**Joanna Eleftheriou**

# ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor of English, Chrstopher Newport University, 2024-

Assistant Professor of English, Christopher Newport University, 2019-2024

Assistant Professor of Literature & Creative Writing, UHCL, 2015–2019

# EDUCATION

PhD in Literature and Creative Writing, University of Missouri, 2015

MFA in Creative Writing – Nonfiction, Old Dominion University, 2008

BA in English (ΦΒΚ), Cornell University, 2001

# PUBLICATIONS

**Book**

[*This Way Back*](https://books.google.com/books/about/This_Way_Back.html?id=ZqRnzQEACAAJ)*,* [West Virginia University Press. Blind peer-reviewed. *In Place*](https://wvupressonline.com/series/in_place)Series, October 2020

* [*Kirkus Reviews (starred review)*](https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/joanna-eleftheriou/this-way-back/)
* *River Teeth*
* *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*
* *Ergon: A Journal of Greek-American Letters*

**Essays**

“Greek American Women Educators and Their Labor,” *Journal of Modern Greek Studies,* October 2025

“girls/all night long: (re)constructing Sappho,” *New Ohio Review,* March 2025

“These Stories Will Not Be Confined,” *Carceral Liberalism,* July 2023

“Darwin’s Suicides,” *Rock & Sling* 16.1*,* Fall 2021

“Spana-Kota,” *Bellingham Review,* February 2021

“Inter-Review: *This Way Back* & *The Celeste Holm Syndrome*,” *Fourth Genre* 23.2, Fall 2021

“Black Stone,” *Ergon: Greek/American Arts and Letters,* September 2019

“Cyprus Pride,” *Bellingham Review* 76, Fall2018

* Republished in the anthology *[Sweeter Voices Still](https://beltpublishing.com/products/sweeter-voices-still),* 2021

“The Rope of Desires,” *The Tusculum Review* 14, 2018

[“Dancing Greek,”](http://levurelitteraire.com/joanna-eleftheriou-2/) *[Levure Littéraire](http://levurelitteraire.com/joanna-eleftheriou-2/)* [14, Summer 2018](http://levurelitteraire.com/joanna-eleftheriou-2/)

“Ithacas,” *3Elements Review* 17, January 2018

“Freedom’s Bones,” *Switchgrass Review* 3,Spring 2017

“Wild Honey, Locust Beans,” *Arts and Letters* 33,Fall 2016

“Snow on Sunday,” *St. Katherine’s Review*, October 2011

“She and I,” *Broad River Review* 42*,* Spring 2011

“Moonlight,” *Chautauqua* 7, 2010

“The Other Side,” *Crab Orchard Review* 14.2, Fall 2009

**Fiction**

“After the War,” *Cutbank*, Winter 2019

* Translation by Amanda Michalopoulou, April 2023

“More Bones,” *The Quotable* 12, February 2014

“Deserters,” *Palooka* 2, Spring 2011

“Reunion,” *Apalachee Review* 60,Spring 2010

**Poetry**

“A Privileged Glimpse of the Dead,” *Nights in the Calcutta Café,* 2024

“Locust Bean,” *Reformed Journal,* June 2021

“Prodigal Son,” *Reformed Journal,* June 2021

“You Ask,” *Sinister Wisdom* 106, October 2017

“Lover Remembers Cavafy,” *Postcard Poems and Prose*, April 2014

“A Daughter Reads a Cavafy Poem,” *Niche* 4, April 2014

“Argonaut Remembers His Journey,” *St. Sebastian Review* 4.1, March 2014

“Landscapes for Sale,” *The Voices Project*, December 2013

“Unkempt Jasmine,” *Illuminations* 29, Summer 2013

“Hypothesis of Love,” *Skin to Skin: A Journal of Lesbian Art,* Spring 2012

**Literary Criticism**

“Is Genre Ever New? Theorizing the Lyric Essay in its Historical Context,” *Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies* 4.1,Fall 2017

* Republished in *Beyond Truth and Fact: Innovations in the Craft of Creative Nonfiction,* 2027

“Essay, Memoir or Both? Hunger of Memory and the Problem of Nonfiction Hybrids,” *Prick of the Spindle* 6, April 2014

“Theorizing Nonfiction: Sidestepping Boundaries between the Theoretical and the Creative,” *Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies.* December 2015

# BOOK REVIEWS & TRANSLATIONS

Amanda Michalopoulou, “Desert,” (Greek to English with Natalie Bakopoulos), *Asymptote,* October 2025

“Delight as Superpower,” Review of *Brown Women Have Everything: Essays on (Dis)comfort and Delight* by Sayantani Dasgupta. *River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative,* October 2024

Review of *We Grew Here* by Apollo Papafrangou*, Ergon: A Journal of Greek American Letters,* March 2023

Review Essay of *Dispatches from The End of the Ice* and *The Memory Eaters, River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative,* December 2020

Review of *The Old Greeks: Cinema, Photography, Migration* byGeorge Kouvaros, *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* 37.2, October 2019

Christopher Bakken, “Translation,” (English to Greek) *Diastixo,* December 2018

Carolyn Forché, “On the Island of Theologos,” (English to Greek, with Erika Voelzer) *Poetix*, Spring-Summer 2016

Review of *Ruin: Essays in Exilic Living,* Adrianne Kalfopoulou, *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* 34.1*,* May 2016

“Propaganda From a Greek Island,” (Greek to English, with Christopher Bakken) *The Common,* Amherst College, November 2011

Subtitles for the film *Comme des Lions de Pierre* dir. Olivier Zuchuat, 2011

# PRINT INTERVIEWS AND OP-EDS

“The Assay Interview Project: Nicole Graev Lipson,” *Assay,* August 2025

“When the Students Choose,” *Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies*, Fall 2021

# “[Memoir, Essay, and the Crucible of Meaning: An Interview with Joanna Eleftheriou,” *True Magazine*, July 2021](http://truemag.org/2021/06/22/memoir-essay-and-the-crucible-of-meaning-an-interview-with-joanna-eleftheriou/)

“An Interview with Cameron Finch,” *The Common*, Amherst College, June 2021

[“A Greek-Cypriot-American on Martin Luther King Jr. Day,”](https://ergon.scienzine.com/article/essays/a-greek-cypriot-american-on-martin-luther-king-jr-day) *[Ergon: A Journal of Greek American Letters](https://ergon.scienzine.com/article/essays/a-greek-cypriot-american-on-martin-luther-king-jr-day)*[, January 2021](https://ergon.scienzine.com/article/essays/a-greek-cypriot-american-on-martin-luther-king-jr-day)

[“How We Are,” *howweare.org,* May 2020](https://www.howweare.org/post/joanna-eleftheriou)

# “The Dangers of Classification in Beth Peterson’s ‘Special Ed’,” *Assay,* November 2018

# “[Of Anglerfish, Sci-fi, and Magic: An Interview with Jen Julian](https://fictionwritersreview.com/interview/of-anglerfish-sci-fi-and-magic-an-interview-with-jen-julian/),” *Fiction Writers Review,* October 2018

“MU’s Grad Instructors Fill Vital Role,” *Columbia Daily Tribune*, May 2016

# INVITED TALKS, CONFERENCE PAPERS, AND PRESENTATIONS

# “Almost Native,” AWP, Baltimore, 2026

# “Spirituality, Religion, and Creative Nonfiction,” AWP, Baltimore 2026

# “The Queer Confessional: The Coming Out Story as Redemption Narrative Made Gay,” Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers, Columbus, Ohio, Nov 2025

# “Sapphic Spaces,” Lesbian Lives Conference, New York, October 2025

# “Writing Spirituality and Place,” Nonfiction Now, Notre Dame, June 2025

# “The Neuroscience of Nonfiction,” Nonfiction Now, Notre Dame, June 2025

# “Writing Minor Characters,” Grand Valley State University Reading Series, Feb 2025

# “Choreographing New Identities: Folk Dance, Competition, and Authenticity in the Greek American Context,” Princeton 2024

# “Uniquely Portable Magic: A Pedagogy of Reading,” AWP 2024

# Reading from *This Way Back* at AWP, Seattle, March 10 2023

# Reading from *This Way Back* at the University of Salisbury, Nov 16 2022

“Collecting Essays,” NonfictioNOW, Massey University, New Zealand, December 2021

“Confronting the Question of ‘Essay versus Memoir,’" Association of Writing and Writing Programs (AWP), Kansas City\*, March 2021

“Women in Politics and Art,” Global Conference on Women and Gender, CNU\*, March 2021

“Humility and Voice in Creative Nonfiction,” Seattle Pacific University\*, March 2021

“Writing Cyprus Pride,” Southeast Conference on Christianity and Literature\*, Feb 2021

Conversations About Greece, Department of Classics, Brown University\*, Nov 2020

“Unearthing the Female Canon: Recovering Women's Place in the Essay Tradition,” AWP, San Antonio, TX, March 2020

“The Author is Here: Using Telecommunication Software to Permit Students to Interview Authors,” Innovative Teaching and Learning Symposium, Houston, April 2019

“PR for CW: Responding to Enrollment Challenges in Grad and Undergrad Programs,” AWP, Portland, Oregon 2019

“Montreal-Brooklyn Poetry Exchange,” Brooklyn Heights Public Library, Jan 2019

[“The Tenacity of the Writer,” NaNoWriMo Festival, Deer Park Public Library, Deer Park, Texas, November 2018](https://www.mixcloud.com/AgapeGreekRadio/%CE%B3%CF%85%CE%BD%CE%B1%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%B5%CF%82-%CE%BC%CE%B1%CE%B6%CE%B9-with-tina-adamopoulos-joanna-eleftheriou/)

“Unstandard and Unethical: Alternative Facts and Role of the Nonfiction Writer,” NonfictionNOW, Phoenix, Arizona, November 2018

“Literary Translation,” Boldface Conference for Emerging Writers, University of Houston, Houston, Texas 2018

“Writing our Wrongs: Alternative to the Savior Complex when Teaching Writing within Marginalized Communities,” Festival of Faith & Writing, Grand Rapids, MI, April 2018.

“Writing Workshops in Greece: Faculty and Alumni Reading,” Tampa, March 2018

“Writing ‘Greece’: Contemporary Writing From, To, and About Hellenic Space,” Modern Greek Studies Association Symposium, Stockton, New Jersey, November 2017

“Standing Apart, Being Involved: Writing the Foreign and Unfamiliar,” NonfictioNOW, Reykjavík, Iceland, June 2017

“Illness and the Daughter’s Story,” NonfictioNOW, Reykjavík, Iceland, June 2017

“Creative Writing and Social Justice,” AWP, Washington DC, March 2017

“Going There: Writing the Complicated Truth in the World’s Hot Spots,” AWP, Wash. DC, 2017

“Theorizing Nonfiction: Sidestepping Boundaries Between the Theoretical and the Creative,” NonfictioNOW, Flagstaff, Arizona, October 2015.

“The Stepmother Tongue: Crossing Languages in Creative Nonfiction,” AWP, Minneapolis, March 2015.

“Writing Women’s Lives: Feminist Scholars’ Methodological Challenges and Triumphs.” Interdisciplinary roundtable discussion. Women’s and Gender Studies Graduate Conference, University of Missouri, February 2015.

“Carolyn Forché and the Poetry of Witness,” University of Missouri English Department Leaders Board, September 2014.

“The Essayist and the Movie Star: The Coming Out Story as Conversion Narrative,” Craft Critique Culture: University of Iowa Graduate Conference, April 2014

“Stepmother Tongue,” AWP, Minneapolis, April 2015

“Creative Nonfiction and the Poet,” Creative Nonfiction Collective, Calgary, Canada, March 2014

“Living It Up to Write It Down,” AWP, Boston, March 2013

“Poetry in Protest,” Old Dominion University Last Lecture Series, 2009

“Poetry Reading and Creative Translation,” Mother Tongues and Other Cultures: Creative Writing, Translation and Multi-Cultural Transformation, ODU 2009

# SELECTED INTERVIEWS & MEDIA APPEARANCES

# Toronto International Literary Festival, Toronto, Canada, Oct 2021\*

# Reading from *This Way Back* at the Book Warehouse Williamsburg, July 30 2021

# “Erγαstirion The Center for Hellenic Studies at Georgia State, June 2021\*

# Women Writing Spirituality with Jessie van Eerden (Hollins University) and Claire McQuerry (Bradley University), 1455 Project, Winchester, VA\* June 2021

# [Reading Under the Olive Tree with Dr. Neriman Kuyucu, Istanbul, Turkey\*, May 2021](https://readingundertheolivetree.wordpress.com/2021/03/06/in-conversation-with-joanna-eleftheriou-this-way-back-2020/)

# [ΓΥΝΑΙΚΕΣ ΜΑΖΙ with Tina Adamopoulos, Agape Greek Radio, Toronto, Canada, April 2021](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjoann%5CAppData%5CRoaming%5CMicrosoft%5CWord%5C%CE%93%CE%A5%CE%9D%CE%91%CE%99%CE%9A%CE%95%CE%A3%20%CE%9C%CE%91%CE%96%CE%99%20with%20Tina%20Adamopoulos%20%7C%20Joanna%20Eleftheriou)

# [Tried & True, Episode 4: *This Way Back* with Joanna Eleftheriou and Paul Zakrzewski, KBIA Public Broadcasting, March 2021](https://www.kbia.org/arts-and-culture/2021-03-03/tried-true-ep-4-this-way-back-with-joanna-eleftheriou)

# *This Way Back*: Bicultural Identity*, ‬Dropping In*, Voice of America Radio, Florida, February 2021

# [Reading from *This Way Back,* Hellenic Professional Society of Texas, February 2021](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hpst-book-club-this-way-back-joanna-eleftheriou-tickets-136235330541)

# Feminist Reading Group of Houston, January 2021

# “Unkempt Jasmine” reading, Melbourne Fringe Arts Festival, Melbourne, Australia\*, November 2020

# Southeastern Conference on Christianity and Literature, Milligan University, Tennessee\*, November 2020

# Reading with David Lazar (Columbia College Chicago), Green Apple Books, San Francisco, California\*, October 2020

# Dance, Romance, Culture: Women Writers on the Essay’s Power, Chicago Public Library, Chicago,\* October 2020

# Reading from *This Way Back*, Literary Festival, Old Dominion University\*, October 2020

# Reading & Interview, King’s College London & the High Commission of Cyprus – London (UK)\*, October 2020

# Reading with Michele Morano (DePaul University), Skylark Bookstore, Columbia, MO, Sept. 2020

# *This Way Back*: Local Author’s Book Connects Communities, *Spotlight News,* Sept. 2020

# Women in Translation Reading, The Muse Writers Center & The Poetry Center of Virginia\*, August 2020

# TGI Cast Weekly Reading\*, August 2020

# A Reading About Love, Norfolk, VA, February 2020

# HONORS AND AWARDS

Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection Writer-in-Residence: "Ten Thousand Dollar Peasants: Greek American Dance Festivals as Sites of Neoliberal Wealth Displays and Ethnic Belonging," 2024 – 2025

Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Funded Writer’s Residency, 2019

Sterling Watson Fellowship for the 14th Eckerd College Writers’ Conference, 2018

Finalist for the Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation’s Switchgrass Review Prize, 2017

Creative Writing Program Prize for Creative Nonfiction, 2015

William Peden Prize for Excellence in Teaching, 2014

Luci Shaw Tuition Scholarship to the Glen Artist’s Workshop, 2010

# GUEST LECTURES

# Grand Valley State University, February 2025

# Florida State University, April 2023

# Emerson College, March 2021 & January 2022

# Bradley University, November 2021

# Aristotle University, Greece, November 2021

# Queens College (CUNY), October 2021

# Davidson College, March 2021

# The Ohio State University, March 2021

# University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, July 2020

# Eastern University, July 2020

# Old Dominion University, April 2020

# Western Washington University, March 2020

# Grand Valley State University, March 2019

# UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

# Christopher Newport University

#  ENGL 123: First Year Writing Seminar

# ENGL 223: Second Year Writing Seminar

#  ENGL 250: Creative Writing

# ENGL 309: Creative Nonfiction

# ENGL 333: Literary Journalism

# ENGL 450: Advanced Creative Writing

# ENGL 490: Senior Seminar (Essay & Memoir)

# University of Houston-Clear Lake

LITR 2326: American Literature

LITR 2341: Literature and Experience

LITR 2371: Introduction to Creative Writing

LITR 3371: Creative Writing

LITR 4336: Contemporary American Literature

LITR 4362: Literature of Adolescence

LITR 4366: Literature and Religion

LITR 5430: Creative Writing—Fiction Workshop

LITR 5430: Creative Writing—Nonfiction Workshop

LITR 5430: Creative Writing—Poetry Workshop

# University of Missouri

ENGL 1000: English Composition

ENGL 1310: American Literature

ENGL 1510: Introduction to Fiction

ENGL 1520: Introduction to Creative Nonfiction

ENGL 2100: Writing About Literature

ENGL 2120: Ethnographic Approaches to Creative Nonfiction

ENGL 2520: Intermediate Creative Nonfiction

ENGL 4520: Advanced Creative Nonfiction

# Old Dominion University

ENGL 110C: Composition I

ENGL 111C: Composition II

ENGL 112L: Introduction to Literature

ENGL 126C: Honors Composition

ENGL 127L: Honors Intro to Literature

ENGL 300: Introduction to Creative Writing

# OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Writing Workshops in Greece, Serifos, Crete, Thasos, 2011-**

Creative Writing

Introductory Modern Greek

Intermediate Modern Greek

Modern Greek History and Culture

**Eurognosi Language Institute, Limassol, Cyprus, 2002 – 2005**

English as a Second Language, beginner to advanced classes

# PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

*Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies,* Contributing Editor (2018- )

West Virginia University Press, Manuscript Peer Review (2021- )

Anthem Press, Manuscript Peer Review (2023- )

Bloomsbury Academic Press, Manuscript Peer Review (2022- )

Modern Greek Studies Association, Executive Board Member (2020-2023)

Modern Greek Studies Association, Publicity & Membership Chair (2020-2023)

Modern Greek Studies Association, Transnational Studies Committee (2020-2023)

*Journal of Modern Greek Studies,* Book Reviews Editor (2021 - 2022)

Modern Greek Studies Association, Conference Program Committee (2019)

Modern Greek Studies Association, Translation Prize Committee (2017, 2019, 2024)

Modern Greek Studies Association, Innovative Initiatives Prize Committee (2017-2020)

Creative Writing Studies Organization, Membership Committee (2016-2019)

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Association of Writers and Writing Programs

Modern Greek Studies Association

Creative Writing Studies Organization

# LANGUAGES

English: *fluent* Modern Greek: *fluent*

Italian: *intermediate* French: *basic*

Ancient Greek: *basic*