

BLAKE NEMEC

Chicago, IL • 312-912-3527 • blakej.nemec@gmail.com

Transgender, queer, and bilingual somatic coach, writing coach, writer and lecturer. Centers embodied-emergent-social justice-collaborative practices. Hybrid fiction and poetry, speculative fiction, and nonfiction writer with expertise in body-centered, LGBTQAI+ and labor literatures. Dynamic creative writing and somatic workshop facilitator and professor with over ten years of experience leading post-secondary courses including online instruction.

EDUCATION

CERTIFICATIONS/LICENSE

Somatic Coach, The Somatic School, Online, 2022

Medical Interpretation Certification, InterpreNet, Chicago, IL, 2017

Online Teaching Certificate in Instructional Design and Teaching, University of Illinois, 2017

Harm Reduction Counsellor and Tester Certificate, AIDS Health Project, San Francisco, CA, 2004

Clinical Phlebotomy Technician License, Berkeley Inner City Schools, 2003

DEGREES

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, University of Texas, El Paso, TX, 2013

Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, 1998

HEALTHCARE WORKER

Chicago Community Health Clinic, Chicago, IL

Spanish/English Interpreter Volunteer, 2020 - present

Phlebotomy Lab Technician Volunteer, 2017 - present

Broadway Youth Clinic, Chicago, IL, 2013- 2014

Harm Reduction Counsellor and Tester Volunteer.

After Hours Drop-in Clinic. Howard Brown Clinic, Chicago, IL, 2014 - 2015

Harm Reduction Counsellor and Tester Volunteer.

St. James Infirmary, San Francisco, CA, 2005 - 2009

Transgender Program and Training Coordinator.

San Francisco Aids Office, San Francisco, CA, 2004 - 2005

Phlebotomy Laboratory Technician and HIV/STI Counsellor.

St. James Infirmary, San Francisco, CA, 2004

Massage Therapist

SELECT TALKS / PERFORMANCES

Mercury; Conversations as Dance Music. Roman Susan gallery, Chicago, IL, 2024

Mercury; Covid Conversations as Dance Music. Compound Yellow, Chicago, IL, 2024

Open Door Reading series. Poetry Foundation, Chicago, IL, 2022

Mercury; Covid Conversations as Dance Music, Santa Fe, NM, 2021

Author Reading, New Orleans Poetry Festival, New Orleans, LA, 2019

Author Reading, Woodland Pattern Bookstore, Milwaukee, WI, 2019

Sharing Plastic book readings, twelve different book readings in major United States cities, 2018

Coming Around: Urban vs. Pastoral Idiom Transluciferations, Meekling Press Talks, Chicago, IL, 2018

Oral Histories Between Workers, ENTITLE Political Ecology Conference, Stockholm, SW, 2016

Oral Histories Intersections with New Media, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, MA, 2014
Teaching Mutt Lit: Genre-Benders, Hybrids & other Weirdness in the Creative Writing Classroom, American Writer's Programs, Boston, MA, 2012

WRITING WORKSHOPS ~ VISITING WRITER

Somatics Writing Workshop for Writers, Chop Wood Carry Water, Chicago, IL, 2022
Somatics Writing Workshop for Writing Teachers, Young Chicago Authors, Chicago, IL, 2022
Somatics Writing as Prism to World Building Workshop, Woodland Pattern Bookstore, Milwaukee, WI, 2021
Somatics to Drawing Workshop, Spudnik Press, Chicago, IL, 2021
Visiting Sound Recorder Artist, San Francisco State, Online, 2020
Critique Week Panel Member, visiting writer, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2020, 2019, 2018
Hybrid Poetry & Fiction, visiting writer, Harold Washington College, Chicago, IL, 2018
Hybrid Poetry & Fiction, visiting writer, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA, 2018
Hybrid Poetry & Fiction, visiting writer, Columbia College, Chicago, IL, 2013

COORDINATOR

FRUTAS, Chicago, IL, 2014 - present
Event coordinator of Spanish speaking practice group for LGBTQAI+ community members. Coordinated bi-monthly Spanish speaking cultural events in different locations throughout Chicago (film watching, cooking, craft making). Collaborations with Read Write Library, Roman Susan Gallery and Chicago Parks District. Created outreach graphic design materials, then distributed across social media networks.

WHITE CARCASS, Chicago, IL, 2020 - 2021
Peer-based drop-in group, for white folks doing mutual aid work, to practice anti-racism accountability in a personal, consistent, and transformative way. Collaborated with mutual aid groups citywide. Created outreach graphic design materials, then distributed across social media networks.

ST. JAMES INFIRMARY HEALTH CLINIC, San Francisco, CA, 2005 - 2009
Training and Transgender Clinic Coordinator. Developed, modified, and implemented writing and wellness courses for children and adults as needed and in alignment with program, strategic, and mission goals and outcomes. Supported volunteers and staff with materials, schedules, and curricula to meet role requirements in both Transgender and Training departments. Designed then collaborated with the Executive Director, as well as clinic Head Nurse and Doctor, to launch Transgender Clinic. Maintained Training and Transgender Clinic calendars and routinely met with department staff. Created outreach graphic design materials. FT curriculum as needed and in alignment with program, strategic, and mission goals and outcomes

SELECT LECTURER EXPERIENCE

CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO

World of Cinema, 2018 - Present
Gender in the Arts, 2023 - Present
Arts & Ideas, 2019, 2025
Mass Media & Communications, 2021 - 2022

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, El Paso, TX

Stories Create History; Power, Narration and the Framing of LGBTQ Events (Online), 2014 - 2015
Intro to Creative Writing, 2011 - 2012
English Composition, 2010 - 2011

COURSE DESIGN

Write in Place; Lines of Chicago, Columbia College of Chicago, 2020
Stories Create History; Power, Narration and the Framing of LGBTQ Event, 2014

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Spanish fluency in reading, writing & speaking

Extensive travel and short-term living in Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala and El Salvador.

Completed course work at language institutes in the United States and in Latin America throughout last twenty years.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST