

## **KATHLEEN FINNERAN**

English Department Washington University in St. Louis  
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### **EDUCATION**

Washington University in St. Louis, B.A., Literature and History, 2000

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

Senior Writer-in-Residence, creative nonfiction, 2017-present

Writer-in-Residence, creative nonfiction, 2008-2017

Director, Nemerov Writing Scholars Program, 2013-2018

Adjunct Lecturer, creative nonfiction, 2006-2007

Instructor, Summer Writers' Institute, creative nonfiction, 2005-present

University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO

Distinguished Visiting Writer, MFA program, creative nonfiction, 2008

Adjunct Lecturer, MFA program, creative nonfiction, 2004-2005

Webster University, St. Louis, MO

Adjunct Lecturer, creative nonfiction, 2006-2008

St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, St. Louis, MO

Adjunct Instructor, developmental writing, 2005-2007

Gotham Writers' Workshops, New York, NY

Instructor, memoir writing, 2001-2002

City University of New York Graduate Center, New York, NY

Adjunct Instructor, memoir writing, 2001-2002

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Books:

*The Tender Land: A Family Love Story*, Houghton Mifflin, New York, NY, June 2000; Mariner Paperbacks, New York, NY, June 2003.

Reviewed: *Publishers Weekly* (starred review), *Kirkus* (starred review), *Library Journal*, *Booklist*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *USA Today*, *Portland Oregonian*, *Seattle Times*, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, and others

Featured: *The Diane Rehm Show*, NPR, September 2000; *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* “Best Books of 2000”; *St. Louis on the Air*, KWMU, June 2000; *New York Magazine* “The Best Novels You’ve Never Read: Sixty-one Critics Reveal Their Favorite Underrated Book of the Past Ten Years,” May 28, 2007 (chosen by Marcela Valdes of the *Washington Post*)

Essays:

“Left Bank Books,” in *My Bookstore: Writers Celebrate Their Favorite Places to Browse, Read, and Shop*, edited by Ronald Rice, Black Dog & Leventhal, New York, NY, 2012

“More Than I Can Say,” *River Styx* 78, Fall 2008

“Crock Pots: A Confession,” in *The “M” Word: Writers on Same-Sex Marriage*, edited by Kathy Pories, Algonquin Books, Chapel Hill, NC, 2004

“Bringing Real People to Life in Memoir,” [www.writersstore.com](http://www.writersstore.com), 2003

“Lying in the Land of Memoir: Straddling the Line Between Fact and Fiction,” [www.writersstore.com](http://www.writersstore.com), 2002

“New Houses,” in *Seeking St. Louis: Voices From a River City*, edited by Lee Ann Sandweiss, Missouri Historical Society Press, St. Louis, MO, 2000

“Learning to Read,” in *The Place That Holds Our History*, edited by Robley Wilson, Southwest Missouri State University Press, Springfield, MO, 1991

## **SELECTED READINGS AND TALKS**

BookFest St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, Keynote Interview, September 21, 2018 (Keynote Event)

St. Louis Community College at Meramec, St. Louis, MO, Writing Festival, “Imagination and Memoir,” April 11, 2018 (Talk)

Webster High School, Webster Groves, MO, All Write Festival, February 25, 2018 (Reading)

BookFest St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, Memoir Panel, September 23, 2017 (Panelist)

Summer Writers’ Institute, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, “The Problem With People: Writing About Friends and Family With and Without Their Permission,” July 24, 2016 (Talk)

St. Louis Community College at Meramec, St. Louis, MO, March 21, 2016 (Class Visit and Talk)

St. Louis Publisher’s Association, St. Louis, MO, “What We Learn from Writing Memoir,” February 10, 2016 (Panelist)

Lit in the Lou, St. Louis Literary Festival, St. Louis, MO, October 2015, Memoir Panel (Panelist)

Summer Writers’ Institute, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, “The Use of Imagination in Memoir,” July 19, 2015 (Talk)

St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, St. Louis, MO, Women and Memoir, March 26, 2015 (Panelist, Talk, and Reading)

River Styx Big Rivers Writing Conference, St. Louis, MO, “Imagination and Memoir,” June 6, 2013 (Talk)

River Styx Big Rivers Writing Conference, St. Louis, MO, June 5, 2013 (Reading)

Left Bank Books, St. Louis, MO, November 2012 (Reading)

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, March 2011 (Reading, Class Visit, and Talk)

Beacon Festival, *St. Louis Beacon*, St. Louis, MO, June 1, 2011 (Reading)  
University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, January 2008 (Reading)  
River Styx Reading Series, St. Louis, MO, May 2008 (Reading)  
St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO, April 2008 (Class Visit and Talk)  
Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, November 2007 (Reading)  
St. Louis University High School, St. Louis, MO, December 2007 (Class Visit and Talk)  
St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO, April 2007 (Class Visit and Talk)  
St. Louis University High School, St. Louis, MO, December 2006 (Class Visit and Talk)  
St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO, March 2006 (Class Visit and Talk)  
St. Louis University High School, St. Louis, MO, December 2005 (Class Visit and Talk)  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, December 4, 2004 (Class Visit, Talk, Reading)  
Ohio State University, December 2, 2004 (Class Visit, Talk, Reading)  
Women and Children First Bookstore, Chicago, IL, July 2003 (Reading)  
Left Bank Books, St. Louis, MO, June 2003 (Reading)  
Davis Kidd Booksellers, Memphis, TN, June 2003 (Reading)  
Davis Kidd Booksellers, Nashville, TN, June 2003 (Reading)  
Books and Company, Dayton, OH, June 2003 (Reading)  
St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, September 2000 (Reading)  
St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, September 2000 (Reading)  
Barnes and Noble Bookstore, New York, NY, June 2000 (Reading)  
Broadside Bookshop, Northampton, MA, June 2000 (Reading)  
Left Bank Books, St. Louis, MO, June 2000 (Reading)  
Women and Children First Bookstore, Chicago, IL, June 2000 (Reading)

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

Washington University in St. Louis:

Graduate:

Nonfiction Workshop (Fall 2009, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2017; Spring 2017, 2019)  
Craft of Nonfiction: The Art of the Essay (Fall 2016, 2018)  
Craft of Nonfiction: Portraits and Profiles (Spring 2018)

Graduate/Undergraduate:

Craft of Nonfiction: Immersion Nonfiction (Spring 2016)

Undergraduate:

Advanced Nonfiction Writing (Fall 2007, Fall 2008; Spring 2006, 2007, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019)  
Creative Nonfiction Writing 2: Personal Essay and Memoir Writing (Fall 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018; Spring 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014)  
Creative Nonfiction Writing 1 (Fall 2008-2009, 2011-2015; Spring 2009-2011, 2012, 2014-2018)  
Readers as Writers (Fall 2010; Spring 2007, 2010, 2013)  
Nemerov Scholars Creative Writing Seminar (every semester Fall 2013-Spring 2018)  
Fiction Writing 1 (Fall 2006, Fall 2007)

**Summers and Evening College:**

Personal Narrative (Summers 2005-2008, 2010-2012, 2015)

Advanced Personal Narrative (Summer 2016-18)

Reading and Writing the Memoir (Fall 2006-2011; Spring 2011-2013)

The Art of the Personal Essay (Fall 2012)

**University of Missouri, St. Louis:**

Graduate Nonfiction Workshop (Summer 2004, 2005; Spring 2008)

Graduate Craft Course on Autobiography and Memoir (Spring 2008)

**Webster University:**

Undergraduate Creative Nonfiction Writing (Fall and Spring, 2006-2008)

Undergraduate Craft Course on Autobiography and Memoir (Spring 2007)

**TEACHING AWARDS**

James E. McLeod Faculty Recognition Award (2015)

**SERVICE**

**Washington University in St. Louis:**

Nontenure Track Faculty Representative for Creative Writing, English Department (2016-17, 2018-19)

Reader, Dean James E. McLeod Freshman Writing Prize (2013-2018)

Search Committee, Tenure Track Fiction Position, English Department (2010-2011)

Search Committee, Tenure Track Nonfiction Position, English Department (2011-2012)

Reader, Neurether Essay Prize (2010)

Four-Year Academic Advisor (2009-present)

**St. Louis Literary Community:**

Reader, Regional Arts Commission Artists' Fellowships (2014-2017)

Judge, Chesterfield Artists' Guild Essay Contest (2012)

**WRITING AWARDS**

Guggenheim Fellowship (2003)

Whiting Writers' Award (2001)

Cottages at Hedgebrook Writers' Colony Residency (1994)

MacDowell Colony for the Arts Residency (1992)

Missouri Arts Council Writers' Biennial Award (1990)