

Ellen Litman

Associate Professor & Associate Director of Creative Writing, Department of English
University of Connecticut, Storrs

Date of first appointment: 2007

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Department of English
University of Connecticut
215 Glenbrook Road, U-4025
Storrs, CT 06269-4025
(860) 486-2111
ellen.litman@uconn.edu

EDUCATION

M.F.A. Creative Writing / Fiction, 2004, Syracuse University.
B.S. Information Science, 1995, University of Pittsburgh.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

2014, Associate Professor & Associate Director of Creative Writing, University of Connecticut.
2007 – 2014, Assistant Professor & Associate Director of Creative Writing, University of Connecticut.
2005 – 2007, Instructor, Grub Street Inc.
2005 – 2006, Lecturer in Rhetoric, Babson College.
2004 – 2005, James C. McCreight Fellow in Fiction, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
2004 – 2005, Field Faculty Advisor (Fiction), Union Institute & University, Vermont College.
2001 – 2004, Graduate Instructor, Syracuse University.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Mannequin Girl, New York: W.W. Norton 2014
The Last Chicken in America, New York: W.W. Norton 2007

Stories in Journals

"Healing." *Memorious*, 33 (June 2023)
"Accidents." *East European Jewish Affairs*, 46.3 (2017): 439–446
An excerpt from *Mannequin Girl*, *The Nervous Breakdown* (March, 2014)
An excerpt from *Mannequin Girl*, *Memorious* (January, 2014)
"The Song of the Stormy Petrel." *Dossier Journal* (Fall, 2011)
"Home." *Five Chapters*. September 2007.
"The Trajectory of Frying Pans." *Ploughshares* (August 2007).
"Peculiarities of the National Driving." *Vrij Nederland* 1 (2007): 50-55.
"When the Neighbors Love You." *ACM* 46 (2006): 67-79.
"About Kamyshinskiy." *TriQuarterly* 121 (2005): 97-112.
"In the Man-Free Zone." *Gulf Coast* 17.1 (2004): 68-83.
"Dancers." *Tin House* 20 (2004): 188-203.
"The Last Chicken in America." *Ontario Review* 60 (2004): 46-62.
"Engagement." *Other Voices* 36 (2002): 36-48.

Stories in Anthologies

"Dancers." *American Odysseys: Writing by New Americans*. Champaign: Dalkey Archive Press, 2013. 296-310.

"The Last Chicken in America." *American Odysseys: Writing by New Americans*. Champaign: Dalkey Archive, 2013. 276-95.

"About Kamyshinskiy." *Best New American Voices 2007* 21-41.

"Dancers." *Best of Tin House* Portland: Tin House Books, 2006. 212-28.

Creative Nonfiction

"After the Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting, a Russian-Jewish Immigrant Remembers Squirrel Hill." *The New Yorker*, November 24, 2018

"In Search Soviet Ice Cream Past." *Tin House* 19.3 (Spring 2018): 187-189

"Just How Safe Will We Be in Donald Trump's America?" *Forward*, December 9, 2016.

"Searching for My People." Jewish Book Council: *Visiting Scribe*. March 2014

"On Quotas: On Being Jewish in Pre-Revolutionary Russia and Soviet Russia." Jewish Book Council: *Visiting Scribe*. March 2014

Book Reviews

Litman, Ellen. Review of *The Little Magazine in Contemporary America* ed. Ian Morris and Joanne Diaz. *American Literary History Online Review* VII (2016).

http://oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/alhist/alhreview_series7.html

"Family Puzzle." *Haaretz: Books*, October 2008: 8 [Review of *Fault Lines*, a novel by Nancy Houston.]

"A Book About Dying." *Haaretz: Books*, March 2008: 6 [Review of *The Book of Dahlia*, a novel by Elisa Albert.]

Translations

Matveeva, Anna. "I'll Die and Be Right There," Ellen Litman, transl. *Guernica* May, 2015

Starobinets, Anna. "Rules." Ellen Litman, trans. *It All Depends on Who You Believe: New Fiction from a New Russia*. Ed. Michael Iossel and Jeff Parker. New York: Tin House Books, 2009. 285-91.

Media & Community Outreach

Telegram Chronicles, coverage of the Russia's invasion in Ukraine. Initiated March 2022, ongoing. https://medium.com/@ellen_litman/

Invited TV appearance, "People in Connecticut remember Mikhail Gorbachev and his legacy." NBC Connecticut, 1 September 2022.

Invited radio guest, "Censorship in Russia and its impact on the free press and social media." Where We Live. WNPR, 1 April 2022. <https://www.ctpublic.org/show/where-we-live/2022-04-01/censorship-in-russia-what-journalism-and-social-media-look-like-in-a-censorship-state>

Invited TV appearance, "Coverage of the war in Ukraine." NBC Connecticut, 30 March 2022.

Interviewee for Kimberly Phillips, "'It's Hard to Look Away': UConn English Professor Chronicles War from Russian-American Perspective." *UConn Today*. 29 March 2022.

https://today.uconn.edu/2022/03/its-hard-to-look-away-uconn-english-professor-chronicles-war-from-russian-american-perspective/?utm_source=listserv&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly&utm_content=uconn-today

Interviewee for Irene Katz Connelly, "Jewish writers from former Soviet Union watch invasion with fear, dread — and recognition." *Forward*. 9 March 2022.

<https://forward.com/culture/483701/jewish-writers-ukraine-war-invasion-poetry-fiction-news-reaction/>

AWARDS

Finalist for the 2024 Outstanding Undergraduate Faculty Advisor Award

Artist Fellowship Award, State of Connecticut, FY23

Summer Research Funding for “30 Years of Post-Soviet Russia: A Story Cycle.” CLAS. University of Connecticut. May 2023.

2018 – 2019 Humanities Institute Fellowship, University of Connecticut

The Provost’s Academic Plan Mini Grant for “UConn Health Writing Program for Biomedical Science Trainees,” 2018

Fletcher Pratt Fellowship in Fiction, Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference.

Finalist for the New York Public Library 2008 Young Lions Fiction Award (announced on March 24, 2008)

Finalist for the *LA Times* 2007 Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction (announced on February 28, 2008)

The Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers’ Award, 2006

James C. McCreight Fiction Fellowship, The University of Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing, Madison, WI, 2004-2005.

Fiction Fellowship, Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, MA, 2004-2005 (declined).

First Prize in Fiction, *The Atlantic Monthly* 2003 Student Fiction Contest.

Work-study scholarships, Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, 2003, 2004.

CONFERENCE AND COLLOQUIA PRESENTATIONS

“Literature of the Post-Soviet Jewish Diaspora.” UConn Center for Jewish Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life, March 27, 2025

“A New World Order: A Roundtable on Putin’s Invasion of Ukraine.” UConn American Studies, April 1, 2022

“Love Lessons: Coming of Age in the Post-Perestroika Russia.” UConn Humanities Institute, February 8, 2019

“The Heritage of Female Writers through a Contemporary Lens.” Russian American Foundation, The National Arts Club, New York NY, June 25, 2018

“Becoming an American.” Stonington Free Library, Stonington CT, April 15, 2018

"Narratives and Displacements." University of Connecticut, Stamford, CT, April 4, 2018

"A Nation of Immigrants?" The Salon at the Benton, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, March 2, 2018

"St. Francis College Prize." Brooklyn Book Festival, Brooklyn, NY, September 17. 2017

The Writers Panel, Festival of Contemporary Russian Jewish American Culture, New York, NY, March 5, 2017

"Measuring up: Creative Assessment in Creative Writing." Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Washington DC, February 2017.

"Voices out of Place: Creative Writing in Foreign Languages and Foreign Lands." Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Washington DC, February 2017.

"2014 Book Author Lunch." Invited talk, AAUW, Meriden Branch, 2014

"Love, Lust + Life: The Russian Literary Legacy Lives On." Panel presentation/ discussion. Jewish Community Center, Manhattan, 2014

"Submitting Work for Publication." Invited talk. Connecticut Authors & Publishers Association (CAPA), Northeast Chapter, 2014

"A Novel in Stories: What Makes It a Novel." Seminar/invited. The Muse and the Marketplace Conference, Grub Street Writers, Boston, MA, 2013.

"Imagining the Great Gatsby: A Conversation for Writers, Scholars, and Readers." Lecture. University of Connecticut, 2013.

"Life After MFA." Panel presentation/invited talk. Syracuse University, 2013.

"Next Wave Talk: On Chekhov." Panel presentation/invited talk. Brooklyn Academy of Music, 2012.

"A (young) Writer's Life: A Colloquium for Aspiring Writers Under 30." The Litchfield County Writers Project, University of Connecticut, 2012.

"First Fiction: New Voices." Panel presentation/invited talk. *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books, 2008.

"Shaping a Short Story Collection." Panel presentation. Associated Writing Programs Conference, 2008.

"Getting the Words Right: A Craft Talk." Panel presentation/invited talk. Wisconsin Book Festival, 2007.

"Shaping a Short Story Collection." Seminar/invited. The Muse and the Marketplace Conference, Grub Street Writers, Boston, MA, 2007.

RECENT DISSERTATIONS ADVISED

As Director

Kofi Jahi Adisa, a collection of linked stories with a critical preface (defended Ph.D. December 2014)

Lori Carriere, a novel with a critical preface (in progress)

As Secondary Advisor

Jon Anderson, *Rage for Me*, a hybrid-genre young adult novel (defended M.A. 2012)

Sean Frederick Forbes, *Providencia*, a collection of poems with a critical preface on the poetry of Audre Lorde and Michelle Cliff (defended April 2011).

Kenneth Cormier, *Sounding the Audio Imagination*, a collection of poems and creative prose with a critical preface on audio autobiography and multitrack recording (defended August 2010).

Randy Laist, *American Environments: Technology and Subjectivity in Don DeLillo's Americana, White Noise, Underworld, and Cosmopolis* (defended May 2009)

Aaron Sanders, a novel with a critical preface on the concept of violence in the fiction of Mormon writers (defended December 2007)

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

University of Connecticut:

Creative Writing Program, Associated Director, 2011 – 2021, 2021 – present

Faculty advisor for *The Long River Review* literary magazine, 2022 - present

European Studies Minor Advisory Group, 2015 – present

Graduate Executive Committee, Fall 2024.

Committee For Undergraduate Writing And Instruction, 2016 – 2024.

Undergraduate Curriculum and Course Committee, 2023 – 2024

CLAS Strategic Goal Awards Committee, 2024

UConn Humanities Institute Advisory Board, 2022-2024

Graduate Placement Committee, 2021 – 2022

Acting Creative Writing Program Co-director, 2020 – 2021

Promotion, Tenure, and Reappointment Committee, 2020 – 2021

Mark Twain Fund Committee, 2019

The Executive Committee, 2019 – 2020

Merit Advisory Committee, 2017 - 2018

First Year Writing: Writing Task Force, 2017

Subcommittee on Online Courses, 2017 – 2019

Committee member, Wallace Stevens Poetry Prize Committee, 2016, 2018, 2024

Committee member, Aetna Chair in Writing Search Committee, 2015 - 2016

Faculty advisor for Writers for Writers, 2015 - 2016

Faculty advisor for UCOW (UConn Coalition of Writers, an undergraduate student organization), 2011 - 2021

Committee member, Departmental Faculty Search in Poetry, 2010

Committee member, Jennie Hackman Prize Committee, 2009, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2024

Committee member, Long River Graduate Writing Prize Committee, 2009, 2010

Committee member, Collins Prize Committee: 2008, 2010, 2011

Committee member, Aetna Graduate Creative Work in Progress Committee, 2008

Faculty advisor for *The Long River Review* undergraduate literary magazine, 2008, 2009, 2016

Aetna Chair Advisory Board member, 2007 - 2015

Wallace Stevens Poetry Program Committee member and/or co-chair, 2007 to present (Wrote annual external grant for funding and organized poets' visits to campus)

Committee member, Creative Writing Committee, 2007 to present

Creative Writing Program Co-Director, 2007 - 2011

Advisor for the English Department undergraduate students

Other Service Activities:

World Poetry Books Advisory Board, 2022 – present.

Reviewer, Connecticut Economic and Community Development Office, FY25 Artist Fellowship Awards, 2025.

Judge, Luminarts Cultural Foundation, Creative Writing Fellowships, 2025.

Judge, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Fiction Fellowship Panel, 2018.

Jury member for 2017 St. Francis College Literary Prize, 2017

External Evaluator, Roger Williams University, BFA in Creative Writing Program, 2011.

Judge, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Fiction Fellowship Panel, 2009.

Preliminary judge, Katharine Bakeless Nason Prize in Fiction, 2009

Juror, South Carolina Arts Commission, South Carolina Fiction Project 2007.

LANGUAGES

English

Russian