Catherine Brist

Postdoctoral Teaching Associate, Writing Program, Department of English, Northeastern University
475 Lake Hall, 43 Leon St, Boston, MA 02115 | c.brist@northeastern.edu

EDUCATION

University of Michigan

PhD in English & Women's and Gender Studies — May 2026.
Dissertation: *Unsettling Testimony: Readers' Responses to Controversial Narrators of Sexual Violence*.
Committee: Dr. Megan Sweeney (chair), Dr. Sidonie Smith, Dr. Adela Pinch, and Dr. John Whittier-Ferguson.

Brooklyn College, City University of New York

Master of Arts in Teaching English — September 2016.

Barrett, the Honors College, Arizona State University

Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, Minor in Women and Gender Studies — May 2012, *summa cum laude*.
Honors Thesis: "'It's terrible when you can't talk': Nationalism, Masculinity, and Expression in McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*."
Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi

TEACHING AND MENTORING

Courses Designed and Taught:

Northeastern University
ENGW 1111: First-Year Writing (Fall 2026).
Three sections of 19 undergraduate students.

University of Michigan
ENG 993: Professional Development as a Writing Teacher (Fall 2022, Winter 2023).

Co-taught with Dr. Laura Aull and Dr. Annika Konrad, one section of seven graduate students during Fall 2022 and two sections of 16 graduate students during Winter 2023.

ENG 125: Writing and Academic Inquiry (Fall 2021, Winter 2022).

One section of 18 undergraduate students.

Arizona State University

LIA 101: Success in the College (Fall 2010).

One section of 18 undergraduate students.

Additional Teaching Experience:

University of Michigan
WGS/NURS 220: Perspectives in Women's Health (Fall 2020, Winter 2021).

Discussion leader, three sections of 25 undergraduate students. Taught via synchronous remote instruction due to COVID-19.

Arizona State University, Barrett, the Honors College

HON 272: The Human Event (Spring 2010).
Teaching assistant, three sections of 18 undergraduate students.

Mentoring Activities:

Practice Teaching Facilitator, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan (Winter 2024, Fall 2024, Fall 2025)

Facilitated practice teaching and peer feedback sessions for new graduate student instructors and postdoctoral instructors.

Graduate Student Mentor, English Department Writing Program, University of Michigan (Fall 2022, Winter 2023).

Supported 21 new graduate student instructors and 54 returning graduate student instructors
Conducted teaching observations for new graduate student instructors
Created peer observation system based on feedback from instructors
Supported instructors during weekly office hours and monthly workshops
Coordinated judging for the 2023 Feinberg Family Prize for Excellence in First-Year Writing

FELLOWSHIPS / AWARDS

Graduate Student Travel Award, Graduate Student Caucus, Northeast Modern Language Association (competitive funding) — March 2026.

Michael Schoenecke Graduate Student Travel Award, Pop Culture Association (competitive funding) — February 2026.

Rackham Humanities Research Dissertation Fellowship — 2025-2026.

Gail Allen Scholar, Center for the Education of Women+ (CEW+) — 2025-2026.

Susan Lipschutz Award for exceptional scholarly achievement, a sense of social responsibility and service, and a lively interest in promoting the success of women in the academic community — Spring/Summer 2025.

Community of Scholars Fellowship, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan — May–June 2024 (Declined).

Dorothy McGuigan Prize for Best Essay on Women. Awarded for "Sexual Violence and the 'Politics of Voice'': Learning from the Backlash to Kate Elizabeth Russell's My Dark Vanessa." — April 2024.

Graduate Student Travel Award, Graduate Student Caucus, Northeast Modern Language Association (competitive funding) — January 2024.

Preparing Future Faculty Seminar, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan — May 2023.

Hopwood Graduate Nonfiction Award, Fifth Place — March 2022.

Institute for Social Change, Rackham Program in Public Scholarship — May 2020.

National Endowment for the Humanities Institute: "Freedom for One, Freedom for All? Abolition and Woman Suffrage, 1830s-1920s" — July 2018.

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, Indonesia — 2012-13.

Critical Languages Scholarship, Indonesia. Fully funded language study awarded to 25 students nationally. July 2011-August 2011.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

"Ambivalence, Genre, and Narrative Activism: Learning from the Backlash to Kate Elizabeth Russell's *My Dark Vanessa,*" Special issue on Lives, Selves, Media, and #MeToo, *a/b: Autobiography Studies.* 23 July 2025. https://doi.org/10.1080/08989575.2025.2526302.

Reviews:

Review: *Unhinging the National Framework: Perspectives on Transnational Life Writing* by Babs Boter, Marleen Rensen, and Giles Scott-Smith (eds.), *European Journal of Life Writing,* vol. 11, 2022, pp. R1-R4.

Review: *Stories of the Self: Life Writing After the Book* by Anna Poletti, *Life Writing,* 11 Feb. 2021.

Review: *Witnessing Girlhood: Toward an Intersectional Tradition of Life Writing* by Leigh Gilmore and Elizabeth Marshall, *Biography*, vol. 43, no. 4, 2020, pp. 822-825.

Works in Progress:

"'The Only Problem I Cannot Solve': Visions of Artificial Intelligence in Vonnegut's Early Stories." *The Bloomsbury Handbook to Kurt Vonnegut,* edited by Susan Farrell, Bloomsbury Academic (forthcoming).

PRESENTATIONS

"Visions of Creative AI in Speculative Fiction, 1950–Present." Poster with Kelly Hoppenjans. Rackham Student AI Working Groups Symposium, May 4, 2026.

"A Multimodal Analysis of Human-AI Co-Creativity in Contemporary Cultural Production: Taxonomy, Theory, Praxis." Flash talk with Asa Chen Zhang. Rackham Student AI Working Groups Symposium, May 4, 2026.

"'Desert All Your Past Lives': Taylor Swift's Serial Autobiography." Panel Presentation, Biographies Area, Popular Culture & American Culture Association Conference, April 9, 2026.

"Censoring Abuse: *Speak* and the Politics of Literature about Sexual Violence." Roundtable Presentation, Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, March 8, 2026.

"'Somebody who really understands!': Artificial Intelligence and Loneliness in Vonnegut's 'Confido.'" Panel Presentation, Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, March 5, 2026.

"'A Little Bit Funny, Admit It': Humor and Survival in Patricia Lockwood's 'Rape Joke.'" Panel Presentation, Michigan College English Association Annual Conference, October 4, 2025.

"Extra/Ordinary Violence in *The Incest Diary.*" Panel Presentation, National Women's Studies Annual Conference, November 16, 2024.

"Defending Melinda: Utilitarian Readings of Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak.*" Roundtable Presentation, Fan Studies Network of North America Conference, October 19, 2024.

"'True But Not Believable': Readers' Expectations of Fragmented Narration in Trauma Memoir." Panel Presentation, International Auto/Biography Association World Conference, June 12, 2024.

"'Someone Should Be Ashamed of Themselves': Readers' Responses to Ambivalent Narrators of Trauma." Panel Presentation, Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, March 9, 2024.

"#MeToo and Campus Activism: Student Responses to Narratives of Violence." Roundtable Presentation, Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing Annual Conference, July 12, 2022.

"Fan Responses to Sexual Assault in Buffy the Vampire Slayer's 'Seeing Red.'" Roundtable Presentation, Fan Studies Network of North America Conference, October 21, 2021.

"Photography and Trauma in Roxane Gay's *Hunger*." Roundtable Presentation, "Looking Critically Now," Critical Visualities Workshop, University of Michigan, March 23, 2020 (Accepted and Deferred due to Covid-19).

"Personal Stories, Structural Problems: Toward an Ethical Narrative of Sexual Violence." Panel Presentation, UCLA Thinking Gender 2020 Conference, March 6, 2020.

COLLOQUIA ORGANIZED

"Helping First-Year Writers Develop a Writing Practice." English Department Writing Program, University of Michigan, February 1, 2023. Presenters: Greg Schutz, Phil Christman, Andrew Appleton Pine.

"Instructor Showcase: Casting Forward As We Look Back." English Department Writing Program, University of Michigan, December 2, 2022. Presenters: Stephanie Renteria, Dane Anderson, Amanda Lin Hayes, Patricia Jewell, Erin Leary.

"What Activities Support Writing Skills in English 125?" English Department Writing Program, University of Michigan, November 1, 2022. Presenters: Jason Godfrey, Molly Lynch, Matt Del Busto, Andrew Moos.

"How Do We Support Linguistic Diversity in the Writing Classroom?" English Department Writing Program, University of Michigan, October 12, 2022. Presenters: Trisha Dowling, Ryan McCarty, Sara Nezami Nav.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Judge, Feinberg Family Prize for Excellence in First-Year Writing, University of Michigan, 2026.
English & Women's and Gender Studies Joint PhD Admissions Committee, University of Michigan, 2025.
Intern, *Arizona State University PEN Project* (a distance learning program for incarcerated individuals in Arizona and New Mexico, sponsored by ASU Department of English), Spring 2012.
Student Committee for Faculty Hiring, Barrett Honors Faculty Search Process. 2010, 2011.
Mentor, Monique Bonaparte and David Grow, NYC Teaching Fellows student teachers (2017 and 2018).

EMPLOYMENT

Reader, AP English Language and Composition Exam (June 2023, June 2026)
Writer, Center for the Education of Women+, University of Michigan (August 2020-September 2022)
English Teacher, Validus Preparatory Academy, Bronx, New York (June 2016-September 2019)