

Chris Walsh
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Education

Ph.D. American Studies, Boston University, 2000
M.A. American Studies, Boston University, 1995
B.A. English and Psychology, magna cum laude, University of Rochester, 1988

Academic Awards

Fulbright Fellowship, Başkent University, Ankara, Türkiye (2023-2024)
James Conway Excellence in Teaching Writing Award, Harvard Extension School (2023)
Bronze Medal in World History, Independent Publisher Book Awards, *Cowardice* (2015)
Publication Production Award, BU Humanities Center (2013)
Earhart Foundation Research Grant (2007-2008)
Fulbright Fellowship, University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (2000-2002)
Resident Fellow, Cambridge Historical Society (1993-1995)
Earhart Foundation Fellow (1993-1994)
Presidential University Fellow, Boston University (1992-1993)

Teaching, Administrative and Other Experience

Director, College of Arts and Sciences Writing Program (9/16-7/21)
Graduate Courses in Teaching Composition Undergraduate Composition Courses: Living the American Revolution; Rotten English; The Poetry of War (Acting Associate Director 5/03-6/04; Associate Director 9/05-09/16; Acting Director 7/14-7/15)

Adjunct Lecturer, Harvard University Division of Continuing Education and Harvard Summer School: undergraduate and graduate courses in writing and literature (1/09-present).

Adjunct Professor of American Literature, Emerson College. Graduate courses in Contemporary American Novel and Literature of New England (9/03-5/04).

Fulbright Senior Lecturer in American Literature, University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (9/00-7/02).

Executive Secretary and Teaching Assistant for Professor Saul Bellow (5/95-5/00).

Senior Editor, *News from the Republic of Letters*, literary magazine founded by Saul Bellow and Keith Botsford (5/99-5/07; Deputy Editor, 3/97-4/99).

Teacher of English as a Foreign Language, Instituto de Ingles Javier McKeever, Tapachula, Mexico (4/92-8/92).

U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, Community extension agent in forestry, The Gambia (1/89-3/91).

Publications

Cowardice: A Brief History. Princeton University Press, 2014; paperback 2016.
Bronze Medal in World History, Independent Publisher Book Awards, 2015

Reviewed in *The American Scholar*, *The Australian*, *Blue and Gray*, *Boston Review*, *The Calvinist International*, *The Canberra Times* (Australia), *Choice*, *Commentary*, *Corriere Della Sera* (Italy), *Die Burger* (South Africa), *Essays in Criticism*, *Folha de São Paulo* (Brazil), *Foreign Affairs*, *Global Discourse*, *Hedgehog Review*, *Honesthistory.com* (Australia), *Irish Examiner*, *The Independent*, *Inside Higher Ed.*, *Journal of the Civil War Era*, *Literary Review* (UK), *Military Review: The Professional Journal of the U.S. Army*, *Themillions.com*, *Modern Age*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *New Statesman*, *New York Times Book Review*, *Psychology Today*, *The Review of Politics*, *Salon*, *Sydney Morning Herald* (Australia), *Theory in Action*, *Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis* (*Journal of History*; the Netherlands), *The Times* (London), *Wall Street Journal*, *The Weekly Standard*, *Weekendavisen* (Denmark), *Werewolf* (New Zealand), *Zaman* (Turkey)

Interviewed about by Geraldine Doogue, *Saturday Extra*, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (10/25/14); Monocle Radio, London (10/29/14); Sean Moncrieff, *The Moncrieff Show*, Newstalk Radio, Dublin (10/29/14); Steve Almond, Salon.com (11/5/14); Rich Barlow, *Bostonia* (Fall 2014); Raj Persaud, London psychiatrist (11/11/14); Colin McEnroe, *The Colin McEnroe Show*, Connecticut Public Radio (11/20/14); Ian Masters, *Background Briefing*, Pacifica Radio (6/21/15); Beatrice Wilford, fivebooks.com, London (02/15); Ali Tunay, *XOXO Magazine*, Istanbul (03/15); Clark Boyd, *The World*, Public Radio International (4/24/15); Wallace Chapman, *Sunday Morning*, Radio New Zealand (4/25/15); Kathryn Allawala, *Foreign Affairs* podcast (7/2/15); Meghna Chakrabarti, *Radio Boston* (2/26/18); Robin Young, *Here & Now* (2/28/18) Brett McKay, *The Art of Manliness* (12/13/21); Mike Pesca, *The Gist* (7/20/22)

Essays

"The Coward's Guide to History," *Foreign Affairs*, Foreignaffairs.com, June 17, 2015.

"Bowe Bergdahl Wasn't a Coward," *The New Republic*, newrepublic.com, March 27, 2015.

"Be Not Brave," *Aeon Magazine*, aeon.co, February 10, 2015. (Featured on aldaily.com)

"A Brave Attempt to Study Cowardice," *Irish Times*, Irishtimes.com, January 27, 2015.

"The Soul of Cowardice," *New York Times* "The Stone" philosophy blog, nytimes.com, November 9, 2014.

"Whereof One Dare Not Speak," *Times Higher Education*, October 16, 2014, 36-39. (Cover article; featured on aldaily.com)

"*The Execution of Private Slovik, Forty Years Later*," *Los Angeles Review of Books*, lareviewofbooks.org, April 14, 2014.

"Boston Marathon bombing, one year later?" *Salon*, Salon.com, April 14, 2014.

“‘Cowardice Weakness or Infirmity, Whichever It May Be Termed’: A Shadow History of the Civil War.” *Civil War History*, Vol. 59, Number 4 (December 2013), 492-526.

“Cowardice,” *The Yale Review*, Vol. 95, Number 2 (April, 2007), 88-111.

“Against Fluency: Walden in West Africa,” *Raritan Review*, Vol. XXV, Number 4 (Spring 2006): 56-74.

“Bellow as Teacher,” *News from the Republic of Letters* 16 (2006): 27-29.

“A ‘Balance of Stories’: *Mister Johnson*, the Perfect (If Unwanted) Companion to *Things Fall Apart*,” *The Literary Griot: The Journal of Black Expressive Culture* 13.1 & 2 (Spring/Fall 2001): 48-61. Repr. *Emerging Perspectives on Chinua Achebe*, Trenton, NJ: Africa World, 2004.

“Saro-Wiwa's *Sozaboy: A Novel in Rotten English*,” *The Explicator* 60(2) Winter 2002: 112-114.

“‘Building the House of Dying’: Donald Hall’s Claim for Poetry,” *Agni* 47 (spring 1998): 175-183. Repr. *Contemporary Literary Criticism* 151 (2002) and *Poetry Criticism* 64 (PC-64), 2006.

“Stardom is Born: The Religion and Economy of Publicity in Henry James' *The Bostonians*,” *American Literary Realism* 29:3 (spring 1997): 15-25.

Book Chapters

“The Blank Survey Syllabus,” *Teaching the Literature Survey Course: New Strategies for College Faculty*, eds. Gwen Dujardin, James M. Lang, and John Staunton (Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2018): 102-119.

"The Blank Syllabus," *The Pocket Instructor: Literature*, eds. Diana Fuss and William Gleason. (Princeton University Press, 2015): 233-236.

Selected Reviews

"The Stigma of Surrender: German Prisoners, British Captors, and Manhood in the Great War and Beyond," *The Historian* 79: 2 (Summer 2017): 379–380

“*The Poems and Plays of Isaac Rosenberg*, edited by Vivien Noakes,” *Essays in Criticism* LV:4 (October 2005): 389-398.

“*Shelley and His Readers: Beyond Paranoid Politics* by Kim Wheatley,” *Essays in Criticism* L:2 (April 2000): 185-191.

“*The All-True Travels and Adventures of Lidie Newton* by Jane Smiley,” *News from the Republic of Letters* 6 (spring 1999): 32-33.

“*Already Dead: A California Gothic* by Denis Johnson,” *News from the Republic of Letters* 5 (fall 1998): 28-29.

“*Resurrection: A War Journey* by Robert S. Gajdusek,” *News from the Republic of Letters* 4 (spring 1998): 30-31.

"The Will to Shower: On William Ian Miller's *The Anatomy of Disgust*," *News from the Republic of Letters* 4 (fall 1997): 32.

“On Martin Amis and Denis Johnson,” *News from the Republic of Letters* 1 (spring 1997): 34-35.

“*After Gregory* by Austin Wright,” *Agni* 42 (fall 1995): 133-135.

Selected Presentations

Chair, “Saul Bellow and Other Writers,” Annual meeting of the American Literature Association, Boston, 5/25/23.

Organizer/Host, Democratic Learning through Reacting to the Past, one-day conference on immersive intellectual role play, in collaboration with [Campus Compact](#) and the [Reacting to the Past Consortium](#), Boston University, 11/9/19.

Moderator, A Conversation with Tim O'Brien (*The Things They Carried*). Boston Book Festival, 10/19/19.

"Striving for Equity." Council of Writing Program Administrators annual conference, Baltimore, Maryland, with Sarah Madsen Hardy, 7/27/19.

“Critical Thinking and Feeling through Intensive Intellectual Role-Play.” 7th Biennial International Conference on Critical Thinking and Writing, Quinnipiac University Hamden, Connecticut, 6/17/19.

"Reading in the Writing Classroom." BRAWN (Boston Rhetoric and Writing Network) Summer Institute. Boston College, 6/07/19.

"Receiving *Love and Strife*." Panel on New Perspectives on Saul Bellow's Work. Annual meeting of the American Literature Association, Boston, 5/23/19.

“Hearts and Minds on Fire: How Role-Immersion Games Can Improve Student Learning and Make You Love Teaching Again.” Boston University Center for Teaching and Learning Annual Educational Innovation Conference, 5/3/19.

“The Blank Syllabus: Engaging Students with Reading, Writing, and Each Other” (Poster). University of Connecticut Conference on the Teaching of Writing, Hartford, Connecticut, 4/5/19.

“‘Reacting to the Past’ in the Writing Classroom.” University of Connecticut Conference on the Teaching of Writing, Hartford, Connecticut, 4/5/19.

“Principles as Against Theories – and What’s an Emotion, Anyway?” Emotions History Conference, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, 6/1/18.

“‘Reacting to the Past’ in the Writing Classroom.” BRAWN (Boston Rhetoric and Writing Network) Summer Institute, Boston College, 5/25/18.

“Building the Syllabus Together: The Benefits of Student-Selected Readings in Literature and Writing Classes.” College English Association Annual Conference, St. Petersburg, Florida, 4/6/18.

Chair and Commentator of panel on “Bravery, Cowardice and Manhood in the Antebellum Era.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 7/21/17.

"Typing *Ravelstein* and Other Adventures of an Amanuensis." Panel on New Perspectives on Saul Bellow's Work. Annual meeting of the American Literature Association, Boston, 5/25/17.

"Middle Dylan." Invited lecture, UGS 302 (Undergraduate class: "Bob Dylan: History and Imagination"), University of Texas, Austin, 3/29/17.

"Cowardice and Complicity in Dante and Dylan." Soul in the City Lecture Series, Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas, 3/28/17.

Introduction and interview of Michael Anthony, author of *Civilianized: A War Memoir*. Porter Square Books, Cambridge, Massachusetts (broadcast on CSpan Book TV: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?421033-2/civilianized>), 1/5/17.

“Filling in the Blanks Together: Horizontal and Vertical Connections Through Student-Selected Readings.” 6th Biennial International Conference on Critical Thinking and Writing, Quinnipiac University Hamden, Connecticut, 11/19/16.

"Cowardice: It Can Save Your Life." Rose House Cafe Lecture Series, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 9/21/16.

“On Saul Bellow.” Interview with Chris Harris. *The Juggernaut*. <http://www.juggernautpod.com/episodes/2016/7/17/the-high-and-the-low>, 7/18/16.

"Don't Be (Too) Afraid: Fear in Writing and the Writing Classroom." BRAWN (Boston Rhetoric and Writing Network) Summer Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 5/21/16.

"Writing Through Fear." Pell Honors Program Guest Lecture, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI, 4/7/16.

Keynote speaker, James Jones Literary Society Symposium. Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, 11/6/15.

"Laughing at 'the Preachers of Dread': Saul Bellow's Comic Response to Disenchantment." Panel on New Perspectives on Saul Bellow's Work. Annual meeting of the American Literature Association, Boston, 5/21/15.

"The Power of Cowardice." TEDxBU, Boston, 4/5/15.

"The Execution of Private Slovik: the Film and Its History." Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers. Boston, 12/10/14.

"In Defense of Cowardice." Harvard Writers at Work Lecture Series. Harvard University, 11/13/14.

"A Brief History of Cowardice." Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series. Suffolk University, Boston, 10/02/14.

"The Blank Syllabus." Modern Language Association Annual Meeting. Boston, 01/04/13. Similar talk at National Council of Teachers of English Annual Meeting, Boston 11/22/13.

"Yes, there's definitely a text in this class: The Place of Reading in the Writing Classroom." BRAWN (Boston Rhetoric and Writing Network) Summer Institute. Boston, 5/31/13.

"Disciplinary Matters, Academic Honesty and International Students." The Hotchkiss Symposium on International Student Secondary and Post-Secondary Experiences. The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT, 6/16/11.

"In Defense of Cowardice." Association of Literary Scholars, Critics and Writers Princeton University, 11/06/10.

"Africa's America, America's Africa," with Masse Ndiaye, American Conversations, American and New England Studies Program, Boston University, 4/16/09.

Visiting Writer/Teacher, Colorado Academy, Denver, Colorado, 3/08/09-3/10/09.

"The Literary Magazine as Ark." Association of Literary Scholars and Critics Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA, 10/25/08.

"Cowardice in the Union Army." Society of Civil War Historians Biennial Meeting. Philadelphia, 6/16/08.

"An Argument for Residential Learning." Provost's Conference on Constructing the New Humanist in Undergraduate Education. Boston University. Boston, MA, 4/18/08.

"The Common Assessment: What We Have Learned." Modern Language Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL 12/28/07.

"Jones, Patton, and the Question of Cowardice." James Jones Annual Festival. Eastern Illinois University, 9/22/07.

“Professor Bellow.” A Celebration of the Life of Saul Bellow. Boston University, 10/20/05.

“Nowhere to Hide: Cowardice and Technology.” New England Modern Language Association. Cambridge, MA, 4/5/05.

“*The Four Feathers*: Cowardice from Fiction to Film.” Association of Literary Scholars and Critics. New Orleans, LA, 11/13/04.

“American Literature and the Teaching of English.” American Studies Conference, Maputo, Mozambique, 4/23-4/27/02.

“Parallel Tracks: African and African-American Railroad Songs.” With Professor Amadou Bissiri, Fulbright Senior Scholar Regional Program, University of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 3/22/02.

“*Paradis Dangereux*: Toni Morrison’s America.” American Studies Conference, University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 9/27/01.

“Bradstreet to Morrison: American Women Writers.” Fulbright Senior Scholar Regional Program, International Women’s Day, University of Conakry, Conakry, Guinea, 3/6- 3/9/01.

“Higher Education in America.” American Embassy, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 9/29/00.

University Service (Boston University)

Member, Graduate Committee, Department of English, 2022-present

Chair, CAS WP Director of ESL Search Committee, 2019-20 Member, WR Journal Committee, 2019-2020

Chair of the Examining Committee, Doctoral defense of Samuel Shupe, American and New England Studies, 2019

Chair, King Boston Essay Contest Panel, CAS WP (<http://kingboston.org/>), 2018-20

Member, Faculty Workload and Rewards Project, CAS WP, 2018-2020

Chair, CAS WP Promotion Committee, 2014-2021

Chair, CAS WP Lecturer Search Committee, 2014-15, 2017-18

Chair, CAS WP Search Committee for Dir. of Writing in the Disciplines, 2016-17

Fulbright Faculty Review Panel, Office of the Provost, 2016

Chair, CAS WP Promotion Committee, 2014-5, 17-18, 18-19

Chair, CAS Writing Board, 2014-2015, 2016-2017

Chair, CAS WP Merit Review Committee, 2014, 2018

Alumni Association Awards Committee, 2013, 2017

Chair, Graduate Writing Fellow Selection Committee, 2010-2012

Chair, CAS Academic Conduct Committee, 2009-2013

CAS Academic Conduct Committee, 2005-2009

Provost’s Committee on Non-tenure Track Faculty, 2009

CAS Alumni Writing Awards Committee, 2005-2008, 2019

Chair, Portfolio Committee, CAS Writing Program, 2009

Chair, Curriculum Committee, CAS Writing Program, 2005-2007

Chair, Prize Essay Committee, CAS Writing Program, 2004-2007

Writing Consulting

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts, 2005-2007

Ernst & Young, 2005-2012

Littleton High School English Dept., 2009

Board Membership

Creative Writing & Literature Advisory Board, Harvard University Division of Undergraduate Education 2017-present