resilience and fierce joy. I am especially interested in technological hybridity and transmogrification as regards human bodies, gender, and sexuality, which manifests in these stories as DIY transitions and collective caretaking.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2019: “Contact Zone Earth: Power and Consent in Cartoon Network’s *Steven Universe* and Octavia Butler’s *Lilith’s Brood*”. *Representation in Steven Universe*, ed. John Ziegler and Leah Richards. Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2018: “Prompts & Texts of Inspiration: Creative Writing Pedagogy”—with Sophie Strohmeier. University of Alabama pedagogical symposium. Tuscaloosa, AL.
- 2017: “Direct Payment and the Creator/Fan Dynamic”—juried, with Julia Starkey, Amal El-Mohtar, Alexandra Erin. *WisCon 41* conference. Madison, WI. Received Graduate Travel Award from the University of Alabama to attend.
- 2016: “*In Extremis*: Discomfort in Literary Comedy”—juried, with Professor Wendy Rawlings, Chase Burke, Michelle Meyers. *Other Words Literary Conference*. Received Graduate Travel Award from the University of Alabama to attend.
- 2015: “Thought Experiments & Science Fictional Realities”—*Chaos Communications Congress* conference. Received Graduate Travel Award from the University of Alabama to attend.
- 2012: “Splitting Celestial Spheres: Radical Re-Imagination of the Individual in the Two-Dimensional Universe of Edwin Abbott’s *Flatland* and in the Creatures Life-Simulator”—*Radical Maneuvers: Discourses of the New* conference. Ithaca, NY.

2011: “Juvenile zebra finches learn the underlying structural regularities of their fathers’ song.”
Menyhart, O., Kolodny, O., Goldstein, M. H., DeVogd, T. J., & Edelman, S. *Frontiers in Psychology, section Cognitive Science*. Contributed as a laboratory assistant.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor — 2016-present — The University of Alabama

Instructor of record for English 100-, 200-, and 300-level classes to undergraduates and incarcerated students of all levels. Independently developed syllabi, assignments, and grading rubrics.

University of Alabama

EN 101: Introduction to English Composition I

EN 102: Introduction to English Composition II

EN 200: Introduction to Creative Writing

EN 307: Advanced Creative Writing: Writing for Digital Media

Donaldson Correctional Facility

Animal Studies (multilevel)

Writing Center Tutor — 2015 — The University of Alabama

Worked one-on-one with undergraduate and graduate clients on paper development and revision.

Digital Literacy Tutor—2012-2015—Tompkins Learning Partners

Taught weekly class to English Language Learners on English language and digital media skills.

EDITING EXPERIENCE

Digital Managing Editor—2018-present—*Fairy Tale Review*

Lead team of 10 to publish digital side of award-winning literary journal. Worked closely with other editors to select stories, edit, proof, publish, and promote. Recruited readers.

—Associate Editor (2016)

—Reader (2015)

Fiction Editor—2016-2017—*Black Warrior Review*

Lead team of 15 assistant editors. Read, comment on, and assisted with selecting stories.

Assisted with defining journal aesthetic and issue goals.

—Associate Fiction Editor (2015-2016)

Editor—2015-2016—The University of Alabama

Edited faculty research proposals for major grants, including NIH and NSF.

Research Assistant—2015-2016—The University of Alabama

Assisted Professor Trudier Harris with research for an African-American Literature course.

Editor—2016—Cornell University

Wrote and edited institutional letters of evaluation for medical school applicants with minimal supervision. Synthesized letters from applicant files. Tracked outcomes with individual students.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate Teaching Fellowship—2016-2019—University of Alabama

Prison Arts Fellowship—2018—University of Alabama

Graduate Council Fellowship—2015-2017—University of Alabama

Graduate Travel Award—2015-2017—University of Alabama

Honorable Mention—2016—James Tiptree, Jr. Fellowship Award

Finalist—2014—Diverse Writers Grant, Speculative Literature Foundation

First Place, M. H. Abrams Honors Prize (top thesis in department)—2012—Cornell University

First Place, Arthur Lynn Andrews Award for Fiction (undergraduate) —2012—Cornell University

First Place, Corson Browning Poetry Prize (graduate and undergraduate) —2012—Cornell University

Second Place, George Harmon Coxe Award for American Literature—2012—Cornell University

Mary EE Bragg Scholarship (for high-achieving English major)—2010-2012—Cornell University

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Volunteer Case Manager—2018-present—The Yellowhammer Fund

First point of client contact for newly-established high-call-volume reproductive justice fund in Alabama. Followed up with clients, managed funding, coordinated with case management team and other organizations on their behalf.

Co-Founder & President—2017-present—Gradient, The University of Alabama

Co-founded the University of Alabama's first LGBTQ+ organization for graduate students. Performed outreach, organized events, acted as liaison between community members and university administration.

Volunteer Site Coordinator—2016-present—West Alabama Clinic Defenders

On-call point-person for on-the-ground clinic defense organization in Alabama. Managed active risk on site, including escalation to emergency services. Assisted clinic patients with safe entry/exit. Recruited volunteers and led trainings.

Residency Judge— 2017—Lighthouse Works

Rated and evaluated fiction applications for the Lighthouse Works fiction residencies.

Web Communications Specialist—2012-2015—Cornell University

Built, managed, and maintained high-traffic mobile-optimized web channels across Cornell.edu and related sites using HTML and CSS on Coldfusion- and PHP-based servers. Acted as webmaster on the Cornell homepage. Managed and supervised twelve students in the Life on the Hill blogging program.

Communications Associate—2011-2012—Human Services Coalition

Wrote successful \$73,000 grant for the renovation of the Cascadilla Boathouse. Designed and edited print and digital newsletters. Supervised interns.

READINGS

2018: *AWP Offsite: Gigantic Sequins at Lector*—Tampa, FL

Pure Products Reading Series—Tuscaloosa, AL

2017: *MFA Reading Series*—Tuscaloosa, AL

LGBTQ+ History Month Reading—Tuscaloosa, AL

2016: *Sacred Grove Reading Series*—Tuscaloosa, AL

2015: *MFA Reading Series*—Tuscaloosa, AL

2014: *Spring Writes Literary Festival*—Ithaca, NY

2013: *Spring Writes Literary Festival*—Ithaca, NY

SKILLS

Language: Spanish (Advanced)

Programming: HTML, CSS, basic JavaScript
WordPress

Image Editing: Photoshop, InDesign, GIMP

EdTech: Blackboard, Moodle, Doodle, Google Drive, Canvas and other technologies