

CURRICULUM VITAE

LISA GRUNBERGER
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EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

- Ph.D. in English and American Studies, 1997. Dissertation: *Bernarr Macfadden's Physical Culture: Muscles, Morals and the Millennium, 1898-1917.*
- M.A. in Religion and Literature, 1990

University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

- B.A. in English Literature, and in Religion and Classics, 1988, *Magna Cum Laude*
- Honors Thesis, English: *Wallace Stevens' Spiritual Aesthetics*. Advisor: Professor James Longenbach
- Honors Thesis, Religion: *Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza's Revisionist Feminist Theology*. Advisor: Professor William Scott Green

CONFERENCE PAPERS & DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES

Evidence, or Moon Immigrants, full play (developed from the original One Act version) commissioned by “Dirty Laundry,” an Israeli play production company, for performances in 2020.

My play *Almost Pregnant: The ABC's of Infertility*. A full-length play premiered at the Old City Jewish Arts Center as part of The ART of Infertility traveling art exhibit. Fall, 2017. Directed by Hamutal Posklinsky, Claire Drake, dramaturg/consultant Christina May.

My play *Almost Pregnant*. Philadelphia Fringe Festival 2018. Full-length production. Directed by Hamutal Posklinsky, Adrienne Theatre, Philadelphia PA.

Almost Pregnant, selected by Alliance for Jewish Theatre Annual Conference as a workshop production. Philadelphia, 2018.

One Act play, *Evidence, or Moon Immigrants*, directed by Hamutal Posklinsky, premiered at Manhattan Repertory Theatre, November 2018. A short exploration about diasporic Jewish identity, first generation Jewish-Americans.

"Transparent's Pfeffermans: Bearing the Cross of the Ivri." Conference at the University of Rochester Susan B. Anthony Center for Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, November 2016. The revised paper will be published as a chapter in the essay collection *Queer Jews on TV: Transparent and the Changing Landscape of Jewish Popular Culture*, forthcoming in 2020 from Rutgers University Press.

On Resemblance: No Bridge is an Island, National Association of American Jewish Theatre Conference. Washington, D.C., December 2014. (One monologue, part of a longer ethnographic theatre project on *Faith and the ART of Infertility*, was selected for performance at the conference.)

Bowery Poetry, Patty Smith's 60 Birthday Reading. I was invited to read some of my own poetry, including "Increase and Multiply, or Ode to Spam", at this event. January 2007. You Tube video archive.

Performance of *1966: Birth Tale*, directed by Karen Ludwig, Westbeth Women's Theatre Collective, West Village, NYC, 2006.

The Prayer Collector, Makor/92nd St. YMCA, June 2003

A Spalding Grey meets Lily Tomlin type monologue/performance piece. Directed by Barbara Rubin.

Art Installation, *Series of Disruptions* at Producer's Club Theatre, NYC 358 W. 34th Street, 2005

Cornelia Street Café Poet Series, New York, NY, 1998-present

Frequent readings of original poetry and performance pieces.

The Library Lounge at the Telephone Bar, New York, NY, 1998-present

Readings of original verse and performance pieces.

"Facing the Blank Page, Facing the Yoga Mat: Exploring Writing for Composition Students"

Council of Writing Program Administration, Philadelphia, PA, July 2010.

"Spiritual Matters: Body and Soul in Macfadden's Health Therapeutics," Molloy College, Jewish and Christian Lecture Series, November 2001.

"Colon-izing the Body: Bernarr Macfadden's Public Private Self," American Privacies Conference, University of Chicago, 1996.

"Bernarr Macfadden's Masculine Therapeutics," Jack London Conference, San Francisco, CA, 1996.

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- * Winner, Sandy Crimmins Award, Philadelphia Stories for my poem, "Secrets". March 2018.
- * Semi-Finalist in Tomas Salamun Poetry Prize for my full-length MS, *I Am Dirty*.

- * Semi-Finalist Two Sylvias Press Wilder Series Poetry Book Prize for *Mercy Wombs*, 2017.
- * Winner of the Brittany Stoakes Poetry Prize, Philadelphia PA for “Genesis: Beginning the In”.
- * Finalist, Settlement House Press, for my Poetry MS, *Mercy Wombs*, 2016
- * Finalist in Jewish Currents/Jewish Forward Alexander and Dora Raynes Poetry Competition, 2015, for “How To Tell A Story.”
- Recipient of the Dorbrecht Prize for Judaic Yoga Studies from the Society of Independent Scholars to work on *Yiddish Yoga: The Musical (\$1500)*, 2013
- Poetry Prize from *Philadelphia Poets*, Spring 2012
- Outstanding Instructor Award, Temple University, December 2010, June 2012, May 2013, December 2013, December 2014, Spring 2015
- University of Chicago Divinity School Study Fellowship, 1990-1994
- *Phi Beta Kappa* University of Rochester Travel Scholarship, 1988
- University of Rochester Undergraduate Poetry Award, 1988

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Instruction, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA September 2007--present I design and teach both levels of required freshman intensive writing courses, that concentrate on development of the writing skills which will form a foundation for their undergraduate education. The class subject matter varies: it’s been on Gender and Society, Introduction to Fiction, American Literature 19th century survey, Sociology and Work Culture, Race and Anti-Semitism, the Politics of Food. I also teach **Creative Writing, Poetry Writing, Popular Fiction, Introduction to Fiction and the Short Story, Medicine and Literature, Narrative Medicine** (Honors Program), and **Advanced Creative Writing: Playwriting**.

Associate Professor of Instruction, Secondary Appointment, Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University, Fall 2018 I teach a class to medical students on **The Art and Science of Yoga: A Practical and Philosophical Guide to Yoga**.

Assistant Adjunct Professor, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA., Fall 2007 My self-designed course was entitled: **From Moses to Yoga: Literary and Psychological Reflections on Faith and Doubt**. I taught an intensive, required College Seminar (CSEM) to freshman which focused on honing students’ writing skills.

Assistant Adjunct Professor, Parsons The New School of Design, New York, NY, September 2006-2007 Designed and taught a departmental seminar course on “Design and Innovation” to second-year undergraduates.

Assistant Adjunct Professor in English, Composition and Rhetoric, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY, September 2006 – present Co-designed and taught an English Composition and Writing course to first-year undergraduates.

*Adjunct Professor of Philosophy & Religious Studies & Humanities
Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549, January, 1999-June, 2005*

Designed and taught courses to undergraduates at all levels on contemporary world literature, classical and contemporary continental philosophy, and modern theater. Course titles included **Mysticism and the Life Quest**; **Life, Death and Immortality**; and **Introduction to Eastern Religions**.

Adjunct Professor of the Humanities and Social Sciences, SUNY at Old Westbury, Old Westbury, NY, September 2002-June 2005 Taught **Introduction to Eastern Religions** and **Introduction to Western Religions, Modern Religious Thought**, to undergraduates at all levels.

*Adjunct Professor of History & Humanities
Bronx Community College, Bronx, NY, January-June 2000.*

Taught **Modern World History** to undergraduates at all levels.

Private Tutor, June 2001- present

Taught subjects in English and Social Studies to K-12 and university-level students in a one-on-one setting.

*Continuing Education Instructor
University of Chicago, Spring 1994*

Designed and taught a course entitled **Sin, Salvation and Slimming: The Body and Society in Western Culture**.

*Research Assistant to Professor Jerald Brauer in History of Christianity,
University of Chicago Divinity School, 1992-1993*

*Hebrew School Teacher
Am Echad Congregation, Park Forest, IL, 1991-1992*

Taught Hebrew School courses to fourth, fifth and sixth graders at a Synagogue Sunday School.

TEACHING INTERESTS

- English Literature
- Philosophy of Religion, Comparative Religions
- Creative Writing: Poetry, Fiction, Drama and Creative Non-Fiction
- American Cultural History
- Gender Studies/ Women's History
- Media/Cultural Studies

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

PEX Cultural Passport Grant – 2014 – 2018 (Cultural Arts Grant awarded to General Education instructors to expose students to the cultural life of Philadelphia and to make experiential connections between this cultural life and the classroom course of study.)

Faculty Advisor, National Collegiate Honor Society July 2017 – present.

Teaching Circle, Digital Storytelling, Temple University, Fall and Spring 2014 – 2015.
Directed by Terry Halpert. Worked on Infertility Interviews and Infertility Literacy through “Mom-on-the-street” interviews.

Engaged Israel Campus (IEC). Faculty Representative in a pilot program which Temple was selected to participate in tasked with educating the university on how Israeli culture, education and politics influences American culture.

Arts and Culture Editor, *Philadelphia Jewish Voice*, Serve on the Board of the PJV. 2011 – present.

Text-book Committee, Temple University, 2008 – 2009; 2016 -2017.

Philadelphia Post-Secondary Success Initiative (selected to represent Temple University participation in a partnership initiative with High School teachers to improve students’ writing skills and prepare them for First Year Writing courses).

University of Chicago Presidential Task Force for Student Services, 1996-1997.

Coordinator of Gender Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, 1992-1993.

SELECT PUBLIC PERFORMANCES /INTERVIEWS AND PRESS COVERAGE

Moonstone Arts Center, Poetry Reading (with fellow poet Hanoah Guy), November, 2018

Moonstone Poetry Series, Poetry Reading (with fellow poet Catherine Bancroft), September, 2018.

Christ Neighborhood Church Poetry Reading. I won the Brittany Noakes Poetry Award for my poem *Genesis: Beginning the In* awarded by the Soroptomist International Society that benefits women in financial hardship. October, 2016.

I was interviewed for an article in the Philadelphia Jewish Voice titled “A Tale of Two Readings: Lisa Grunberger to Read from her Work,” October 2016.

Interview in Yiddish edition of the *Jewish Forward* about my book *Yiddish Yoga*. “Doing Yoga in Yiddish” by Sarah Rachel Shechter, December 11, 2013.

Yiddish Yoga performance and book reading at Temple Sinai Sisterhood Opening Event, October 13, 2013, Philadelphia, PA

Yiddish Yoga Sisterhood Keynote Speaker, Mishkan Shalom, October 2013.

Poetry reading at Fergie's Pub, part of Moonstone Poetry produced by Larry Robin. July 30, 2014.

WUST radio interview, December 2010 with Estelle Friedman discussing my book, **Yiddish Yoga: Ruthie's Adventures in Love, Loss and the Lotus Position** (Newmarket Press, 2009).

Featured poet and poetry reading at Robin's Bookstore, Philadelphia, September 2010.

Taught Writing and Yoga Workshop called *Facing the Blank Page, Facing the Yoga Mat* at Wake-Up Yoga in Philadelphia, 2010 – 2012.

Collingswood Book Festival, 2010. Yoga and Kids Program.

Featured poet on WBCTV studio program on poetry. Reading, PA, May 13, 2009.

Barnes and Noble, Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA Reading and chair yoga program on Yiddish Yoga, 2009.

Painted Bride Quarterly reading January, 2009 at Bubblehouse in Philadelphia, PA.

Robin's Bookstore, Philadelphia, PA. Featured Poet, August 2007.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Facing the Blank Page, Facing the Yoga Mat, Yoga and Writing Workshop, which I designed and teach several times a year. It is especially designed for writers and artists to help them overcome writer's block or other impasses in their work.

Yoga Instructor, William Penn House. 1919 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA Yoga & meditation class addressed to the needs of senior citizens.

Yoga Instructor, 2002-present

I have taught private and group classes at approximately one dozen New York-area health clubs and yoga studios including Equinox, New York Yoga Center, and The Breathing Project. I am Sivananda trained and teach in the Vinyasa style. I have worked with AIDS patients, cancer patients, bi-polar patients, patients with fibromyalgia, auto-immune disease, diabetes, arthritis, schizophrenia, and autism.

Resident Yoga Instructor, Triune Chiropractic, 325 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA.

Beginner Yoga Series Instructor, Yoga Child, South 9th St. Philadelphia, PA.

I have developed a 6 week yoga curriculum for beginning students that focuses on Yoga philosophy, physical alignment, pranayama (breathwork).

Vinyasa Yoga Instructor, Yoga Sutra, 1401 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA. September 2008 – present.

Children's Yoga Instructor, Floral Park Recreational Center, September 2003-June 2004.

I taught children aged four to 17 in the basics of breathing, yoga postures, and storytelling.

Cultural Anthropologist/Ethnographic Researcher and Writer for Curiosity, a Toronto-based market research firm. Extensive social/cultural research on Beauty and Skin Care products to aid in product review and new product development.

Research Assistant

E-Lab Market Research (now known as Sapient), Chicago, IL, March -May 1998.

I worked on a new product development for a major pharmaceutical company on the famous “Sneezy” project which entailed extensive ethnographic research, interviews.

Development Consultant

University of Chicago Reynolds Club Food Court, Chicago, IL, June 1996-October 1997.

Founder and Proprietor

Lisa's Vegetarian Catering and Delectable Desserts, Chicago, IL, 1991-1998.

Student Ombudsperson

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, October 1994-June 1995.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
American Historical Association
Modern Language Association
National Writer's Association
Dramatists Writer's Circle
Dramatist's Guild

LANGUAGE COMPETENCY

Reading Competency in German, Hebrew, Spanish and French.

PUBLICATIONS

Shining Rock Poetry. Review of *Bugle* by Todd Marshall, August 2016.

“Familiar Stranger: A Conversation between Lisa Grunberger and Simone Yehuda” in *Bridges: A Jewish Feminist Journal*, Summer 2011

Yiddish Yoga: Ruthie's Adventures in Love, Loss and the Lotus Position (New Market Press, NY). September, 2009.

Academic Essays

"Bernarr Macfadden's Physical Culture: Marketing Health by Selling Bodies, Health and Morals." in Dane Claussen, ed., *Sex, Religion, Media*. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2002.

PUBLISHED POEMS IN TRANSLATION

Poems translated in Slovenian (by Kristina Kocan), published in *Dialogi*, a Slovenian literary magazine, November 2010 : “On the Bus,” “Address,” “Like Mr. Touch,” “Monster,” “Born Knowing,” “Driving Home from the Cemetery,” “Selling Time”.

Poems translated into Russian (by Ian Probststein), published in *Svyaz' Vremyon* [*The Time Joint, An Almanac*], 2015: “Alone”, “An Ordinary Day In Camp For A Boy Named Aaron,” “Garden”, “Rhythm Rests,” “I Am Dirty,” “On a Bus”.

Poems translated into Russian (by Ian Probst) in *Seven Arts*, 2015: "Haiku Songs", "As If A Wound", "Discrepancy", "In The Book of Disappointment".

Poems translated into Yiddish (by Eleanor Robinson), published in *Afn Shvel*, No. 370-371 / Winter-Spring 2016: "Alone", "Secrets", "How to Tell A Story," "Promise".

Poems translated into Polish (by Jacek Swierk), published in *Krytyka Literacka*, 2/2018.

POETRY PUBLICATIONS

"A Story of the Letter J," Writers Resist Anthology, edited by Taylor Savath, forthcoming in 2020.

"Dreaming of Exile," *Mom Egg Review*, forthcoming in special issue on Houses, in 2020.

"Chef Richard as Jesus," *Crab Orchard Review*, November 2019.

I am dirty. Poetry Book, 2018, Moonstone Press.

"Time Buyer", *Fine Linen Press*, 2015

"How To Tell A Story," in *Jewish Forward's* anthology *The World To Come*, 2015

Born Knowing, Poetry Book, 2012, Finishing Line Press.

"Tour of Philly", "Like Mr. Touch", and "Listening to the Garden of Eden" in *Philadelphia Poets*, 2011.

"Chirp," *Maintenant 5: A Journal of Contemporary Dada Poetry and Art*.

"On the Bus," "Address," "Like Mr. Touch," "Monster," "Born Knowing," "Driving Home from the Cemetery," "Selling Time" in *Dialogi*, a Slovenian literary magazine., November 2010. (translator, Kristina Kocan).

"Tableau of Sought Time: Selected Poems," *Paroles des Jours*, an on-line literary magazine published by French writer Sphane Zagdanski.

"Go Buy Yourself Something Nice," *Bridges: A Jewish Feminist Journal*, Spring 2009. Guest edited by Rebecca Alpert and Laura Leavitt.

"Separate," *In Our Own Words: A Generation Defining Itself*, Marlowe Peerse Weaver, editor, 2009.

"Born Knowing," *Mizmor L'David Anthology -- The Shoah*, published by Poetica Press, 2010.

"Moonlighting as the Mona Lisa in the Joan of Arc Park," *In Our Own Words: A Generation Defining Itself*, Marlowe Peerse Weaver, editor, 2009

"Occupied," *Mudfish*, Spring 2009.

“Beauty and Butterflies,” forthcoming in a poetry anthology on Bugs, edited by Roxeanne Hoffman.

“Lost and Found,” “A Woman Not My Mother,” *Mudfish*, 2005.

“A Woman Not My Mother,” “Driving Home From the Cemetery,” “Making Soup, Acts of Faith,” *Drunken Boat Literary Journal*, Spring 2004.

“Rachel Sa(i)d,” *The Paterson Literary Review*, Spring 2003.

“All Aboard,” *The Paterson Literary Review*, Spring 2002.

“Scents of Grief,” *Poetz.com*, 2001.

“The Pillsbury Dough Man,” *The Baffler*, Summer 1990.

Shining Rock Poetry, Review of Bugle by Todd Marshall (Canarium Books, 2014).

Philadelphia Jewish Voice Publications:

Westside Theatre Review of *Curvy Widow*, August 17, 2017

Indignation, Screenwriter James Schamus Makes His Directorial Debut: An Inter-Review, August 19, 2016

Lantern Theatre’s *Photograph 51* Review: Jew, Scientist Woman, October, 2015

New Temple Hillel Director Promotes Jewish Diversity, September, 2015

Lantern Theatre’s *QED* Not as Special as its Subject, Nov. 24, 2014

Theatre Review: “Bad Jews?” *Bad Play!*, October 18, 2014

Arden Theatre’s *The Three Sisters* March 22, 2014

Almost 80, and Just as Feminist: Gloria Steinem Interview Nov. 16, 2013

Theatre Review: *4000 Miles and Nothing Gained* Oct. 29, 2013

Cooking and Laughing with the Calamari Sisters May 5, 2013

Interview with Jennifer Childs: *The Show that Proves Women are Funny* May 5, 2013

Jewish Music Festival April 23, 2013

Star of David Doesn’t Shine at the Philadelphia Theatre Company Oct. 24, 2012

Angels in America: Perestroika at the Wilma Oct. 19, 2012

Edgar Allan Poe: *Red-Eye to Havre de Grace* September 9, 2012

The Borgata Hotel in Atlantic City: K.D. Lang Sept. 3, 2012

Old Jews Telling Jokes at the Westside Theatre in NYC August 6, 2012

Prepare Yourself: *Angels in America* at the Wilma Theatre June 28, 2012

The Soap Myth Off Broadway: Unreliable Memories and the Holocaust April 17, 2012

Najla Said Performs *Palestine* at Interact Theatre April 6, 2012

EgoPo's Classic Theatre: The Golem at the Prince Theatre April 5, 2012

In Praise of the Physical World: Leonard Gontarek's Spiritual Poetry at the Public Library April 3, 2012

Idiopathic Theatre's Cutting Edge Tears! Feb. 12, 2012

What Does Normal Feel Like: Christopher Durang's Why Torture is Wrong and the People Who Love Them Dec. 25, 2011

King Lear of a Role: Tovah Feldshuh in Bristol Riverside's Gypsy Nov. 28, 2011

"They were our neighbors": Our Class at the Wilma Theatre October 21, 2011

A Soul is Like a Play: New Jerusalem at the Lantern Theatre Oct. 13, 2011

Is This A World to Hide Virtues In? Philadelphia Live Arts and Fringe Festival Sept. 11, 2011

The Odd Couple of Kabul: Two Jews Walk into a War April 24, 2011

A Prisoner of Hope: Irish Poet Micheal O'Siadhail's Response to the Shoah June 20, 2011

References Available Upon Request