

# E. Hughes, *Poet & Philosopher*

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Department of Philosophy  
Emory University  
561 South Kilgo Circle  
Emory University  
Atlanta, GA, USA 30322

Email: [erica.hughes@emory.edu](mailto:erica.hughes@emory.edu)  
Website: [www.ehughespoetry.com](http://www.ehughespoetry.com)  
Phone: (404) 906-3324

## Areas of Research

**Area(s) of Specialization:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century French Theory, Literary Theory, Poetry and Poetics, African American Literature

**Areas of Concentration:** 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Aesthetic Theory, Metaphysics, Psychoanalysis

## Education

- (2027) PhD, Emory University, Philosophy  
Dissertation Advisors: Cynthia Willett and Lynne Huffer  
Dissertation Committee Members: George Yancy, Claire Nouvet, Harrison Graves
- (2021) MFA+MA Litowitz Creative Writing Program, Northwestern University, Poetry and English Literature  
Advisor: Natasha Trethewey  
Advisor: Chris Abani
- (2016) Hon. BA, Dordt University, English Literature

## Books

*Ankle-Deep in Pacific Water* published with Haymarket Books (Fall 2024)

- *Ankle-Deep in Pacific Water* interrogates the experiences of a black family (originally from the American south) as they contend with the disillusionment of their migration to the San Francisco Bay Area—coping with the longstanding reality of antiblackness. Weaving

personal lyric, narrative lyric, and persona, this collection articulates the difficulties of black familial love, black life, and black pain—made particular by the landscape of California, a state that insists (in ethos) that it is/ was not involved in American projects of imperialism or chattel slavery. At the core of the collection is the poem “The Accounts of Mammy Pleasant”—a poem written from the perspective of the formerly enslaved abolitionist Mary Ellen Pleasant from San Francisco who is thought to have helped fund John Brown’s raid on Harpers Ferry.

*Another Way to Say Dying* (completed manuscript)

- *Another Way to Say Dying* tenses the boundary between the self and the lover. It is a poetry collection that explores the tension of between blackness and love, blackness and queerness, and blackness and queer love—ultimately between loss and reciprocity. In this collection, the speaker contends with shame and the ineffable affect that stirs underneath blackness as an unbearable social identity. The speakers in this collection struggle with vulnerability and the fear of loss and grief, finding *another way* to say the word love—and to mean it—in a world of hatred and uncertainty by exploring themes of sex, emotional intimacy, and failure. This collection attempts to express what it means to enter into relation with the self and with the other despite fear, loss, familial disapproval, and social disavowal.

## Publications

### Academic Articles:

(2025) Meditation on Emmett Till (TBD)

### Academic Interviews:

(2024) Truthout Interview with George Yancy (TBD)

## Selected Literary Publications

### Poetry:

(2024) “Kyrie” forthcoming in *Poet Lore*

(2024) “Everything All at Once,” forthcoming in Healing Verse Poetry Line, selected by Trapeta Mayson, former Poet Laureate of Philadelphia

- (2024) “As It Is,” “On Love,” “This Way,” and “Another Way to Say Dying” forthcoming in the *Colorado Review*
- (2023) “Bulldaggers Between Starshine and Clay,” “Ekphrasis of Black Women Fucking Each Other,” “Love’s Rare Sightings” published in *The Rumpus*
- (2023) “On Her Leaving,” “I Left My Heart in the Fragrance,” “What’s the Opposite of Lonely?” and “Element of Cloud” published in *Hypertext Magazine*
- (2023) “Black Women Standing Ankle-Deep in Pacific Water,” “Routine” and “In the Opposite Direction of Home, the Road” published in *Jazz & Culture Journal*
- (2023) “All of It Just Means Child” published in *Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Art*
- (2023) “I Call Distraction a Bird” and “I Know Love by the Morning” published in the *Indiana Review*
- (2022) From “The Accounts of Mammy Pleasant” published in *Passages North Magazine*
- (2022) “We Have Made a Bed of This Landscape” published in *The Arts Section*
- (2022) “Portrait of My Father” published in *Rhino Poetry*
- (2021) “The Night Is an Eruption of Nebulas” published in *Guernica Magazine*
- (2021) “Meditation on George Washington Dennis” published in *Protean Magazine*
- (2020) “Our Past Bowed Like the Branches of a Madrone Tree,” “Beckwourth Pass,” “Meet Cute in San Mateo County,” and “The Way We Were” Published in a special edition of the *Chicago Quarterly Review* edited by Charles Johnson
- (2020) “In San Jose, We Sliced Tomatoes” published in *Poet Lore*
- (2020) “Rippling Through the Dark” published in *The Offing*
- (2020) “My Mother at Twenty-One” published in *Wildness Magazine*
- (2020) “I Called Home in January” published in *BOAAT Journal*
- (2019) “Funeral” published in *Hot Metal Bridge*
- (2017) “To Love Jane Eyre” published in *The Antigoniish Review*

### Literary Interviews:

- (2021) “An Interview with E. Hughes” published in Lover’s Eye Magazine Podcast
- (2019) “An Interview with Tina Chang” published in TriQuarterly Magazine

---

## Writers Workshops, Residencies, and Conferences

- (2022) Hedgebrook Writer-in-Residence Program for women writers (declined offer)
- (2021) Palm Beach Poetry Festival Workshop (with Vievee Francis)
- (2019) Tin House Summer Workshop (with Maureen McLane)
- (2018) Tin House Winter Workshop (with Patricia Smith)
- (2017) Tin House Summer Workshop (auditor)
- (2017) Zora Neale Hurston/ Richard Wright Foundation's Writer's Week (worked with Kyle Dargan)
- 

## Selected Literary Readings, Panels, and Presentations

- (2024) Cave Canem Fellows Reading AWP 2024
- (2024) Exhibit B: A Literary Variety Show Featuring Michael Chang, Annie Grizzle, Jasmine Plakson, and E. Hughes
- (2023) What the Universe Is: Brionne Janae and E. Hughes
- (2022) Elevate Atlanta: "Poetry + the Body" Poetry Reading and Creative Conversation Featuring Opal Moore, Melba Joyce Boyd, E. Hughes, Andrea Jurjević, Charleen McClure, and Shariff Simmons.
- (2022) Printers Row Literary Festival: Rhino *Poetry*: Featured Authors Reading (sponsored by the Poetry Foundation)
- (2022) Association of Writers and Poets Panel: Celebrating the Chicago Quarterly Review Anthology of Black American Literature
- (2022) Midland Authors Panel: Moderated by Syed Haider and Featuring E. Hughes, Tsehaye Herbert, and LeVan Hawkins
- (2021) Get Lit Presented by Nomadic Press: Featuring Authors E. Hughes, Steven Leyva, Kevin Dublin, and Aerik Francis, among others
- (2021) Chicago Sunday Salon: Featuring Authors E. Hughes, Jeremy Owens, Sarah Terez Rosenblum, and Amin Ahmad

- (2021) Chicago Quarterly Review: Anthology of African Literature hosted by Bookstall
- (2021) South Florida Poetry Journal Virtual Reading Series: Featuring E. Hughes and Calabretta Cancio-Bello
- (2020) Northwestern University EGSO Winter Colloquium: "Our Past Bowed Like the Branches of a Madrone Tree: A Poetry Reading."
- (2019) TriQuarterly and Litowitz MFA+MA Program Reading at the annual Association of Writers and Poets
- 

## Academic Conference Presentations

- (2023) "On Black Poetry: The Corpse and the Phenomenon of Third Person Consciousness," American Studies Association, Montreal, Canada
- (2023) "On Black Poetry," Strategies of Critique, York University, Toronto, Canada (Virtual)
- (2019) Theoretical Archeology Group North America Meeting; Terror, History, and Materiality: Making Objects of Poems at Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York
- 

## Research Grants

- (2019) Northwestern University Fellow Conference and Research Funding
- Funding for a research trip to the archives at the African American Museum & Oakland Library and at Stanford University. The purpose of this trip was to trace Black migration patterns from the American South to the San Francisco Bay Area and to analyze artifacts left by Black migrants during those initial settlements.
- 

## Fellowships, Prizes, and Nominations

- (2023) Semifinalist for the 92Y Discovery Contest
- (2022) Cave Canem Fellowship
- (2022) Semifinalist for the 92Y Discovery Contest
- (2021) Longlisted for the Granum Foundation Fellowship Prize

- (2021) Best of the Net Award nomination for poetry by *Wildness Magazine*
- (2021) Finalist for the Elinor Benedict Poetry Prize
- (2017) Pushcart Prize nomination for poetry by *The Matador Review*
- 

## Teaching Experience

### *Instructor of Record*

- Co-Lead Instructor: Emory University, Atlanta Georgia** 2024
- Instructor of record for Laney Graduate School SOAR program—Research and Humanistic Social Sciences
- Graduate Instructor: Northwestern University, Evanston, IL** 2020
- Instructor of record for English 202—Introduction to Creative Writing
- Graduate Teaching Associate: California State University, Fresno, Fresno, CA** 2017- 2018
- Instructor of record for English 41— Introduction to Poetry
- Graduate Teaching Associate: California State University, Fresno, Fresno, CA** 2016-2018
- Instructor of record for two sections of English 5A/B in the first-year writing program

### *Teaching Assistantships*

- Graduate Teaching Instructor: Emory University, Atlanta, GA** 2024
- Co-Teacher with George Yancy for Philosophy 100W—Basic Problems in Philosophy
- Graduate Teaching Assistant: Emory University, Atlanta, GA** 2023
- Assistant to Christopher Merwin for Philosophy 200W—Ancient Greek and Medieval Philosophy
- Graduate Teaching Assistant: Northwestern University, Evanston, IL** 2019

- Assistant to Averill Curdy for English 206—Introduction to Poetry

**English Department Teacher's Assistant: Dordt University, Sioux Center, IA** 2015- 2016

- Provide thirty percent of English 100 students' grades
- Create and grade assignments
- Meet with students one-on-one for an hour a week

### *Writing Consulting*

**Academic Coach: Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA** 2023-Present

- Design workshop curriculum and consult students with writing theses and dissertations

**Graduate Writing Consultant: Graduate Writing Studio at California State University, Fresno, CA** 2017-2018

- Consult with and offer direction to Master and PhD candidates regarding various and lengthy writing projects (e.g. theses, dissertations, literature reviews)

## Research Experience

(2021) **Graduate Research Assistant: Northwestern University, Evanston, IL**

- Assistant to Charif Shanahan for whom I studied the Arab slave trade and iconographies of Blackness in the Arab world.

## Academic Service

(2023-2024) **Co-President of Friday Philosophy Forum**

- Organized graduate student panel discussions in the Philosophy Department

## Editorial Experience

2019 – 2020 **Poetry Editor for TriQuarterly Magazine (Remote)**

- Reader for unsolicited submissions

2017- 2018

**Poetry Editor for the San Joaquin Review, Fresno CA**

- Curate poems for the annual literary magazine