

# AUTUMN WATTS

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## EDUCATION

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**Cornell University** | Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (Fiction) 2006

- Thesis: The Natural History of Ghosts and Rocks

**Portland State University** | Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology 2003

- *Magnum Cum Laude*, University Honors College
- Student Speaker for Commencement Ceremony
- GPA: 3.90

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING

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**Ipek University • Ankara, Turkey** 2014-2016

*Lecturer | English Language and Literature*

- I designed and taught new curriculum in the English Department and the Academic Writing Program, including interdisciplinary academic writing and creative writing seminars, a folklore elective, and a project-based course on critical thinking team-taught with colleagues from several academic departments.

**Courses taught:**

Imaginary Cities (ENG 101) • Perspectives on Death (ENG 102)

Creative Writing (ELL 019) • Creative Writing: Interdisciplinary Collaboration (ELL 024)

Critical Reading, Critical Thinking (ENG 110) • The Oral Tradition and Folklore (ELL 202)

**Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar • Doha, Qatar** 2007-2012

*Lecturer, Writing Center Coordinator | Premedical Education*

- I developed one of the first full-service writing centers in the region, where I gave writing consultation for students, staff, and faculty, designed and led workshops on the writing process, and created tailored learning plans for at-need students. I also founded a Peer Consultant program; trained and supervised a team of writing peer tutors; created a library of writing resources; composed annual administrator reports and assessments; and served as a Founding Executive Board Member of the Middle East-North Africa Writing Centers Network.

**Cornell University • Ithaca, NY** 2005-2007

*Lecturer | Department of English*

- I taught core first-year writing seminars and a topic of my own design in the John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, where I served as Assistant Course Leader for the Linked Stories course cluster. I also designed and taught creative writing in the Department of English.

**Courses taught:**

Creative Writing (ENG 281) • Linked Stories (ENG 170)

Myth, Memory, and the American Western (ENG 157)

## MIDDLE AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHING

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### **Takatuf Scholars Programme • Muscat, Oman**

2014-2015, 2017

*Faculty, Peer Mentor Supervisor*

- As faculty (2017) in this intensive, project-based summer residential program for gifted Omani teenagers, I served as loco parentis, co-taught 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills in an integrated curriculum (Communications, Research and Critical Thinking, and ICT) with an interdisciplinary faculty team, led extracurricular activities, and taught workshops on test-taking, college admissions, and public speaking. As Peer Mentor Supervisor (2014-2015), I developed and led a Peer Mentoring program, including training in leadership, intercultural competence, ethics, social responsibility, teamwork, diversity awareness and inclusion, and conflict resolution.

### **Northwestern University • Evanston, IL**

2007

*Instructor | Center for Talent Development*

- I designed and taught Nonfiction Honors, Creative Writing Honors, and the College Admissions Essay at a summer residential program for gifted high school and middle school students.

### **Lansing Residential Center Correctional Facility for Girls • Lansing, NY**

2005

*Volunteer Instructor | "S" Unit*

- I taught Introduction to Poetry in a medium-secure correctional facility for adjudicated 13- to 17-year-old girls.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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**Notable Essay** | *Best American Essays 2019*

2020

**Katharine Bakeless Nason Award (Nonfiction)** | Bread Loaf Writer's Conference

2019

**Oakley Hall Memorial Scholarship** | Squaw Valley Community of Writers

2019

**Best of Guernica 2018: Editor's Picks** | *Guernica Magazine*

2019

**Finalist** | Glimmer Train Family Matters Prize

2018

**Outstanding Book Award** | *Transnational Writing Program Administration* (ed. David Martins) Conference on College Composition and Communication

2017

**Wigleaf Top 50 (Very) Short Fictions**

2013

**Lead Faculty Mentor** | "Tuberculosis: Beliefs, Meanings, and Stigmas Through the Eyes of Qatar's Migrant Workers" • Qatar National Research Fund Undergraduate Research Experience (UREP) Grant

2011

**Lead Faculty Mentor** | "Voices of Memory: Oral Stories and Folktales of Qatar" Qatar National Research Fund UREP Grant

2010

**Co-Faculty Mentor** | "Constructing Qatar: Tales from the Margins of a Global System"

2008

Qatar National Research Fund UREP Grant

<b>Co-Lead Faculty Mentor</b>   “Before the Hospital: Qatar and the Tradition of Healing” Qatar National Research Fund UREP Grant	2007
<b>Best New Poets 2006</b>	2006
<b>Finalist</b>   Indiana Review 1/2 K Prize	2004
<b>Student Speaker</b>   Portland State University Commencement Ceremony	2003
<b>First Prize</b>   Tom and Phyllis Burnam Fiction Award	2003

## PUBLICATIONS: FICTION AND POETRY

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“The Cities of Animals.” Translated to Farsi by Assad Amraee, *Nemayeh Tehran*. 2013.

“Two Stories: Husband Stories.” *Guernica Magazine*, 2012.

“Two Stories: The Cities of Animals.” *Guernica Magazine*, 2012.

“Are You There?” *Desert Voices*, 2009.

“Dry Lake, Nevada, 1983.” *Best New Poets 2006*, edited by Eric Pankey and Jeb Livingood, Meridian Press, 2006.

“Dry Lake, Nevada, 1983.” *AGNI Online*, 2005.

“Bloom.” *Indiana Review*, 2005.

“Tiger Ghosts.” *Mode*, 2004.

“The Last Great Electric Peepshow,” *Portland Review*, 2000.

## PUBLICATIONS: NONFICTION

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“Enduring Tales: The Qatari Oral Tradition.” *Words Without Borders*, 2020.

“Animals Died at our House, and Other Things that Burn or Wear Away.” *Guernica Magazine*, 2018.

Baker, Sybil and **Watts, Autumn**. ““The Expo,”” *Guernica Magazine*.” *The Craft of Editing*, edited by Adnan Mahmutović and Lucy Durneen, Routledge, 2018.

Watts, Autumn, et al. “First-year Writing Seminar Program at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar: Balancing Tradition, Culture, and Innovation in Transnational Writing.” *Transnational Writing Program Administration*, edited by David S. Martins, Utah State University, 2015.

Watts, Autumn, et al. “Tuberculosis Beliefs, Meanings, and Stigmas Through the Eyes of Qatar’s

Migrant Workers: Survey Analysis and Narratives." *Qatar Foundation Annual Research Forum*. HBKU Press, 2015.

"No Longer Here." *Dreasha: Glimpes of Qatar*, 2010.

"Keeping Faith." *Qatar: Then and Now*, 2009.

"Notes from Conversations I Failed to Have." *Qatar Narratives*, 2008.

## PUBLICATIONS: EDITED WORK AND VOLUMES

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Khalifa, Al Sayed. "The Sunni and His Friend." Translated by Tariq Ahmed, edited by **Autumn Watts**, *Words Without Borders*, 2020.

Khalaf, Umm. "Fatoum and Hamoud and Hamed." Translated by Rana ElMaghraby, edited by **Autumn Watts**, *Words Without Borders*, 2020.

Khalaf, Umm. "Al Fisaikra." Translated by Kholoud Saleh, edited by **Autumn Watts**, *Words Without Borders*, 2020.

Khalaf, Umm. "The Jealous Wife." Translated by Mei El Ghindi, edited by **Autumn Watts**, *Guernica Magazine*, 2014.

Mantha, Yogamaya, et al. *Constructing Qatar: Migrant Narratives from the Margins of a Global System*, edited by Andrew Gardner and **Autumn Watts**, Smashwords, 2012.

Watts, Autumn, et al., editors. *Qira'at: Readings from the students at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar*, WCMC-Q, 2010.

Watts, Autumn, et al., editors. *Qira'at: Readings from the students at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar*, WCMC-Q, 2008.

## OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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**Fiction Editor** | Guernica Magazine 2012-present

- I review and edit submissions, liaise with authors, agents, and publishers, and hire and supervise a diverse, rotating team of fiction readers.

**Owner** | Autumn Watts Writing Consultancy 2012-present

- I provide coaching, private courses, and literary and academic editing services to private and institutional clients, including universities, academics, students, and business professionals.

**Instructor** | University College London • Doha, Qatar 2016

- I designed and taught an intensive, one-week course on academic publishing, including drafting and revising a paper, selecting and submitting to journals, and the peer review process.

**Associate Editor** | EPOCH Magazine 2005-2007

**Assistant Editor** | EPOCH Magazine

2003-2005

**Assistant Course Leader** | Cornell University • Ithaca, NY

2006

**Intern** | Department of Anthropology • Smithsonian National Museum of National History

2002

## ORGANIZED EVENTS

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**COP18/CMP 8 UN Global Climate Change Conference** • Doha, Qatar 2012

- In partnership with the Qatar Heritage and Identity Centre, I co-organized live storytelling events and a theatrical performance for attendees of the UN Global Climate Change Conference.

**Event:** "Storytelling Evenings" • "The Journey of Al Qumri: A Story of Qatar"

**Qatar Heritage and Identity Center** • Doha, Qatar 2012

- In partnership with the QHIC, I created, organized, and led a six-week community education series that brought folklorists, storytellers, and translators to mentor Qatari youth as they documented family and tribal folktales. My role included organizing facilities, speakers, and catering, liaising with local partners, communicating with media, drafting press releases, conducting outreach in schools and universities, mentoring trainees, and leading workshops.

**Event:** "My Identity, My Story: A Qatari Folktale Workshop Series"

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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"We Came and We Left, and We Took Nothing From Them: Qatar's Oral Storytelling Tradition and the My Identity, My Story Project." International Congress of Anthropological Sciences. Ankara, Turkey. April 2015.

"The Donkey of Noon and Other Qatari Folktales." 10th International Society for Ethnology and Folklore Congress. Lisbon, Portugal. April 2011.

"Developing a Peer Tutor Program in a Medical School." MENAWCA 2nd Biannual Writing Centers Conference. Sharjah, UAE. March 2011.

"Constructing Qatar: Tales from the Margins of a Global System." Society for Applied Anthropology Conference. Merida, Mexico. March 2010.

"The (Creative) Writing Center." MENAWCA 1st Biannual Writing Centers Conference. Al Ain, UAE. March 2010.

"Tutors at Large: Training Tutors in a Decentralized Writing Center." MENAWCA 1st Biannual Writing Centers Conference. Al Ain, UAE. Feb 2009.

"Before the Hospital: Qatar and the Tradition of Healing." First International Medical Student Conference. Sohar, Oman. March 2008.