

DEREK WEBSTER
derekwebster@me.com

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Writing, Washington University in St. Louis, 1996-1998

I studied poetry with Carl Phillips, Erin Belieu, and Yusef Komunyakaa, fiction with Stephen Amidon and Charles Newman, screenwriting with Buzz Hirsch, and philosophy with William H. Gass

Diploma in Education (focus: English & ESL), McGill University, Montreal, 1993-1994

Bachelor of Arts, English (Honours), McGill University, Montreal, 1989-1992

My undergraduate thesis focused on George Orwell and philosopher Richard Rorty

French as a Second Language, Université de Laval, Quebec City, spring 1989

and CEGEP de la Gaspésie, Gaspé, fall 1988

High School Diploma, Appleby College, Oakville, Ontario, 1988

Grammar school, King's College, Wimbledon, England, 1978-81

CAREER

Writer

- Freelance writer, 1993—onward
 - Finalist, Best Column, National Magazine Awards, 2006, for “Letter from the Editor” published in *Maisonneuve* magazine. I continue to write essays and reviews for newspapers, magazines and literary journals.
- Poet, 1996—onward
 - *Mockingbird*, Signal Editions, Véhicule Press (2015).
 - I have published poems in periodicals since 1996 (*Boston Review*, *Agni*, *BOMB*, *Pleiades*, etc.). Recent work has appeared in *The New Quarterly*, *The Malahat Review*, *The Walrus* and *Canadian Literature*.
- Writer-Researcher on *Literary St. Louis*, 1997-1999
 - For the co-authors, William H. Gass and Lorin Cuoco, I researched and wrote literary-guidebook entries about T. S. Eliot, Eugene Field, Sara Teasdale, Vachel Lindsay, Marshall McLuhan & others.

Editor

- Freelance editor, 2012-2015
 - I edit magazine stories, websites, fiction and non-fiction (e.g. *Suspicious Minds: How Culture Shapes Madness*, Simon & Schuster, 2014) for academic and professional writers and clients.
- Managing Editor, *Reader's Digest* (Canadian Edition), Montreal, 2009-2011
 - I managed story planning, staff and budgets for the editorial department of this venerable institution.
- Founding Editor & Publisher, *Maisonneuve* magazine, Montreal 2002-2009
 - *Maisonneuve* is a celebrated small magazine in the vein of *The New Yorker*. After creating and launching the magazine, I directed all aspects of editorial content, production, circulation, business planning, grant writing, HR, PR and more.
- Senior Editor, *Boulevard* magazine, St. Louis, Missouri, 1997-2000
 - I managed fiction & poetry submissions and a group of 25 readers.
- Canadian Editor, *Slope* poetry magazine (www.slope.org), 1999-2006

Teacher

- Adjunct Instructor, Washington University in St. Louis, 1997-2000
- Substitute instructor, St. Louis University, 1998-2000
- English teacher (practicum), Billings High School, Chateauguay, QC, 1994
- ESL teacher (practicum), École Dorval Sécondaire, Montreal, 1993

- ESL teacher, Education for Democracy, Czech Republic and Slovakia, 1990

Arts Administrator

- Arts Juror and Judge, 2004—onward
 - Ontario Arts Council (magazines), Canada Council for the Arts (books & periodicals), Manitoba Arts Council (magazines), Western Magazine Awards (fiction), CBC Quebec Writing Competition (fiction & non-fiction), Irving Layton Award (Poetry), Summer Literary Seminars (non-fiction).
- Board Member, Magazines Canada, 2005-2009
 - Assessed new member applications, helped write Advertising-Editorial Guidelines, member of Cultural Magazines committee.
- Board Member, Quebec Writers Federation, 2001-2007
 - I was also briefly QWF President in 2006-2007.
- Assistant Director, Creative Writing, Washington University in St. Louis, 1998-1999
 - Looked after visiting authors (e.g. David Ferry, Richard Bausch, Richard Ford, Anne Carson, Carol Muske-Dukes, Elizabeth McCracken), coordinated advertising and application processes, wrote new job manual, introduced new students to local literary community/resources.

Speaker, Moderator, Panelist

- Keynote speaker, moderator or panelist at dozens of events across Canada and in the United States at publishing conferences, small press book fairs, literary readings and festivals, 2001—onward.
- Media appearances include:
 - *Television*: Global, CTV, CBC (The National with Peter Mansbridge)
 - *Print*: Globe & Mail, National Post, Toronto Star, Gazette (Montreal)
 - *Radio*: CBC, CJAD, Team 990, Radio-Canada (*Vous m'en lirez tant*)

AWARDS, ETC.

Personal Awards: Writing

- Levens Poetry Prize, Washington University in St. Louis, 1997
- Finalist, Academy of American Poets Prize for Best Poem, Washington University in St. Louis, 1997 and 1998
- Finalist, Best Column, National Magazine Awards, 2006

Editorial Awards: Maisonneuve

- Magazine of the Year, 2005 (National Magazine Awards), 2006 (Editors' Choice Awards) & 2007 (Newsstand Awards)
- Over a dozen more National Magazine Awards for art, design and writing

Languages

- French (fully fluent); Spanish (good); Czech (limited).