

## **Martin Riker**

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### **EDUCATION**

2007 - University of Denver: PhD in English with Creative Writing and Rhetoric emphases (dissertation director: Brian Kiteley)

2000 - Illinois State University: MA in English with Creative Writing emphasis (thesis advisor: David Foster Wallace)

1995 - Carnegie Mellon University: BA in English (Phi Beta Kappa)

### **WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS, 2012-present**

#### **Positions**

Teaching Professor, 2023

Director of the Publishing Concentration to the English Major, 2022-present

Senior Lecturer, 2018-present

Adjunct Professor, 2012-2017

#### **Courses developed and taught**

The Art of Publishing, SP 2023: core course for the Publishing Concentration

Publishing History & Contexts, FL 2022: core course for the Publishing Concentration

Dorothy Project publishing internship, F18-present (ongoing): graduate student internships

The Literary Life, FL 2017-present (ongoing each Fall): First-Year Seminar

The Business of Books, SP 2020-22: combined grad/undergrad course

Experimental Traditions, SP 2018-SP 2023 (recurring): combined grad/undergrad course

Critic as Writer, SP 2016-FL 2020 (recurring): combined grad/undergrad course

The Writer in the World, FL 2014 & FL 2018: combined grad/undergrad course

Fiction Writing 1, SP 2013-FL 2021: undergrad craft course

Fiction Writing 2, FL 2012-SP 2017: undergrad craft course

## University-Related Panels and Speaking Events

Interview with Professor Phil Maciak, May 2023 (Left Bank Books)  
Reading from “The Guest Lecture,” March 2023 (Subterranean Books)  
“Translation: Dramaturgy” panel, Nov 2022 (Performing Arts department)  
“Publishing in the Innovative Tradition” panel, Oct 2022 (Olin Library conference)  
Presentation to the WUSTL Creative Writing club, Sept 2022  
Presentation to Business of the Arts program, FL 2019 (Business School)  
“Crossing Borders, w/Cristina Rivera Garza and Suzanne Jill Levine,” SP 2019 (English)  
Reading from *Samuel Johnson’s Eternal Return*, FL 2018 (English)  
“Translation, Publishing, and the Academy” panel, SP 2018 (Comparative Literature)  
William Gass memorial presentation, SP 2018 (Olin Library conference)

## Other University Service

Director of the Publishing Concentration, FL 2022 (ongoing)  
Presenter, Faculty Spotlight orientation program, FL 2018-present (ongoing)  
Presenter, First-Year program Bear Beginnings, FL 2018-present (ongoing)  
Guest judge, Neureuther essay competition / Olin Library, SP 2022  
Faculty advisor, Belegarth Medieval Combat Club (2020-2021)  
Member, English Teaching Track Handbook steering committee (Spring/Fall 2020)

## PROFESSIONAL PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE

Publisher, Dorothy, a Publishing Project, 2010-present (awarded 2020 Golden Colophon Award for Distinguished Independent Publisher by the Council of Literary Magazines and Presses)  
Associate Director, Dalkey Archive Press at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2007-2011  
Editor, *Review of Contemporary Fiction*, 2007-2011  
Senior Editor, Dalkey Archive Press, 2000-2004  
Founding Managing Editor, *Context: A Forum for Literary Arts and Culture*, 2000-2004

## PUBLISHED WRITING

### Novels

*The Guest Lecture*. New York: Grove Press, Jan 2023  
List of review coverage attached as an addendum.

*Samuel Johnson’s Eternal Return*. Minneapolis: Coffee House Press, 2018  
Reviewed in *New Yorker* (3/11/2019), *New York Times Book Review* (11/11/2018), *Wall Street Journal* (10/11/2018), *Los Angeles Times* (10/26/2018), and elsewhere

### Short Fiction

“Samuel Johnson’s Eternal Return,” *Conjunctions*, 2014  
“Four Minutes and 33 Pairs of Sweatpants,” *The Baffler*, 2007

## Book Reviews and Articles

- “*The Birthday Party*, by Laurent Mauvignier,” *New York Times*, Jan 2023
- “*The Wall*, by Marlen Haushofer,” *Wall Street Journal*, 2022
- “*To Walk Among the Crowd*, by Antonio Muñoz Molina,” *New York Times*, 2021
- “*Motley Stones*, by Adalbert Stifter,” *Wall Street Journal*, 2021
- “*Borges and Me*, by Jay Parisi,” *Wall Street Journal*, 2020
- “*Ducks, Newburyport*, by Lucy Ellman,” *New York Times*, 2019
- “*Hell*, by Dante, translated by Alasdair Gray,” *Wall Street Journal*, 2019
- “*I am God*, by Giacomo Sartori,” *New York Times*, 2019
- “Marcel Schwob,” *Wall Street Journal*, 2018
- “*The Chandelier* by Clarice Lispector,” *New York Times*, 2018
- “*Solar Bones* by Mike McCormack,” *New York Times*, 2018
- “Two by Fleur Jaeggy,” *New York Times*, 2017
- “Ales Steger’s *Absolution*,” *Times Literary Supplement*, 2017
- “Guy de Maupassant,” *Wall Street Journal*, 2017
- “Marguerite Duras,” *Wall Street Journal*, 2016
- “Mezz Mezzrow’s *Really the Blues*,” *Wall Street Journal*, 2016
- “Orhan Pamuk’s ‘A Strangeness in My Mind,’” *New York Times*, 2016
- “Experimental Fiction Shortlist,” *New York Times*, 2015
- “Wolfgang Hilbig,” *Wall Street Journal*, 2015
- “Simon Leys’s *The Death of Napoleon*,” *Wall Street Journal*, 2015
- “Joe Brainard and Georges Perec,” *Wall Street Journal*, 2014
- “Mina Loy,” *Wall Street Journal*, 2014
- “Daniel Anselme’s *On Leave*,” *New York Times*, 2014
- “Amhet Hamdi Tanpinar’s *Time Regulation Institute*,” *New York Times*, 2014
- “Mircea Cartarescu’s *Blinding*,” *London Review of Books*, 2014
- “Imre Kertesz’s *Dossier K*,” *New York Times*, 2013
- “Paul Auster and J.M. Coetzee,” *New York Times*, 2013
- “Jorge Amado,” *Wall Street Journal*, 2012
- “Gilbert Sorrentino.” Entry for Blackwell’s *Encyclopedia of Twentieth Century Authors*, 2011
- “The Estonian Argument for English Translation,” *The Guardian*, 2010
- “Adventures in E-reading,” *Critical Mass*, blog of the National Book Critic’s Circle, 2010
- “Translation and ‘National Literature,’” *dalkeyarchive.com*, 2010, reprinted at Free Word, London, UK, 2011
- “David Wallace,” *Brooklyn Rail*, New York, 2008
- “Notes on the Editing of Translated Literature,” *Context 21*, 2008; abbreviated version reprinted in the *Chicago Tribune*, 2008
- “Guantanamo,” *Quarterly Conversation*, 2008
- “Reading Piotr Szewc’s *Annihilation*,” *Context*, 19, 2006
- “Patrik Ourednik’s *Europeana*,” *Chicago Review*, 2006
- “The Enamoured Critics: Douglas Glover Reads *Don Quixote*,” *Denver Quarterly*, 2006
- “David Ohle and the Anti-Sequel,” *Rain Taxi*, 2005
- “Three by Perec,” *Rain Taxi*, 2005

## Interviews Given

Across the Pond Podcast discussion of *The Guest Lecture*, April 2023  
Interview for *The Guest Lecture*, *Los Angeles Times*, Jan 2023  
Interview for *The Guest Lecture*, *Electric Literature*, Jan 2023  
Avid Reader Podcast discussion of *The Guest Lecture*, Oct 2022  
“New Publishing Concentration Introduced for English Major.” *The Ampersand*, July 11, 2022  
“Dorothy, a (Successful, Experimental) Publishing Project.” *Publishers Weekly*, May 20, 2022  
“Dorothy, Representing a New Sound in Publishing.” *Speculative City*, 2022.  
“Danielle Dutton & Martin Riker of Dorothy, a Publishing Project.” CLMP, Nov 9, 2020  
“Martin Riker Discusses Fatherhood, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Literature, and the Beastie Boys.”  
Stephen Sparks, *The Millions*, Sept 25, 2018  
“Beyond the Borders of American Realism: A Conversation by Jeff Jackson & Martin Riker.” *BOMB*, Fall 2018  
“Innovators in Lit.” *Ploughshares*, Oct 3, 2011  
“The Future of the E-book.” “Focus 580,” WTTW, Urbana, 2010

### **Interviews Conducted**

“Conversation with Sabrina Oran Mark,” *Granta*, 2023  
“The Covering Cherub: an interview with Joshua Cohen,” *Paris Review Daily*, 2021  
“Witchcraft and Brattiness: an interview with Amina Cain,” *Paris Review Daily*, 2020  
“Interview with Merrill Gilfillan,” *Believer Logger*, 2019  
“Interview with *Paris Review* editor Nicole Rudick,” *Believer Logger*, 2018  
“Misplaced Logic: an interview with Joanna Ruocco,” *Paris Review Daily*, 2017  
“After the Nouveau Roman: an interview with Donald Breckenridge,” *Believer Logger*, 2017  
“Not Sorry: an interview with Jeremy Davies,” *Paris Review Daily*, 2016  
“The Splendidly Cranky Utopian: an interview with Curtis White,” *Paris Review Daily*, 2016  
“Fourteen Questions for Jean-Philippe Toussaint,” *Quarterly Conversation*, 2009  
“Work and Play: an interview with Warren Motte,” *Puerto del Sol*, 2008; reprinted at Words without Borders, 2010  
“Devin Johnston and Michael O’Leary of Flood Editions,” *Trickhouse*, 2008

### **Select Readings, Talks, and Panels**

Indie and Translation Publishers, virtual panel hosted by Brazos Books, Houston, 2022  
Craft Talk & Reading, Emerging Writer’s Festival, Franklin & Marshall College, 2021  
Novel reading, Carnegie Mellon University, 2020  
Novel reading, University of Maine, 2019  
“Death in the Novel,” *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books panel, 2019  
“Martin Riker with NYRB editor Edwin Frank,” Community Bookstore, New York, 2018  
“The Global Translation Initiative,” presentation at Free Word Centre, London, UK, 2010  
“Publishing and Technology,” panel at the University of Illinois, Champaign, 2010  
“Training Translators,” panel at MLA, Philadelphia, 2010  
“Small Press Publishing,” panel at Cal Arts, Los Angeles, 2010  
“Riker Rides Dalkey into the Future,” interview in *Poets & Writers*, 2009

“The Global State of Literary Translation,” panel at the British Council, London, 2009  
 “The Future of Publishing,” panel at Printer’s Row Book Fair, Chicago, 2008  
 “Literary Translations,” panel at Iranian Literature Festival, San Francisco, 2008  
 “Literary Editing,” panel at Miami Book Fair, 2007  
 “Marketing Translations,” panel at Deutcheshaus, NYU, New York, 2007  
 “Teaching Other Traditions: Wayne Booth, Mikhail Bakhtin, and the Menippean Satire,” scholarly paper at CCCC (composition) conference, New York, 2007  
 “David Antin and the Materiality of Talk,” scholarly paper at &NOW conference, Lake Forest College, Chicago, 2006  
 “Fiction in the Attentive Mode,” scholarly paper at Attention/Inattention Critical and Creative Conference, University of Denver, 2005  
 “Between TV and Utopia: Vedrana Rudan’s *Night*,” scholarly paper at ELL conference, University of Denver, 2005  
 “Literary Publishing,” panel at Harold Washington Library, Chicago, 2004  
 “Translation and the Review Media,” panel at Goethe Institut, Chicago, 2003  
 “Independent Publishing,” presentation at Summer Literary Seminars, St. Petersburg, Russia, 2003  
 “Oulipo and Constraint-Based Literature,” presentation at School of the Art Institute, Chicago, 2002 (invited by Prof. Beth Nugent)  
 “Independent Literary Presses and Magazines,” presentation at Notre Dame University, South Bend, 2002 (invited by Prof. Steve Tomasula)  
 “Magazine and Journal Publishing,” presentation at School of the Art Institute, Chicago, 2001 (invited by Prof. Christine Hume)  
 “The Future of Electronic Literature,” panel at Printer’s Row Book Fair, Chicago 2000

### **Published Symposia**

*Translation in Practice*. Dalkey Archive Press. Urbana: 2009.

Volume edited from a roundtable discussion I participated in at the British Council in London in 2009, sponsored by the British Centre for Literary Translation, Arts Council England, and The Society of Authors.

“‘Training Translators’ at the MLA,” published at *Inside Higher Education*, 2010.

Article records a panel I moderated with translators Suzanne Jill Levine, Bill Johnston, Laurence Venuti, Emmanuelle Ertel, Benjamin Paloff, and Edwin Gentzler.

### **Addendum: *The Guest Lecture* reviews and coverage**

#### Full Reviews

*Washington Post*, reviewed by Maggie Lange, 1.19.23

*New York Times*, reviewed by Dwight Garner, 1.24.23

*Los Angeles Times*, profile review by Lynn Steger Strong, 1.29.23

*New York Review of Books*, reviewed by Meghan O’Gieblyn, 3.23.23

*Associated Press*, reviewed by Ann Levin, 1.23.23

*Chicago Review of Books*, reviewed by Dan Kubis, 1.27.23

*New Yorker*, “Briefly Noted,” 2.6.23

*New Yorker Page Turner*, reviewed by Nathan Goldman, 2.21.23

*Inside Higher Education*, reviewed by Joshua Kim, 2.19.23  
*Book Reporter*, reviewed by Norah Piehl, 1.24.23  
*Public Books*, reviewed by Nicholas Dames, 2.28.23  
*Wall Street Journal*, reviewed by Sam Sacks, 4.23  
*California Review of Books*, reviewed by Walter Cummins, 5.16.23  
KMUV / NPR, reviewed by Suzanne Perez, 5.30.23

#### Advance reviews and previews

*Publishers Weekly* (starred review), 9.1.22  
*Shelf Awareness* (starred review), 1.27.23  
*Library Journal*, reviewed by Barbara Hoffert, 2.10.23  
*Kirkus*, 11.16.22  
*Booklist*  
*Bustle* preview, 12.30.22  
*Literary Hub* preview, 1.24.23  
*The Millions*, 1.23.23

#### Interviews and profiles

Across the Pond podcast  
Avid Reader podcast  
*Electric Literature* interview, 2.2.23  
Lincoln Michel substack, 1.27.23  
*Shelf Awareness* reading list, 1.20.23  
*LitHub* Qs for authors, 2.14.23  
*Riverfront Times* profile, 4.23  
*Washington Magazine* profile, 8.9.23