

GISSELLE YEPES

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Education

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Master of Fine Arts, Creative Writing

Bloomington, IN

May 2023

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts, American Studies

Middletown, CT

Caribbean Studies Minor & Creative Writing Certificate

May 2020

Books & Anthologies

Sana Sana: Latinx Pain and Radical Visions for Healing and Justice

Summer 2023

Edited by David Luis Glisch-Sánchez & Nic Rodriguez-Villafañe

“for when our blood runs motherless”

Awards

Scholarships & Fellowships

2022 Letras Boricuas Fellow

2022 Tin House Scholar at Tin House Summer Workshops

Awards & Prizes

2023 Philip Levine Prize for Poetry, Semifinalist – *DESAHÓGATE*, selected by Douglas Kearney

2022 Curt Johnson Prose Award in Creative Non-fiction, Winner – “On Her Waters Summoning Us To Drown” in december magazine, Vol. 33.2.

2022 Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize, Semifinalist – *We Carry Wela’s Waters* with University of Notre Dame Press for Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize.

Inaugural Poem of the Year Award, Winner – “Not an Ode to April 22nd, 2019” in the Missouri Review.

2022 Lawlis-Duchovnay Travel Award at Indiana University

2022 Carnegie English Travel Award at Indiana University

2022 Summer Travel Award at Indiana University

2022 English Travel Award at Indiana University

2021 Vera Meyer Strube Prize – “Our Bodies, Our Islands, Our Waters Remembering” in *Poets.org*.

2021 Bertolt Cleve Poetry Prize – “Our Bodies, Our Islands, Our Waters Remembering” named

best poem at Indiana University

2021 Guy Lemmon Award in Public Writing, Winner – “Our Islands are Subject to Flooding and Still” at Indiana University

2021 Brush and Lyre Prize, Finalist – “Not an Ode to April 22nd, 2019” in Palette Poetry

2020 Sophie and Anne Reed Prize at Wesleyan University

2019 Wesleyan Summer Grant Recipient

Honors

2021 Poem of the Week – “Not an Ode to April 22nd, 2019” in The Missouri Review

2019 Connecticut Student Poet Laureate

Residencies & Conferences

2023 Sundress Academy for the Arts Residency Summer 2023

Knoxville, TN

Awarded fellowship as a writer of color. Utilized the two-week residency to advance personal writing projects, engage with other resident writers, and explore structure in my manuscript.

2023 Tin House Summer Workshop Summer 2023

Portland, OR

Workshopped nonfiction with Jaquira Díaz. Attended craft talks with_____. Read poems at Reed College.

2022 Tin House Summer Workshop Summer 2022

Portland, OR

Named a Tin House Scholar. Workshopped poetry with Faylita Hicks. Attended craft talks with Saeed Jones, Ruben Quesada, Paisley Rekdal, and more. Read poems at Reed College.

Juniper Summer Writing Institute Summer 2022

Amherst, MA

Workshopped with Evie Shockley. Attended craft talks with Arthur Flowers, Franny Choi, and more. Read poems at University of Massachusetts—Amherst.

2021 Anaphora Arts Writing Residency Summer 2021

Virtual

Workshopped with Kwame Dawes. Shared space with/in craft talks with the following writers: Matthew Shenoda, Natasha Deón, and Sasha Pimentel.

2021 DreamYard’s Rad(ical) Poetry Consortium Summer 2021

Virtual

Workshopped, built community, shared class space, and craft talks with Mahogany L. Browne, Noel

Quiñones, Lisa Green, Chen Chen, Sam Herschel Wein, and Camonghne Felix.

Publications

- De Los x LA Times** – Online Fall 2023
aquí la naturaleza es una madre en el Bronx
- Willow Springs** – Print Fall 2023
for when our blood runs motherless
we do not live where we from
- ANMLY Press** –Online, Future Possible Folio Fall 2023
Our Islands are Subject to Flooding and Still,
- MoMA Magazine** – Online Fall 2023
Alabanza: In Praise of Our Mothers, In Praise of Their Hands
- The Quarry: A Social Justice Database at Split This Rock** Summer 2023
I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO MOURN MEN WHO HAVE NOT TRIED TO KILL ME
- Apogee Journal** – Print, Atlas: Skin/Bone/Blood Folio Winter 2022
On Ritual Washing
- december magazine** – Print Fall 2022
On Her Waters Summoning Us to Drown
- Poiesis** – Print/Online Spring 2022
my dick is made of flowers: a trans re-memory
- The Gulf Coast** – Print Winter 2021
what language do you love in?
- Poets.org** – Online archive, with Academy of American Poets Summer 2021
Our Bodies, Our Islands, Our Waters Remembering
- The Missouri Review** – Poem of the Week, Online archive Spring 2021
Not an Ode to April 22nd, 2019
- iō Literary Journal** – Queer / Trans / POC Journal Fall 2019
confession: i wish puerto rico won my independence
seven sources of light rays all live there, somehow
ay hambre

Voicemail Poems – Online magazine & Podcast
when you bleed for one hundred and five days

Summer 2019

PALABRITAS – Harvard Latinx Publication
untitled

Fall 2018

Films

GIPHY

Recordando Wela / Wela & Our Remembering

Now available on Roku, via the GIPHY and Public Axis channel.

Fall 2021

Press

“Lo que la poesía de Gisselle Yepes nos puede enseñar sobre el duelo” (*El Tecolote*, 2022 de agosto)

“What Gisselle Yepes’ poetry can teach us about grief” (*El Tecolote*, August 2022)

“Recordando Wela con Artista Gisselle Yepes” (*GIPHY*, September 2021)

Readings

Brooklyn Poets Staff Picks, Virtual

Las Vegas Book Festival, Las Vegas, NV

Sana Sana: Latinx Pain and Radical Visions for Healing and Justice Book Launch, Virtual

2023 Tin House Summer Workshops, Portland, OR

Tyler Raso’s Chapbook Launch Party, Frontier Poetry, Virtual

The FAR Center for Contemporary Arts, Bloomington, IN

Teatro Julia de Burgos en el Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, PR

VERSUS at Signature Theatre, New York, NY

2022 Tin House Summer Workshops, Portland, OR

The Writer’s Guild, Bloomington, IN

Juniper Summer Writing Institute, Amherst, MA

Anaphora Arts Writing Residency, Zoom

DreamYard, Zoom

First Years MFA Reading at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

English Department Awards Reading at Wesleyan, Middletown, CT

CT Poetry Laureate Reading at Wesleyan, Middletown, CT

CT Poetry Laureate Reading at Trinity College, Hartford, CT

CUPSI 2018 at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Workshop Experience

2023 Tin House Summer Workshop Experience with Jaquira Díaz (Reed College, Summer 2023)
Juniper Summer Writing Workshop with Evie Shockley (Amherst College, Summer 2022)
2022 Tin House Summer Workshop with Faylita Hicks (Reed College, Summer 2022)
Writing Poetry 2 with Catherine Bowman (Indiana University, Spring 2022)
Writing Poetry 1 with Adrian Matejka (Indiana University, Fall 2021)
Writing Poetry 2 with Stacey Lynn Brown (Indiana University, Spring 2021)
Writing Poetry 1 with Ross Gay (Indiana University, Fall 2020)
Special Topics Workshop: Prosody and Poetic Forms with John Murillo (Wesleyan University, Fall 2019)
Undressing the Light: Online Poetry Workshop with I.S. Jones (Summer 2019)
Techniques of Fiction Workshop with Tiphonie Yanique (Wesleyan University, Spring 2019)
Advanced Poetry Workshop: Radical Revision with John Murillo (Wesleyan University, Spring 2019)
Intermediate Poetry Workshop with Danielle Vogel (Wesleyan University, Fall 2018)
Advanced Poetry Workshop with Danielle Vogel (Wesleyan University, Spring 2018)

Teaching Experience

Associate Instructor for Introduction to Poetry and Fiction Course Jan 2023-May 2023
Created a syllabus founded on poetry and fiction within Toni Morrison, Carmen Maria Machado, Aracelis Girmay, and Diana Khoi Nguyen's works. Designed lesson plans, writing prompts and live lectures to further enhance student's writing skills within the realms of poetry and fiction. Prioritized student's needs to honor the physical, emotional, and mental toll of the ongoing pandemic.

Associate Instructor for Introductory Creative Writing Aug 2022-Dec 2022
Indiana University, Bloomington
Designed lesson plans to further enhance student's writing skills within the realms of poetry and fiction. Coordinated office hours. Gathered with students to write, meditate, and analyze poetry. Collaborated with co-instructors and Catherine Bowman to further support students and assess students.

Associate Instructor for English Composition Aug 2021-May 2022
Indiana University, Bloomington
Designed lesson plans and live lectures to further enhance student's writing skills within the realms of rhetoric and analysis. Coordinated office hours. Prioritized student's needs to honor the physical, emotional, and mental toll of transitioning from online learning to a physical setting within the COVID-19 pandemic and a world, that is on fire. Collaborated with co-instructors and Scot Barnett to further support students and assess students.

Associate Instructor for Introductory Creative Writing Aug 2020 – May 2021
Indiana University, Bloomington
Designed lesson plans, asynchronous, and live lectures to further enhance student's writing skills

within the realms of poetry and fiction. Coordinated office hours. Prioritized student's needs to honor the physical, emotional, and mental toll of online learning within the COVID-19 pandemic and a world, that is on fire. Collaborated with co-instructors, Adrian Matejka, and Bob Bledose to further support students and assess students.

Creative Writing Teacher for IU Mexico Creative Writing Workshop

Nov 2020

IU Mexico Getaway – Remotely

Created poetry lesson plans to further extend the possibility to write and of writing to high school students in Mexico, in both English and Spanish. Honored that we were all learning remotely and utilized that resource to engage students in their homes, their stories, and their own metaphors, that they live aside.

Teaching Assistant for Advanced Poetry: Radical Revision

Jan 2020 – May 2020

Wesleyan University, Middletown

Participated in weekly workshops that focused on the importance of revision. Provided each student with feedback. Lectured through one class. Collaborated with John Murillo.

Teaching Assistant for Techniques of Poetry

Sep 2019 – Dec 2019

Wesleyan University, Middletown

Participated in weekly workshops that focused on the importance of the line (within poems), line breaks, and form. Provided each student with feedback. Supported students through their revision process. Collaborated with John Murillo.

Tutor / Teaching Assistant at Green Street Teaching Center

Jan 2017 – May 2018

Middletown, CT

Mentored elementary school students in our afterschool program, which specifically supported Middletown's low-income families. Coordinated dance routines, sign language lessons, and writing sessions. Cultivated a comfortable environment to support the students through their academic struggles. Corresponded with supervisors when students underwent improvement and/or crisis moments.

Work Experience

Gisselle Edits via Virtual Editing Platform

Founder and Editor

Mar 2020 – Present

Founded an editing platform to support poets, students, essayists, and writers throughout their writing processes. Established communication between writers and myself (i.e. consultations and communications through request forms, emails, and Zoom calls). Delivered content sensitivity, form/format, proof reading and syntactical edits upon request with deadlines we created. Supported clients with payment plans, upon request.

Residential Life at Wesleyan University

Middletown, CT

Resident Advisor

Aug 2018 – Mar 2020

Supported residents through their transition from high school to college. Planned events for residents. Connected residents to on-campus resources (i.e. counseling, Title IX, and academic advisors). Ensured residents were safe during on-call overnight duty times, especially when managing crisis. Corresponded with supervisors and administration when documenting incidents among residents and within the dormitory.

Instructional Media Services at Wesleyan University

Middletown, CT

IMS Technician

Jan 2018 – Mar 2020

Educated faculty on campus about the technology within their classrooms (i.e. AMX, microphones, webcams, and projectors). Provided faculty with technological assistance during in-class incidents and special events. Assembled video cameras, sound systems and microphones for lectures/performances across campus. Reviewed equipment across campus to affirm performativity or create tickets for future adjustments.

Resource Center at Wesleyan University

Middletown, CT

Socioeconomic Status and Disability Intern

Sept 2017 – May 2018

Enhanced relationships between first generation, low-income students and the administration. Developed a textbook exchange program between students, administration, and the Resource Center to honor their needs.

Student Activities & Leader Development at Wesleyan University

Middletown, CT

FGLI Orientation Leader

August 2017

Introduced first-generation, low-income students to on-campus resources. Facilitated conversations between incoming students, current FGLI students, and faculty of color.

Center for the Arts at Wesleyan University

Middletown, CT

Usher

Jan 2017 – May 2018

Oversaw performance spaces. Organized the space to prepare for events. Reviewed all safety procedures throughout each location. Resolved issues within performance spaces to assure everyone's safety and comfort.

Swidler & Messi, LLC.

New York, NY

Legal Assistant

June 2016-Aug 2018

Consolidated old physical legal documents onto an online database. Prepared documents to support

paralegals and lawyers for case closings. Delivered legal fee and post-closing documents to our clients.

Volunteer Experience

Poetry & Creative Non-fiction Reader for *Tin House* Summer Workshop Jan 2023-Mar 2023
Read 20-25 applications per week. Advocated, supported, and upheld incredible work, especially from emerging writers of color. Assessed applications, with explanations, on a scale from 1-6. Connected with other readers and Tin House staff to award scholarships.

Creative Non-fiction & Poetry Reader for *The Indiana Review* Oct 2020 – April 2023
Evaluated biweekly creative non-fiction and poetry submissions. Assessed each submission with ‘maybe’ or ‘no’ votes to support editors with their own assessments. Reviewed and proofread *The Indiana Review* 42.2 issue.

Poetry Reader for *The Adroit Journal* June 2020 – Nov 2020
Read thirty submissions per week. Assessed each submission with ‘yes,’ ‘maybe’ or ‘no’ votes to support editors with their own assessments. Advocated for emerging writers.

Coach for Wesleyan’s SLAM Team Sept 2019 – Mar 2020
Re-vamped Wesleyan Slam. Facilitated open mics and slam competitions at Wesleyan for students of color. Negotiated with Wesleyan’s Student Budget Committee and English Department to fund open mics, slam competitions, and team travel. Partnered with Elisabet Velasquez.

Senior Liaison for SPECTRUM (QTPOC Group) Sept 2019 – Mar 2020
Advocated for resources specifically for queer/trans students of color on campus. Co-organized biweekly collective meetings focused on sexuality and physical, emotional, spiritual safety on campus. Facilitated self-care sessions throughout academically intense times. Partnered with Cece McDonald.

Photographer for NYC Lift-Off Film Festival Summer 2019
Crafted reflections of the film festival with photography across three days. Reviewed the event photos. Edited photos centering bright colors, dialogue, and people.

Actress for *Let’s Talk About Sex* Dec – Jan 2019
Participated in Zurich Deleon’s project: a play in which she centers a Latina’s interpersonal and familial relationships to center conversations about sex, gender, and love. Supported the set designer Jejomar-Erlin Ysit. Performed as the main character’s Latina mother at the Patricelli ‘92 Theater.

Contributing Playwright / Poet for *Gold if She Needs It* Summer 2018
Composed poetry for/with Kai Naima Williams’ project: a play in which she highlighted the stories of women of color specifically in relation to their sexuality, mental health, and interpersonal relationships. Fostered conversation/content with the actors, who shared my poems, to help situate them within the poems’ narratives.

Poet for Wesleyan's Slam Team

Nov 2017 – May 2018

Wrote fifteen poems over five weeks. Revised poems with the slam team to prepare for CUPSI 2018. Performed across stages at Wesleyan University, SUNY New Paltz, and Temple University.

Writer for Journalism for Underrepresented Students

Sept 2017 – May 2018

Researched connections between college students, current events, and history to further gage ideas that interest Wesleyan students. Wrote articles bi-weekly. Highlighted the Woman's March and the Pepsi advertisement with Kendall Jenner; in the ad, she held a soda can facing the police to evoke 'protest'.

Undergraduate Projects (2018-2019)*Thinking with Resistance and Recovery Post Hurricane Maria* (Summer 2019)

Centered narrative poetry, soundscapes, and short films as artistic mediums to focus on resistance and recovery post Hurricane Maria and through the Puerto Rican 2019 protests. Researched in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Partnered with Tara Rodríguez Besosa to construct an agricultural exchange library. Created a creative project for Caribbean Studies concentration. Advised by Associate Professor of English Ren Ellis Neyra.

105 days bleeding I did not die (Fall 2018)

Hand-bound chapbook focused on storytelling of narratives that exist under/through domestic violence, body trauma, immigration, and complex interpersonal relationships. Created as a final project for Intermediate Poetry Workshop and advised by Associate Professor of English Danielle Vogel.

a brown girl who loves outside the lines (Spring 2018)

Hand-bound chapbook focused on the relationship between a page's white space and emotional trauma, specifically when undergoing abuse, created as a final project for Advanced Poetry Workshop. Advised by Associated Professor of English Danielle Vogel.

References available upon request