

Cleyvis Natera

Professional Experience

Montclair State University, English Department and Spanish & Latino Studies

Department

Visiting Assistant Professor, a joint appointment between the Creative Writing Program, English Dept. and Spanish & Latino Studies

September 2024 - Present

- Responsible for leading the development of an M.F.A. Program in Creative Writing with a Bilingual Focus.
- Instruct undergraduate and graduate students on craft principles in Fiction Writing.
- Instruct undergraduate and graduate students on a World Literature course focused on Latin American and Caribbean Female Writers.
- Instruct undergraduate and graduate students on Representations of Latinas in Film & Fiction with a focus on modern the US based Latinx female experience.
- Develop and manage the class syllabus and ensure it meets department's standards.
- Plan and create lectures, discussions, and assignments for in-person teaching.
- Grade presentations, papers, and portfolios.
- Participate in Creative Writing Department staff meetings and trainings.

Barnard College of Columbia University, Creative Writing Program

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Fiction - Creative Writing Program, English Dept.

Spring 2023, Spring 2024

- Teach undergraduate students Intro to Fiction Writing course focused on the craft of fiction.
- Develop and manage the class syllabus and ensure it met department's standards.
- Plan and create lectures, discussions, and assignments for in-person teaching.
- Grade presentations, papers, and portfolios.
- Participate in Creative Writing Department staff meetings and trainings.

The Kenyon Review: Kenyon Summer Writers Workshop – Kenyon College

Fiction Faculty

July 2023, July 2024

- Led a week-long generative workshop in fiction for writers of various levels.
- Created daily prompts to generate creativity and plant seeds for new stories.
- Mentored a Fiction Fellow and guided them on planning and executing a workshop lesson.
- Met with workshop participants to discuss their work and offer advice on MFA Programs and paths to writing careers.
- Participated in faculty feedback session to offer ideas on ways to strengthen the program in the future.

The Juniper Institute, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Fiction Faculty

June 2024

- Led a week-long generative workshop in fiction for writers of various levels.
- Created daily prompts to generate creativity and plant seeds for new stories.
- Met with workshop participants to discuss their work and offer advice on MFA Programs and paths to writing careers.

Tin House Winter Online Workshop

Fiction Faculty

February 10 – February 19, 2024

- Led a week-long workshop in fiction for writers of various levels.
- Met with workshop participants to discuss their work and offer advice on MFA Programs, and paths to writing careers for those who have acquired MFA degrees.
- Participated in faculty reading.
- Offered a craft talk on “Writer as Activist, Literature as Revolution.”

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Antioch University – Low Residency Master of Fine Arts program Visiting Faculty – Creative Writing Program

June 2023 – November 2023

- Lead a graduate workshop in Fiction.
- Taught Multi-Year, Multi-Genre MFA Students a Craft of Fiction Writing Workshop.
- Developed and manage each class syllabus and ensure it met department's standards.
- Planned and created lectures, discussions, and assignments in Canvas.
- Graded presentations and papers.
- Supervised Thesis Projects in a low residency structure.

Fine Arts Work Center

Fiction Faculty

January 2023, November 2023, In-Person Workshop July 2024

- Lead a week-long asynchronous course on “The Art of the Story.”
- Read each students work and provided written feedback.
- Facilitated a zoom reading for students to meet and share work.
- Coordinated accountability pairings so students can continue their work past the workshop's end date.

City University of New York – The City College of New York, Master of Fine Arts Program, Creative Writing Department

Guest Adjunct Professor of Fiction – Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Graduate Program

September 2022 – May 2023

- Mentored graduate students in Fiction.
- Taught Multi-Year MFA Students a Virtual Fiction Writing Workshop.
- Developed and manage each class syllabus and ensure it met department's standards.
- Planned and create lectures, discussions, and assignments in Canvas.
- Graded presentations and papers.
- Supervised Thesis Projects for Second Year MFA Students

Fordham University, Rose Hill Campus, Creative Writing Department

Adjunct Professor of Creative Writing

September 2021 – May 2022

- Taught undergraduate students Creative Writing courses focused on the craft of fiction.
- Developed and manage the class syllabus and ensure it met department's standards.
- Planned and create lectures, discussions, and assignments for in-person teaching.
- Graded presentations, papers, and portfolios.
- Participated in Creative Writing Department staff meetings and trainings.
- Mentored undergraduate students on post-collegiate career choices and graduate programs.

St. Joseph's University in Brooklyn, The Writer's Foundry Master of Fine Arts Program

Adjunct/Lecturer

September 2020 – May 2023

- Co-Created a Second Year MFA Cross-Genre workshop that included Fiction, Creative Non-Fiction, and Poetry.
- Supervised Thesis Projects for Second Year M.F.A. Students
- Mentored graduate students in Fiction and Creative Non-Fiction
- Taught First Year M.F.A. Students Inventive Creative Writing, a literature practicum.
- Taught First Year M.F.A. Students Fiction Writing Workshop.
- Taught Second Year M.F.A. Students Fiction Thesis Seminar.
- Developed and manage each class syllabus and ensure it met department's standards.
- Planned and create lectures, discussions, and assignments in Canvas.
- Conducted a hybrid course (in-person plus virtual classes).
- Graded presentations and papers.

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The Dominican Writers Association

Workshop Leader, Craft Instructor, Volunteer

May 2019 – May 2023

- Created and implemented a syllabus and teaching plans for a virtual four & six-week creative writing workshop that provided an introduction to structure, voice, point of view and other craft elements for nontraditional immigrant writing students.
- Conducted several workshops on literary activism.
- Mentored students.

CNA Financial Corporation

Claim Director

Assistant Vice President, Claim Operations

Assistant Vice President, Claim Business Support

Claim Ops Manager, Claim Ops Supervisor, Claim Representative

September 2001 – August 2020

- Variety of roles with increasing responsibility over a 19-year career at CNA. Roles in both Claim and Operations focused on Project Management, Leadership of first and second level leaders, training staff to excellence and surpassing targets for established goals. Last role focused on management of a 30-person team as a second level leader. I hold a Project Management Professional Certification as well as currently the Lean Six-Sigma Green Belt designation.

Education

New York University

May 2005

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing – Fiction

Skidmore College

May 1999

Bachelor of Arts in English and Psychology with a concentration in Creative Writing

Awards, Fellowships, Artist Residencies & Community Engagement

Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Toni Morrison Fiction Fellow, August 2024

Brooklyn Caribbean Literary Festival's Short Story Literary Prize, Judge, September 2024

PEN/Emerging Voices Fellowship, Mentor, June 2024 – October 2024

Fulbright Specialist Program, Specialist, April 2024 – April 2027

PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel, Judge, April 2024

THE MOTH, Mainstage Featured Storyteller, March 2024

The Vermont Studio Center, Voices Rising Fellow, October 2024

The Writing Freedom Fellowship, 2024 Finalist, November 2023

2023 International Latino Book Awards, Silver Medalist for Best Book – Fiction, October 2023

Word Up Community Bookshop/Seven Stories Institute, Board Member, 2023

2023 New American Voices Award, Judge – March – September 2023

2023 Neustadt International Prize for Literature, Juror – January – October 2023

PEN America Emerging Voices Fellowship, Juror – Spring 2023

Rowland Writers Retreat, Artist in Residence (Aurora, NY) – Feb 2023

Hermitage Artist Retreat, Artist in Residence (Englewood, FL) – 2022- 2024

PeriPlus Collective Fellowship, Mentor – January 2022 – Present

Peter Taylor Fellowship in Fiction, Kenyon Review Workshop – July 2022

Skidmore College's Sara Bennet Prize for Fiction & Denise Marcil Prize for Fiction, Judge – Spring 2022

Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Fiction Fellow (Amherst, VA) – December 2021

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Peter Taylor Fellowship in Fiction, Kenyon Review Workshop – June 2021
PEN America Writing for Justice, Judge – Summer 2021
PEN America Writing for Justice, Fellow – September 2019 – July 2020
Sustainable Arts Foundation, Finalist – July 2020
Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Carol Houck Smith Returning Contributor Award in Fiction – August 2019
Disquiet International Writers Conference, Merit Scholar - June 2019
Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Fiction Fellow (le Moulin à Nef, France) - Winter 2018
Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Fiction Contributor – August 2018
Juniper Writer's Institute, Merit Scholar – June 2018
Voices of Our Nation Arts Foundation (VONA), Fiction Fellow, Scholarship Recipient – Summer 2012
Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Fiction Fellow (Amherst, VA) – Winter 2010, Spring 2015
Fulbright Creative Writing Award, Finalist (Alternate) – Summer 2007
New York University, Merit Scholar – September 2002 through May 2005

Panels & Presentations

June 20, 2024: Guest Writer and Featured Reader, Low-Residency Master of Fine Arts Program at **Hood College**, Frederick, MD
April 27, 2024: Moderator, Deborah Paredez & Angie Cruz, “Bilingual Lives, American Stories,” **Montclair Literary Festival, Montclair State University**, Montclair, NJ
April 16, 2024: Moderator, Myriam J.A. Chancy’s Launch of *Village Weavers*, **Center for Fiction, Brooklyn**, New York
April 2, 2024: Guest Author, Undergrad Senior Thesis Group Zoom Class Visit, **Skidmore College**, Saratoga Springs, NY
March 23, 2024: Storyteller, **THE MOTH**, Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown, NY
February 23, 2024: Featured Author, “Finding Our Way Home,” presented by Friends of the Howe House at the **Montclair Public Library**, Montclair, NJ.
February 9, 2024: Panelist: “Writing Interracial Narratives,” **2024 Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)**, Kansas City, MO.
February 9, 2024: Moderator: “Be Shameless: Everything You Need to Know to Nail Promotion,” **2024 Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)**, Kansas City, MO.
December 14, 2023: Featured Author, “The People and Places that Make Us,” **Hermitage Artist Retreat in collaboration with the Johann Fust Community Library**, Boca Grande, Florida.
November 14, 2023: Guest Writer, Classroom Visit, English & African American Studies, **University of South Carolina**.
November 9, 2023: Guest Writer, M.F.A. Program, **University of Houston-Clear Lake**.
November 7, 2023: Presenter, “Own Your Own Story,” **House of SpeakEasy** at Bronx High School for Law and Community Service in the Bronx, New York.
October 24, 2023: Presenter, 2023 Neustadt Juror Readings, **Neustadt Literary Festival**, Norman, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.
October 22, 2023: Featured Author, **2023 Bayonne Fall Festival**
September 9, 2023: Panelist: “Gatekeepers: Divulgers of Family Secrets,” **Brooklyn Caribbean Literary Festival at the Center for Fiction**, Brooklyn, New York.
June 12, 2023: Featured Reader: “Welcome Reading: T Kira Madden & Cleyvis Natera,” **Juniper Summer Institute**, University of Massachusetts at Amherst.
June 12, 2023: Workshop Facilitator: “How to Start: Compelling Openings for YA Prose Novels,” **Juniper Summer Institute**, University of Massachusetts at Amherst.
May 7, 2023: Moderator: “The Meaning of Home,” **2023 Montclair Literary Festival**, Montclair, New Jersey.
April 28, 2023: Panelist: “Take Two: Breanne McIvor & Cleyvis Natera Discuss Family and Friendship in Rich Narratives.” **2023 NGC BOCAS Literary Festival**, Trinidad & Tobago.
April 15: “Characters Full of Fight: Featuring Angie Cruz & Cleyvis Natera,” **2023 San Antonio Book Festival**, San Antonio, Texas.
March 11, 2023: Panelist: “We’re All Imposters Here: On Writing with Imposter Syndrome,” **2023 Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)**, Seattle, Washington.
March 7, 2023: Presenter: “A Brave & Startling Truth,” **House of SpeakEasy** at Fordham High School for the Arts in the Bronx, New York.

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January 6 - 11, 2023: Workshop Facilitator: “Artist as Activist, Literature as Revolution,” **Philoxenia Writing Retreat**, Marrakech, Morocco.

November 20, 2022: Panelist: “Angie Cruz, Cleyvis Natera & Ru Freeman: A Conversation,” **2022 Miami Book Fair**, Miami, FL.

November 5, 2022: Panelist: “Changed Skylines, Steadfast Histories: Gentrification and Community Memory in Fiction,” **2022 Texas Book Festival**.

October 27, 2022: Moderator: “Write to Change the World: Fiction Writing Workshop,” **Skidmore College**, Saratoga Springs, NY.

October 24, 2022: Facilitator, Visiting Fiction Writer: “Crafting Memorable Characters,” **Monroe Community College – State University of New York (Virtual)**.

October 22, 2022: Panelist: “A Panel of Contemporary Caribbean Novelists: Presented by The Center for Fiction,” **The 14th Annual Langston Hughes Arts Festival at the Queens Public Library**, Queens, New York.

October 18-20: Participant: “Julia Alvarez’s How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accent” – Marathon Read-Along, **Literacy Partners (Virtual)**.

October 17, 2022: Featured Writer: “Chat and Chai M.F.A. Reading Series: Featuring Cleyvis Natera,” **City University of New York – The City College of New York**, New York City, NY.

September 29, 2022: Panelist: “Latinx Authors Are Breaking into the Publishing Industry,” **An Official Brooklyn Book Festival Bookend Event**, New York City, NY.

September 27, 2022: Panelist: “Finding A Story’s Language,” **An Official Brooklyn Book Festival Bookend Event (Virtual)**.

July 23, 2022: Panelist: “Kweli Alum on Craft and Community,” **2022 Kweli International Literary Festival**

June 18, 2022: Panelist: “Mothers, Daughters, and a Place Called Home,” **Schomburg Center Literary Festival**

May 20, 2022: Participant: “Captivating Tales of Immigration,” **This Alien Nation in collaboration with United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner**

May 13, 2022: Panelist: “Writing for Justice and Sustainable Futures,” **PEN America World Voices Festival**, New York City, NY.

May 7, 2022: Panelist: “In Our Own Voice: Latinx Writers,” **2022 Montclair Literary Festival**, Montclair, NJ.

March 25, 2022: Moderator, “Unforgettable Latinx Characters,” **Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) – Virtual**.

March 24, 2022: Panelist, “2022 Debut Authors Discuss: How to Prepare for the Book Deal,” **Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)**, Philadelphia, PA.

December 3, 2021: Master Lecturer, “Crafting Memorable Characters,” **Obscura Literary and Arts Magazine at Lehman College**

November 17, 2021: Master Lecturer, “On Toni Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye*,” **St. Joseph’s College, The Writer’s Foundry MFA Program**

Forthcoming Publications

Natera, Cleyvis. [The Grand Paloma Resort: A Novel](#). New York: Ballantine-Penguin Random House, Summer 2025.

Selected Publications

Natera, Cleyvis. “Disintegration.” *Pleiades: Literature in Context* Spring 2024, Volume 44.1: 42-51.

Natera, Cleyvis. [Neruda on the Park: A Novel](#). New York: Ballantine-Penguin Random House, May 2022.

Natera, Cleyvis. “Sugar.” [Kenyon Review](#) Volume XLIV Number 4 (2022): 127-133.

Natera, Cleyvis. “Fog.” *URSA* July 2022 <https://ursastory.com/fog/>.

Natera, Cleyvis. “For Black Girls, Womanhood Comes Too Early: A Review of *Big Girl* by Mecca Jamilah Sullivan.” [The New York Times](#) 6 July 2022 <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/06/books/review/big-girl-mecca-jamilah-sullivan.html>

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Natera, Cleyvis. "The Inheritance of Bone." *Alien Nation: 36 True Tales of Immigration*. Ed. Sofija Stefanovic. New York: HarperVia, 2021. 7-14.

Natera, Cleyvis. "Compass." *Gagosian Quarterly* Spring 2021: 70-78.

Natera, Cleyvis. "Challenges to the Cult of Masculinity: A Review of *Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas." *Time Magazine* 12 January 2021 <<https://time.com/5928689/concrete-rose-reviewangie-thomas/>>.

Natera, Cleyvis. "Curandera." *Kenyon Review* XLII.4 (2020): 49-52.

Natera, Cleyvis. "The Echo of Loss." *Us Against Alzheimer's: Stories of Family, Love and Faith*. Ed. Marita Golden. New York: Arcade Publishing, 2019. 158-168.

Natera, Cleyvis. "Played or How I Failed at Becoming a Chapiadora." *Kweli* 30 November 2019 <<http://www.kwelijournal.org/fiction/2019/11/15/played-or-how-i-failed-at-becoming-achapiadora-by-cleyvis-natera>>.

Natera, Cleyvis. "When I was a teen, and English wouldn't stick, Toni Morrison taught me to read." *The Washington Post* 7 August 2019 <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/08/07/when-i-was-teen-english-wouldnt-sticktoni-morrison-taught-me-read/>>.

Natera, Cleyvis. "Go Home: Excerpt from *Neruda on the Park*." *Inheritance*. Ed. Angie Cruz. Pittsburgh: Aster(ix) Journal, Summer 2019. 92-102.