

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Curriculum Vitae for Faculty Members

1. **SURNAME:** Grekul **FIRST NAME:** Lisa
MIDDLE NAME(S): Michele **Date:** 9 Nov. 2021
2. **DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL:** English and Cultural Studies
3. **FACULTY:** Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies
4. **PRESENT RANK:** Associate Professor **SINCE:** 1 July 2011
5. **POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

University or Institution	Degree	Subject Area	Dates
University of British Columbia	PhD	Canadian Literature	1999-2003
University of Alberta	MA	English Literature	1997-1999
University of Alberta	BA (Hons)	English Literature	1993-1997

Title of Dissertation and Name of Supervisor

Re-placing Ethnicity: Literature in English by Canada's Ukrainians
Supervisor: W.H. New
External Examiner: Smaro Kamboureli

Special Professional Qualifications

6. **EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

(a) *Prior to coming to UBC*

University, Company or Organization	Rank or Title	Dates
Simon Fraser University	Sessional Lecturer	2003

(b) *At UBC*

Rank or Title	Dates
Associate Professor (UBC-Okanagan)	2011-present
Assistant Professor, tenure-track (UBC- Okanagan)	2005-2010
Assistant Professor, Limited Term (UBC- Vancouver)	2004-2005
Sessional Lecturer (UBC- Vancouver)	2003

(c) *Date of granting of tenure at UBC: 2011*

7. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

University, Company or Organization at which Leave was taken	Type of Leave	Dates
UBC-Okanagan	Study Leave	July, 2020 – July 2021
UBC-Okanagan	Medical Leave	February – April, 2019
UBC-Okanagan	Study Leave	July, 2013 – July, 2014
UBC-Okanagan	Maternity Leave	July, 2012 – July, 2013

8. TEACHING

(a) *Areas of special interest and accomplishments*

I received a Faculty of Arts Graduate Teaching Assistant Award at UBC-Vancouver in 2001 and, at UBC-Okanagan, I have been listed six times on the “Teaching Honour Roll” (2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011). During my first five years at UBC-Okanagan, my teaching load was dominated by new courses, including two sections of Creative Writing (116 and 126; 2008-2009). Given my interest in enhancing UBC-Okanagan’s English program, I successfully proposed the addition of new Canadian Literature courses (including English 330, “Regionalism in Canadian Literature”). In 2006-2007, with Dr. David Jefferess, I undertook a team-taught, “pilot” model of first-year English aimed at accommodating a large number of students (160) with the help of Graduate Teaching Assistants. This model has been adopted by other instructors. Outside of my regular teaching load, which includes undergraduate and graduate courses, I supervise English Honours students, and graduate students in English, and I serve on committees for MA (English) and MFA (Creative Writing) students.

(b) *Courses Taught at UBC*

UBC-Vancouver

Session	Course Number	Scheduled Hours	Class Size	Hours Taught			
				Lectures	Tutorials	Labs	Other
2003-2004 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 222 (002)	3 per week (39 total)	45	39			
2003-2004 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 470F (005)	3 per week (39 total)	45	39			
2003-2004 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 222 (013)	3 per week (39 total)	45	39			

2004-2005 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 470F (005)	3 per week (39 total)	45	39			
2004-2005 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 112 (08B)	3 per week (39 total)	35	39			
2004-2005 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 222 (002)	3 per week (39 total)	45	39			
2004-2005 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 222 (013)	3 per week (39 total)	45	39			
2004-2005 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 110 (16A)	2 per week (26 total)	120	26 (co-taught with four Teaching Assistants)			

UBC-Okanagan

Session	Course Number	Scheduled Hours	Class Size	Hours Taught			
				Lectures	Tutorials	Labs	Other
2005-2006 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 481 (001)	3 per week (39 total)	30	39			
2005-2006 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 112 (006)	3 per week (39 total)	30	39			
2005-2006 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 112 (007)	3 per week (39 total)	30	39			
2005-2006 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 482 (001)	3 per week (39 total)	30	39			
2005-2006 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 152 (007)	3 per week (39 total)	50	39			
2006-2007 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 151 (112)	3 per week (39 total)	52	39			
2006-2007 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 355G (001)	3 per week (39 total)	35	39			

2006-2007 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 355H (001)	3 per week (39 total)	34	39			
2006-2007 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 222 (001)	3 per week (39 total)	54	39			
2007 (Summer)	ENGL 483A (001)	6 per week (36 total)	35	36			
2007-2008 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 153 (002)	2 per week (26 total)	131	13 (co-taught with David Jefferess and four Teaching Assistants)			
2007-2008 (Winter, Term 2)	IGS 530N (001)	3 per week (39 total)	6	39			
2007-2008 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 153 (101)	2 per week (26 total)	143	13 (co-taught with David Jefferess and four Teaching Assistants)			
2008-2009 (Winter, Term 1)	CRWR 116 (002)	3 per week (39 total)	27	39			
2008-2009 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 330A (001)	3 per week (39 total)	34	39			
2008-2009 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 153 (003)	2 per week (26 total)	140	13 (co-taught with David Jefferess and four Teaching Assistants)			
2008-2009 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 495 (Directed Studies))	15 total	1	15			
2008-2009 (Winter, Term 2)	CRWR 126 (103)	3 per week (39 total)	25	39			
2008-2009 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 222 (001)	3 per week (39 total)	57	39			

2008-2009 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 153 (102)	2 per week (26 total)	150	13 (co-taught with David Jefferess and four Teaching Assistants)			
2009-2010 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 355L (001)	3 per week (39 total)	47	39			
2009-2010 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 153 (001)	2 per week (26 total)	159	13 (co-taught with David Jefferess and four Teaching Assistants)			
2009-2010 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 153 (102)	2 per week (26 total)	153	13 (co-taught with David Jefferess and four Teaching Assistants)			
2009-2010 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 222 (101)	3 per week (39 total)	45	39			
2009-2010 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 470C (001)/IGS 530B (001)	3 per week (39 total)	50	39			
2010-2011 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 153 (001)	2 per week (26 total)	160	13 (co-taught with David Jefferess and four Teaching Assistants)			
2010-2011 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 330A (001)	3 per week (39 total)	40	39			
2010-2011 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 482 (001)	3 per week (39 total)	40	39			
2010-2011 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 153 (102)	2 per week (26 total)	157	13 (co-taught with David Jefferess and four Teaching Assistants)			

2011-2012 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 222 (001)	3 per week (39 total)	47	39			
2011-2012 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 153 (101)	2 per week (26 total)	157	26 (co-taught with four Teaching Assistants)			
2011-2012 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 355H (001)	3 per week (39 total)	38	39			
2014-2015 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 222 (001)	3 per week (39 total)	50	39			
2014-2015 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 330B (001)	3 per week (39 total)	37	39			
2014-2015 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 151 (001)	3 per week (39 total)	35	39			
2014-2015 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 470 (001)	3 per week (39 total)	15	39			
2014-2015 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 523I (001)	3 per week (39 total)	1	39			
2014-2015 (Winter, Term 2)	IGS 530P (001)	3 per week (39 total)	2	39			
2015-2016 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 153 (001)	2 per week (26 total)	160	26 (co- taught with four Teaching Assistants)			
2016-2017 (Winter, Term 1)	English 153 (003)	2 per week (26 total)	155	26 (co- taught with four Teaching Assistants)			
2015-2016 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 153 (102)	2 per week (26 total)	141	26 (co- taught with four Teaching Assistants)			

2015-2016 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 470K (001)	3 per week (39 total)	25	39			
2016-2017 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 153 (003)	2 per week (26 total)	153	26 (co-taught with four Teaching Assistants)			
2016-2017 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 330B (001)	3 per week (39 total)	29	39			
2016-2017 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 153 (102)	2 per week (26 total)	156	26 (co-taught with four Teaching Assistants)			
2016-2017 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 470D/ENGL 522M/IGS 530P (001)	3 per week (39 total)	11	39			
2017-2018 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 153 (004)	2 per week (26 total)	200	26 (co-taught with six Teaching Assistants)			
2017-2018 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 333A (001)	3 per week (39 total)	40	39			
2017-2018 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 153 (101)	4 per week (52 total) (I taught lectures and two tutorials for this section of ENGL 153)	191	52 (co-taught with four Teaching Assistants)			
2018-2019 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 153 (001)	2 per week (26 total)	200	26 (co-taught with five Teaching Assistants)			
2018-2019 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 153 (101)	2 per week (13 total, as I went on medical leave midway through the term)	192	13 (co-taught with five Teaching Assistants)			

2018-2019 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 470M/ ENGL 525H/IGS 520B (001)	3 per week (20 total, as I went on medical leave midway through the term)	20				
2019-2020 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 153 (001)	2 per week (26 total)	195	26 (co-taught with five Teaching Assistants)			
2019-2020 (Winter, Term 1)	ENGL 470M/ ENGL 525H (001)	3 per week	20				
2019-2020 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 153 (101)	2 per week (26 total)	189	26 (co-taught with five Teaching Assistants)			
2019-2020 (Winter, Term 2)	ENGL 333A (001)	3 per week	40				

(c) Graduate Students Supervised

Student Name	Program Type	Year		Principal Supervisor	Co-Supervisor(s)
		Start	Finish		
Lindsay Naito	MA, English	September, 2008	August, 2009	Lisa Grekul	
Olena Guseva	MA, IGS (Studies in Cultures and Texts)	September, 2008	October, 2010	Lisa Grekul	
Jonathan Richert	MA, English	September, 2009	October, 2010	Lisa Grekul	
Stefanie Brasnett	MA, English	September, 2011	August, 2012		Lisa Grekul Allison Hargreaves
Jillian Sinotte	MA, English	September, 2011	August, 2012	Lisa Grekul	
Karolina Bialkowska	MA, English	September, 2015	In progress	Lisa Grekul (until February 2018; replaced by George Grinnell)	
Deserae Gogel	MA, English	September, 2018	April, 2021	Lisa Grekul	

*(d) Continuing Education Activities**(e) Visiting Lecturer*

University of Northern British Columbia; Quesnel campus
 Week-long intensive course; 40 instructional hours
 (English 471, "Creative Writing, Fiction and Creative Non-fiction")
 18 students
 July, 2006

*(f) Other**Honours Supervisions*

Student Name	Program Type	Year		Principal Supervisor	Co-Supervisor(s)
		Start	Finish		
Zachary Sawchuk	Honours, English	September, 2021	ongoing	Lisa Grekul	
Candice Deacoff	Honours, English	September, 2016	April, 2017	Lisa Grekul	
Maranda Wilson	Honours, English	September, 2014	April, 2016	Lisa Grekul	
Rhys Mahannah	Honours, English	September, 2011	April, 2012	Lisa Grekul	
Olena Guseva	Honours, English	July, 2007	April, 2008	Lisa Grekul	
Rick Papineau	Honours, English	July, 2007	April, 2008	Lisa Grekul	

Second Reader, Honours Theses

Student Name	Program Type	Year		Principal Supervisor	Co-Supervisor(s)
		Start	Finish		
Natalie Ingram	Honours, English	July, 2009	May, 2010	Margaret Reeves	
Jillian Sinotte	Honours, English	July, 2010	May, 2011	Paul Milton	
Erika Verigin	Honours, English	July, 2017	May, 2018	Janet MacArthur	

Membership, Graduate Program Committees

Student Name	Program Type	Year		Principal Supervisor	Co-Supervisor(s)
		Start	Finish		
Robyn Padwicki	MA, IGS (English and History)	September, 2006	June, 2008	Jennifer Gustar	

Barry Fuller	MA, IGS (English and History)	September, 2007	April, 2011	Janet MacArthur	
Jannik Eikenaar	PhD, IGS (English/Critical Theory)	September, 2009	September, 2015	Jennifer Gustar	
Spela Grasic	MA, English	September, 2012	August, 2014	Janet MacArthur	
Samuel (Peter) Hiles	MA, IGS	January, 2015	February, 2018	Anderson Araujo	
Cole Mash	MA, IGS	September, 2015	August, 2017		Anne Fleming Karis Shearer
Brittini MacKenzie-Dale	MA, IGS	September, 2016	June, 2018	Jodey Castricano	
Victoria Alvarez	MFA, Creative Writing	September, 2017	June, 2019	Matt Rader	
Kohlbey Ozipko	MA, English	September, 2018	January, 2021	Jodey Castricano	
Breanne Chambers	MA, English	September, 2019	In progress	George Grinnell	
Sharon Franklet	MFA, Creative Writing	September, 2019	In progress	Nancy Holmes	
Claire Miller-Harder	MFA Creative Writing	September, 2021	In progress	Nancy Holmes	

University Examinations at UBC-Okanagan (examiner external to students' program committees)

Student Name	Program Type	Year		Principal Supervisor	Co-Supervisor(s)
		Start	Finish		
Samantha Woods	MFA (Creative Writing)	September, 2019	November, 2021	Anne Fleming	
Miriam Huxley	MFA (Creative Writing)	September, 2015	December, 2017	Michael V. Smith	
Lorna Tureski	MFA (Creative Writing)	September, 2010	May, 2014	Michael V. Smith	
Carin Covin	MFA (Visual Arts)	September, 2008	October, 2009	Briar Craig	
Ava Agar	MA, IGS (Psychology)	September, 2007	July, 2009	Michael Woodworth	

Sasha Johnston	MA, IGS (History)	September, 2008	April, 2009	Adam Jones	
Kelsey Wheelhouse	Honours, English	September, 2008	April, 2009	David Jefferess	

Supervision of Other Student Research Projects

I supervised Jill Sinotte, an undergraduate student in the English Majors program, who was awarded a UBC-Okanagan Undergraduate Student Research Award (\$4000) in April, 2010. Her project (“She is ‘Canadian’ Now: Cross-cultural Self-representations of the Female Immigrant Experience in Canadian Autobiography”) was completed on August 31, 2010. Jill produced an article-length paper. I administered her research funds and guided/mentored her through the processes of research, writing, and revisions.

9. **SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

(a) *Areas of special interest and accomplishments*

My research focuses on Canadian writers from “minoritized” backgrounds (indigenous, East Asian Canadian, South Asian Canadian, African Canadian writers); more specifically, I have developed a specialization in writing by Canadians of Central and Eastern European descent. I regularly present papers at conferences and I am active as a reviewer. To date, I have reviewed over 30 books in such journals as *Canadian Literature*, *Canadian Ethnic Studies*, *English Studies in Canada*, *Event*, and the *Journal of Ukrainian Studies*. My most substantial research contributions, however, are *Kalyna’s Song* (Coteau; 2003), *Leaving Shadows: Literature in English by Canada’s Ukrainians* (U of Alberta P, 2005), and *Holodomor: Reflections on the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine* (co-edited with Lubomyr Luciuk; Kashtan, 2008). *Kalyna’s Song*, a novel in its third printing, was shortlisted in 2003 for the Amazon.ca/Books in Canada Best First Novel Award (\$7500) and in 2006 for the inaugural Kobzar Literary Award (\$25,000). *Leaving Shadows: Literature in English by Canada’s Ukrainians* (U of Alberta P, 2005) was shortlisted in 2008 for the Kobzar Literary Award. My co-edited book (with Lindy Ledohowski), *Unbound: Ukrainian Canadians Writing Home* (U of Toronto P, 2016), was awarded the Kobzar Literary Award in 2018.

(b) *Research or equivalent grants*

Granting Agency	Subject	COMP	\$	Year	Principal Investigator
Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko (Literary Arts Program)	<i>Unbound: Ukrainian Canadians Writing Home</i>	C	8,000	2015-2016	Lisa Grekul Lindy Ledohowski
SSHRC Standard Research Grant	<i>(Con)temporary Nomads: Canadian Autobiography and the Search for Home</i>	C	16,037	2009-2010	Lisa Grekul
SSHRC Standard Research Grant	<i>(Con)temporary Nomads: Canadian Autobiography and the Search for Home</i>	C	18,030	2008-2009	Lisa Grekul
SSHRC	<i>(Con)temporary Nomads:</i>	C	16,780	2007 -2008	Lisa Grekul

Standard Research Grant	<i>Canadian Autobiography and the Search for Home</i>				
UBC-Okanagan Internal Grant	<i>Storm in the Tower: Young Women in Canadian Universities</i> (equity issues, related to gender and age, in the university setting)	C	5000	2007-2008	Lisa Grekul
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (Declined)	Diasporic writing by Canadians of Eastern European Descent	C	35,000	2006-2007	Lisa Grekul
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (Declined)	Diasporic writing by Canadians of Eastern European descent	C	30,000	2005-2006	Lisa Grekul
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship	Literature in English by Canadians of Ukrainian descent	C	16,000	2002-2003	Lisa Grekul
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship	Literature in English by Canadians of Ukrainian descent	C	16,000	2001-2002	Lisa Grekul
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship	Literature in English by Canadians of Ukrainian descent	C	16,000	2000-2001	Lisa Grekul
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship	Literature in English by Canadians of Ukrainian descent	C	16,000	1999-2000	Lisa Grekul

(c) *Invited Presentations*

“Teaching the Unspeakable: The *Holodomor* and/in English Literary Studies”

Teaching the *Holodomor*: Commemorating Eighty Years Since the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933

University of Victoria
Victoria, British Columbia
November, 2013

“Bridging the Creative and Critical”

CCS 100 (Creative and Critical Studies 100)
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
Kelowna, British Columbia
September, 2011

"*Walsh: Sharon Pollock Revisions Canadian History*"
International and Aboriginal Constructive Theatre Project
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
Kelowna, British Columbia
October, 2009

"Teaching Assistants in the Classroom" (with Joani Mortenson, PhD student)
Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies TA Workshop Series
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
Kelowna, British Columbia
September, 2009

"Writing Grants" (in panel with Jodey Castricano, Robert Eggleston, and Mercedes Duran Cogan)
Department of Critical Studies Colloquia Series
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
Kelowna, British Columbia
September, 2008

"Memory Everlasting: Post-Peasant Cultural Sensibilities from the Canadian Prairies / The Art and Vision of the Third Generation"
Still the 'Last Best West' or Just Like the Rest?: Interrogating Western Canadian Identities
Centre for the Study of Canada, Thompson Rivers University
Kamloops, British Columbia
Co-presenters: Donald Goodes, Beverley Dobrinski, Norman Nawrocki
September, 2007

"Introduction to the Launch of *Half in the Sun: Anthology of Mennonite Writing*"
The Lake: A Reading Series
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
Kelowna, British Columbia
April, 2007

"Presentation on *Leaving Shadows: Literature in English by Canada's Ukrainians*"
Book Launch
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
Kelowna, British Columbia
March, 2006

"By the Vegreville *Pysanka* I Sat Down and Wept"
Department of Critical Studies Colloquia Series
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
Kelowna, British Columbia
November, 2005

"Excerpts from *Leaving Shadows: An Annotated Reading*"
Cossack Cowboys: The Ukrainian Experience in Alberta
Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies
Edmonton, Alberta
November, 2005

"Listening to *All of Baba's Children*: (Re)discovering Ukrainian Canadian Literature in English"
Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Lecture Series
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
March, 2004

(d) *Other Presentations*

"This is the New Diaspora: Queer Transnationalism and the War in Ukraine"
Immigration, Ethnic Mobilities, Diasporic Communities and Transnationalism in a Transnational World
Canadian Ethnic Studies Association
Banff, Alberta
October, 2018

"Whitewashed Memory: *Blood and Salt* and Canada's First World War Internment Operations"
ACCUTE Conference (Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences)
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta
May, 2016

"*Blood and Salt*: Whiteness, Memory, and Canada's First World War Internment Operations"
FCCS Brown Bag Lunch Series (Research Week)
University of British Columbia—Okanagan
Kelowna, British Columbia
March, 2015

"*Blood and Salt*: Whiteness, Memory, and Canada's First World War Internment Operations"
First World War Lecture Series
Kelowna Military Museum
Kelowna, British Columbia
November, 2014

"Novel Interventions: Narrating Canada's First World War Internment Operations into Public Memory"
Canadian Literature of World War One Conference
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ontario
July/August 2014

"Monstrous Misreadings: Eden Robinson's *Monkey Beach* as ... Northern Gothic?"
FCCS Open Seminar ("Monsters and Significant Others")
Rotary Centre for the Arts
October, 2011

"Bad Guys, Brides, and Buffoons: A Short History of the 'Othered' Europe"
FCCS Faculty Lecture Series
University of British Columbia—Okanagan
October, 2011

"(En)gendering Diasporic Desire: Problematic Patriotism in *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*"
Literatures in English: New Ethical, Cultural, and Transnational Perspectives
Centre for the International Study of Literatures in English

Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec
July, 2011

"The Hyphen's Unbearable Weight: Troubling Hybridity in Fred Wah's *Diamond Grill*"
Sustainability and Change: Studies in BC's Past, Present, and Future Communities
BC Studies Association
University of British Columbia—Okanagan
Kelowna, British Columbia
May, 2011

"Conversations Over Blood: Taras Polataiko and Ukrainian Canada"
Canadian Association of Slavists, Annual Conference
Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia
June, 2008

"Monumental Conflicts: Ukrainian Canadian Communities and the Politics of Memory"
Still the 'Last Best West' or Just Like the Rest?: Interrogating Western Canadian Identities
Centre for the Study of Canada, Thompson Rivers University
Kamloops, British Columbia
September, 2007

"'Rigid' Representations: Ukrainian Characters in Novels of the Ukrainian Diaspora"
Canadian Association of Slavists, Annual Conference
Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
May, 2007

"Monumental Achievements: Reading the Albertan Ukrainian Landscape"
Cossack Cowboys: The Ukrainian Experience in Alberta
Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies
Edmonton, Alberta
November, 2005

"By the Vegreville *Pysanka* I Sat Down and Wept"
Wild Words: Celebrating Alberta's Writing
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta
October, 2005

"Now You Read Me, Now You Don't: Ukrainian Canadian Literature and the 'Invisible' Minority Problem"
Canadian Association of Slavists, Annual Conference
Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario

May, 2005

"Dr. Grekul and Mr. Hyde: Who Has More Power in the Classroom?"

(Un)knowable Violences: Non-innocent Conversations

Department of Women's Studies and Gender Relations

University of British Columbia

Vancouver, British Columbia

Co-presenter: Jana Grekul

March, 2004

"Between Borders, Beyond Bloodlines: Myrna Kostash's Re-imagined Communities"

Ethnicity: Space and Place

Canadian Ethnic Studies Association

Banff, Alberta

October, 2003

"Re-placing Ethnicity: New Approaches to Ukrainian Canadian Literature"

The Postcolonialism and Pedagogy Symposium: Canadian Literatures in the Classroom

University of Ottawa

Ottawa, Ontario

May, 2002

"The Politics of Celebrating (in) the Margins: Multiculturalism and the Ukrainian
Canadian Literary Institution"

Exploring Canadian Identities

Nicholas Copernicus University

Torun, Poland

April, 2001

(e) *Other*

(f) *Conference Participation (Organizer, Keynote Speaker, etc.)*

Co-organizer (with Lindy Ledohowski)

Conversations on Ukrainian Canadian Literature

(A symposium marking the 30th anniversary of the Chair of Ukrainian Studies and the 120th
anniversary of Ukrainian settlement)

University of Toronto

Toronto, Ontario

April, 2011

10. **SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY**

(a) *Memberships on committees*

At University of British Columbia – Okanagan: University Service

Member

IGS Program Committee

September, 2017 – February, 2019

Member
Graduate Council
September, 2017 – February, 2019

Member
BA Review Steering Committee
February, 2017 – September, 2017

Member (as representative from Department of Critical Studies)
Common Undergraduate Experience Committee
October, 2008 – May, 2009

Member
Positive Space/OutWeek Committee
September, 2006 – March, 2007

Member
Distinguished Speakers Series Committee
March, 2006 – August, 2007

At University of British Columbia – Okanagan: Faculty Service (Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies)

Member
Hiring Committee, Creative Writing
March – April, 2020

Member
Hiring Committee, Cultural Studies
April – May, 2018

IGS Program Coordinator
September, 2017 – February, 2019

Member
GPPC
September, 2017 – February, 2019

Member
GASC
September, 2017 – February, 2019

Member
Dean's Advisory Committee on Promotion and Tenure
September, 2014 – August, 2015

Member
FCCS Dean's Advisory Committee
September, 2009 – December, 2009

Member
Studies in Cultures and Texts MA Program Committee
November, 2005 – September, 2006

At University of British Columbia – Okanagan: Department Service (Department of Critical Studies)

Member
Honours English Committee
September, 2021 - present

Member
World Literatures Committee
January, 2017 – January, 2019

Member
MA English Committee
March, 2016 – February, 2019

Chair
English Program Committee
September, 2014 – July 2016

Member
Sessional Hiring Committee
September, 2014 – July 2016

Member
Study Leave Committee
September, 2014 – July 2016

Member
Undergraduate Programs Planning and Coordination Committee
September, 2014 – July 2016

Member
Undergraduate Awards and Honorary Degree Committee
September, 2014 – July 2016

Member
Merit and PSA Committee
May, 2012

Member
Critical Studies Planning Committee
September, 2011 – July, 2012

Member
Critical Studies Teaching and Learning Committee
September, 2011 – July 2016

Member
Hiring Committee for Instructor Position (English)
April, 2011 – May, 2011

Chair
English Program Promotion (“PR”) Committee
November, 2009 – September, 2010

Chair
Hiring Committee for Position in North American Indigenous Literatures
September, 2008 – March, 2009

Member
Hiring Committee for Position in Diasporic Literatures
December, 2005 – May, 2006

Member
First-year English Program Sub-committee
October, 2005 – July 2010

Member
English Program Committee
July, 2005 - present

At University of British Columbia – Vancouver: Faculty Service (Faculty of Arts)

Member
Graduate Teaching Awards Committee
September, 2002 – May, 2003

Chair
Graduate Teaching Awards Committee
September, 2001 – May, 2002

At University of British Columbia – Vancouver: Department Service (Department of English)

Co-chair (with Laura Moss)
Visiting Speakers Committee (Department of English)
September, 2004 – June, 2005

Member (as representative of graduate students)
Graduate Program Committee (Department of English)
September, 1999 – August, 2000

(b) Other service

Presenter, Tutor Training Session
Writing and Research Centre
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
October, 2016

English Information/Recruitment Session (organizer and presenter)
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
March, 2016

Participant (interviewed)
UBCO-TV's "The Next Big Thing"
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
December, 2015 / released March, 2016

Guest speaker (presenting "Svetlana Alexievich")
UBC Okanagan "Nobel Night"
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
December, 2015

Peer Reviewer (Teaching)
for Dr. Constance Crompton (Department of Critical Studies)
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
October/November, 2014

Event organizer
Two presentations by Dr. Marusya Bociurkiw (from Ryerson University)
University of British Columbia – Okanagan; Alternator Gallery, Kelowna
February, 2012

Peer Reviewer (Teaching)
for Dr. Allison Hargreaves (Department of Critical Studies)
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
February, 2012

Peer Reviewer (Teaching)
for Dr. Ilya Parkins (Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences)
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
February, 2012

Participant in External Review
of the Disability Resource Centre
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
January, 2012

Guest speaker, Student Ambassador Training
Organized by Office of Recruitment
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
(Presented information about FCCS to Student Ambassadors)
November, 2011

Organizer, Critical Studies' Showcase for "Community Day"
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
(Organized Critical Studies' participation in "Community Day," designed for members of the community to learn about faculties, departments, programs, and activities on UBC's Okanagan campus)
September, 2011

Organizer, Critical Studies' "Create Showcase"
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
(Organized Critical Studies' participation in the "Create Showcase" on the first day of the academic year; coordinated faculty volunteers, collected promotional material, and planned/facilitated an interactive activity for new students)
September, 2011

Faculty mentor for Claude Desmarais and Karis Shearer
September, 2011 - present

Participant, "Jump Start" Program for New International Students
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
(Met with groups of new international students for informal conversation about the Department of
Critical Studies)
August, 2011

Co-organizer (with Jennifer Gustar), Critical Studies Open Seminar
"Monsters and Significant Others"
July, 2011 – April, 2012

Program Coordinator
Critical Studies
July, 2011 – September, 2012

Guest lecturer, "Degree in a Day" Program
Organized by Office of Recruitment
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
(Gave two, 45-minute mock lectures to prospective high school students to model for them a
university English class)
March, 2011

Guest speaker, Recruitment Session for Vancouver High School Counsellors
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
September, 2010

Guest speaker, "Create / Meet the Deans" Event
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
September, 2010

Guest lecturer, "Degree in a Day" Program
Organized by Office of Recruitment
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
(Gave a 30-minute mock lecture to prospective high school students to model for them a
university English class)
March, 2010

Critical Studies Promotional Video
(One of six faculty members interviewed on film)
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
December, 2009

FCCS Promotional Video
(One of three faculty members interviewed on film)
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
September, 2009

Faculty consultant, Tutor Training
Academic Resource Centre (Writing)
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
September, 2009

Peer Assessor, SSHRC Peer Review Panel
Organized by the Office of Research Services
University of British Columbia – Okanagan

(One SSHRC applications assessed)
September, 2009

Guest lecturer
Organized by Office of Recruitment
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
(Gave a 50-minute mock lecture to prospective high school students to model for them a university English class)
March, 2009

Moderator, panel on “Diaspora”
Borders and Border Crossings – An Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference on Liminality, Hybridity, Mediation, Exchange and Everything In Between
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
March, 2009

Peer Assessor, SSHRC Peer Review Panel
Organized by the Office of Research Services
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
(Seven SSHRC applications assessed)
September, 2008

Keynote Speaker, multi-city “Welcome Sessions”
Organized by Office of Recruitment
(Travelled to Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Victoria, and Nanaimo; spoke about UBC-Vancouver and UBC-Okanagan to prospective students)
April – June, 2008

Faculty Advisor
English Majors Program
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
September, 2007 - present

Keynote Speaker, multi-city “Welcome Sessions”
Organized by Office of Recruitment
(Travelled to Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, and Ottawa; spoke about UBC-Vancouver and UBC-Okanagan to prospective students)
April – June, 2007

Faculty ‘Blogger’
Invitation from the Office of Recruitment
(Maintained a faculty “weblog” aimed at sharing a UBC-Okanagan professor’s perspective with prospective and current students)
January, 2007 – October, 2009

11. **SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

(a) *Memberships on scholarly societies*

Research Fellow
Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Toronto
September, 2010 - present

Member
Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English
January, 2007 – present

Member
Canadian Association of Slavists
May, 2005 – present

Member
Canadian Ethnic Studies Association
September, 2003 – present

Member
Canadian Association for Ukrainian Studies
September, 2003 - present

(b) *Memberships on other societies*

President
Dolyna Ukrainian Cultural Society
Kelowna, British Columbia
May, 2019 – September, 2020

Secretary
Dolyna Ukrainian Cultural Society
Kelowna, British Columbia
September, 2021 - present

(c) *Memberships on scholarly committees*

(d) *Memberships on other committees, including offices held and dates*

(e) *Editorships*

(f) *Reviewer*

The Lion and the Unicorn
One article-length manuscript reviewed
August, 2021

Canadian Literature
One article-length manuscript reviewed
February, 2021

Studies in Canadian Literature
One article-length manuscript reviewed
November, 2020

Wilfred Laurier University Press
One book-length manuscript reviewed
December, 2016

The American Review of Canadian Studies
One article-length manuscript reviewed
June, 2015

The American Review of Canadian Studies
One article-length manuscript reviewed
May, 2014

McGill-Queen's University Press
One book-length manuscript reviewed
April, 2014

McGill-Queen's University Press
One book-length manuscript reviewed
November, 2013

Postcolonial Text
One article-length manuscript reviewed
November, 2013

Coteau Press
One book-length manuscript reviewed
June, 2012

Postcolonial Text
One article-length manuscript reviewed
July, 2011

Coteau Books
One book-length manuscript (novel) assessed
February, 2011

SSHRC Standard Research Grants
One application assessed
January, 2011

Postcolonial Text
One article-length manuscript reviewed
January, 2011

Nelson Education Publishers
One book-length manuscript assessed
March, 2010

SSHRC Standard Research Grants
One application assessed
January, 2010

Postcolonial Text
One article-length manuscript reviewed
September – October, 2009

Canadian Literature
One article-length manuscript reviewed
February – March, 2009

SSHRC Standard Research Grants
One application assessed
February, 2009

Journal of Commonwealth Literature
One article-length manuscript reviewed
June – August, 2008

Canadian Ethnic Studies
One article-length manuscript reviewed
May – August, 2006

Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press
One book manuscript reviewed
November, 2005 – February 2006

University of Alberta Press
One book manuscript reviewed
September, 2004 – August, 2005

Canadian Literature
One article-length manuscript reviewed
May – September, 2002

(g) *External examiner (indicate universities and dates)*

PhD Defense (English)
Candidate: Dana Patrascu-Kingsley
Thesis: *Dynamic Ethnicity and Transcultural Dialogue: A Study of Selected Central- and Eastern European-Canadian Fiction*
York University
Toronto, Ontario
April, 2008

(h) *Consultant (indicate organization and dates)*

(i) *Other service to the community*

12. AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

(a) *Awards for Teaching*

Teaching Honour Roll
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
2016 - 2017

Teaching Honour Roll
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
2011 - 2012

Teaching Honour Roll
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
2009 - 2010

Teaching Honour Roll
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
2008 – 2009

Teaching Honour Roll
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
2006 – 2007

Teaching Honour Roll
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
2005 – 2006

Faculty of Arts Graduate Teaching Assistant Award (\$1000)
University of British Columbia
2000 – 2001

(b) Awards for Scholarship

Kobzar Literary Award (\$25,000)
(for *Unbound: Ukrainian Canadians Writing Home*, co-edited with Lindy Ledohowski)
The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko
March, 2018

Merit Increase, UBC-Okanagan
July, 2010

Faculty Retention Increase, UBC-Okanagan
February, 2010

Merit Increase, UBC-Okanagan
July, 2009

Merit Increase, UBC-Okanagan
July, 2008

Merit Increase, UBC-Okanagan
July, 2007

Merit Increase, UBC-Okanagan
July, 2006

Howard Palmer Memorial Scholarship (\$1500)
Canadian Ethnic Studies Association
October, 2003

Sir James Lougheed Graduate Scholarship (\$20,000)
Government of Alberta
September, 1999 – August, 2000

James Patrick Folinsbee Award for Creative Writing (\$1500)
University of Alberta
August, 1998

Sarah Nettie Christie Prize in English (\$15,000)
University of Alberta
September, 1997 – August, 1998

(c) *Awards for Service*

(d) *Other Awards*

Shortlist for the Kobzar Literary Award (\$25,000)
(book – *Leaving Shadows: Literature in English by Canada's Ukrainians*)
The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko
2008

Shortlist for the Kobzar Literary Award (\$25,000)
(book – *Kalyna's Song*)
The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko
2006

Shortlist for the Amazon.ca/Books in Canada Best First Novel Award (\$7500)
(book – *Kalyna's Song*)
2003

13. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

My new manuscript (a novel, "I Want It So") is under consideration with Turnstone Press.

I am preparing to serve as Distinguished Lecturer for the biannual Ternawecky Lecture Series at the University of Manitoba, in spring, 2022 (delayed because of COVID).

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA***Publications Record*****SURNAME:** Grekul**FIRST NAME:** Lisa**MIDDLE NAME(S):** Michele**Date:** 9 Nov. 2021**1. BOOKS****(a) *Authored***

Leaving Shadows: Literature in English by Canada's Ukrainians. Edmonton: U of Alberta P, 2005. [256 pages]

Kalyna's Song (a novel). Regina: Coteau, 2003. [385 pages]

(b) *Edited*

[with Lindy Ledohowski]. *Unbound: Ukrainian Canadians Writing Home.* Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2016.

My contribution: 50% editorial and author of conclusion.

[with Lubomyr Luciuk]. *Holodomor: Reflections on the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine.* Kingston: Kashtan, 2008. [379 pages]

My contribution: 50% editorial

(c) *Chapters*

"Ukrainian Identities On(the)Line: Writing Ethnicity in a Time of Crisis." *Unbound: Ukrainian Canadians Writing Home.* Ed. Lisa Grekul and Lindy Ledohowski. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2016. 121-35.

2. REFEREED PUBLICATIONS**(a) *Journals***

"'Nothing is forgotten,' or Forgiven: First World War Internment in Barbara Sapergia's *Blood and Salt.* *Canadian Ethnic Studies* (forthcoming, 2022).

"Guns and Tender Cotton: Feminized States in Rawi Hage's *De Niro's Game.*" *University of Toronto Quarterly* 84.2 (2015): 48-69.

"Innate Civility: Whiteness in Camilla Gibb's *Sweetness in the Belly.*" *ARIEL* 41.3-4 (2010): 1-22.

"(Re)reading the Female Ethnic Subject: Vera Lysenko's *Yellow Boots.*" *Journal of Ukrainian Studies* 28:2 (2003): 113 - 127.

[with Sneja Gunew and Margery Fee]. "Myrna Kostash: Ukrainian Canadian Non-Fiction Prairie New Leftist Feminist Canadian Nationalist." *Canadian Literature* 172 (2002): 114 - 143.

My contribution: 50% co-author

(b) *Conference Proceedings*

"The Doomed Genre: Myrna Kostash and the Limits of Non-fiction." *Wild Words: Essays on Alberta Literature*. Ed. Donna Coates and George Melnyk. Edmonton: Athabasca UP, 2008. 173-189.

"Re-placing Ethnicity: New Approaches to Ukrainian Canadian Literature." *Home-Work: Postcolonialism, Pedagogy, and Canadian Literature*. Ed. Cynthia Sugars. Ottawa: U of Ottawa, 2004. 369 - 383.

(c) *Other*

"(Un)settling the West: Georgina Binnie-Clark's *Wheat and Woman*." *Views from the Edge--Occasional Working Papers [UBC Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations]* 9:1 (2000): 23 - 33.

3. NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

(a) *Journals*

"Diasporic Cartography: Mapping the Ukrainian Canadian Literary Landscape." *Kalyna Journal: Studies in European Diasporic Literatures and Identities* 1:1 (2007): 13 - 18. [online]

"Reading the Writing on the Wall." *Canadian Children's Literature* 31:2 (2005): 112 - 127.

(b) *Conference Proceedings*

"Bad Guys, Brides, and Buffoons: A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian and the 'Othered' Europe." *Literatures in English: New Ethical, Cultural and Transnational Perspectives*. Ed. Michael Kenneally, Rhona Richman Kenneally, and Wolfgang Zach. Tuebingen: Stauffenburg (2012): 11-24.

(c) *Other*

"Guilty Pleasures." *Reading Writers Reading*. Ed. Danielle Schaub. Jerusalem; Edmonton: Magnes; U of Alberta P, 2006. 212 - 213.

"Putting Self-Help 'Leviathans' and 'Oracles' to Sleep: A Discussion of Anthony Robbins' *Awaken the Giant Within* and James Redfield's *The Celestine Prophecy*." *Intersections: Essays in the Sciences and Humanities*. Ed. Steven Scott, Don Perkins and Erika Rothwell. Scarborough: Prentice Hall, 1999. 327 - 332.

4. PATENTS

5. SPECIAL COPYRIGHTS

6. ARTISTIC WORKS, PERFORMANCES, DESIGNS

7. OTHER WORKS

(a) *Book Reviews*

"Undertaking the Impossible." Review of *Beirut Hellfire Society* by Rawi Hage. *Canadian Literature* 240 (2020): 154-6.

"#IncisiveIllumination." Review of *Asianfail: Narratives of Disenchantment and the Model Minority* by Eleanor Ty. *Contemporary Women's Writing* 12:1 (2018): 124-5.

Review of *Rites of Passage in Postcolonial Women's Writing* edited by Pauline Dodgson-Katiyo and Gina Wisker. *ARIEL* 42.2 (2011): 177-79.

"Risky Business." Review of *The Golden Mean* by Annabel Lyon and *Burmese Lessons* by Karen Connelly. *Canadian Literature* 207 (2010): 154-56..

"Generic Expectations." Review of *Century* by Ray Smith and *Eva's Threepenny Theatre* by Andrew Steinmetz. *Canadian Literature* 207 (2010): 171-72.

Review of Margaret Sweatman's *The Players* and Rhea Tregebov's *The Knife Sharpener's Bell*. *Event* 39.1 (2010): 112-116.

"Narrating Tragedy." Review of *Red Dog, Red Dog* by Patrick Lane, *February* by Lisa Moore, and *Come, Thou Tortoise* by Jessica Grant. *Canadian Literature* 203 (2009): 172-175.

Review of Marusya Bociurkiw's *Comfort Food for Breakups: The Memoir of a Hungry Girl*. *Canadian Ethnic Studies* 39:3 (2007): 244-245. [PUBLISHED IN 2009]

Review of *History, Literature, and the Writing of the Canadian Prairie* edited by Alison Calder and Robert Wardhaugh. *English Studies in Canada* 33:3 (2007): 198-200. [PUBLISHED IN 2009]

Review of Roman Fodchuk's *Zhorna: Material Culture of the Ukrainian Pioneers*. *Alberta Views* June (2008): 57.

"Removing Masks." Review of *Gargoyles* by Bill Gaston and *The Communist's Daughter* by Dennis Bock. *Canadian Literature* 195 (2007): 143-145.

"Uncomplicated Luck." Review of Miriam Toews' *The Summer of My Amazing Luck*. *Canadian Literature* 195 (2007): 185-187.

Review of *Augustino and the Choir of Destruction* by Marie-Claire Blais, *Delible* by Anne Stone, and *The Bone Sharps* by Tim Bowling. *Event* 36:3 (2007): 107-113.

"Inspiring and Uninspired." Review of *All of Baba's Children* by Myrna Kostash and *Kobzar's Children: A Century of Untold Ukrainian Stories* edited by Marsha Skrypuch. *Canadian Literature* 194 (2007): 145 - 147.

Review of *Casualties* by Terrence Heath. *Canadian Ethnic Studies* 38:2 (2006): 213-214.

Escaping Prisons." Review of *The Time In Between* by David Bergen and *The Lizard Cage* by Karen Connelly. *Canadian Literature* 191 (2006): 170-173.

"Rethinking Ukrainian Canadian Identity." Review of *All of Baba's Great-grandchildren: Ethnicity in the Next Canada* by Myrna Kostash and *Dark Ghost in the Corner: Imagining Ukrainian-Canadian Identity* by Janice Kulyk Keefer. *Journal of Ukrainian Studies* 31:1-2 (2006): 234–238.

"This Much is True." Review of *The Memory Man* by Lisa Appignanesi and *Any Day But This: Stories* by Kristjana Gunnars. *Canadian Literature* 189 (2006): 177-179.

Review of *The Honourable Member for Vegreville: The Memoirs and Diary of Anthony Hlynka, MP (1940-1949)* edited by Oleh Gerus and Denis Hlynka. *Canadian Ethnic Studies* 38:1 (2006): 182-183.

"Finding the Right Place to Read." Review of *Making Light of Tragedy* by Jessica Grant, *Poached Egg on Toast* by Frances Itani, and *Shack: The Cutland Junction Stories* by Kenneth J. Harvey. *Event* 34:2 (2005): 105-108.

"Doing Justice." Review of *A Bare and Impolitic Right: Internment and Ukrainian-Canadian Redress* by Bohdan Kordan and Craig Mahovsky and *Diaspora and Multiculturalism: Common Traditions and New Developments* edited by Monika Fludernik. *Canadian Literature* 186 (2005): 148-150.

Review of *Between Mountains* by Maggie Helwig. *Canadian Literature* 186 (2005): 193.

Review of *The Wild Rose Anthology of Alberta Prose* edited by Tamara Palmer Seiler and George Melnyk. *Canadian Ethnic Studies* 36:1 (2004): 135-137.

"Truth and Time." Review of *The Long Stretch* by Linden Macintyre and *Robbiestime* by Don Dickenson. *Canadian Literature* 177 (2003): 161-163.

"More of the Same." Review of *Tricks with a Glass: Writing Ethnicity in Canada* edited by Rocio Davis and Rosalia Baena, *The Ukrainian Wedding* by Larry Warwaruk, and *Two Lands: New Visions: Stories from Canada and Ukraine* edited by Solomea Pavlychko and Janice Kulyk Keefer. *Canadian Literature* 178 (2003): 121–124.

"What's a Ukrainian Writer, Mate?" Review of *I'm Ukrainian, Mate!: New Australian Generation of Poets* edited by Sonia Mycak. *Journal of Ukrainian Studies* 28:2 (2003): 144–145.

"(Re)defining Memoir." Review of *The Doomed Bridegroom: A Memoir* by Myrna Kostash and *The Vintage Book of Canadian Memoirs* edited by George Fetherling. *Canadian Literature* 172 (2002): 167-169.

(b) *Electronic Media*

"Di Brandt". <<http://www.canadianencyclopedia.ca>>.

"Myrna Kostash". <<http://www.canadianencyclopedia.ca>>.

8. WORK SUBMITTED

I recently completed my second novel. "I Want It So"—set primarily in an (unspecified) prairie town during the present, and devised as a contemporary re-imagining of Sinclair Ross's *As For Me and My House*—chronicles a fraught year in the life of its unnamed narrator. The novel begins when our narrator, the older daughter of Elsie

and Walter Holowaychuk, comes home from the city to help care for her terminally-ill dad. As the story of Walter's final months unfolds, so too do details of his two daughters' unhappy marriages and the long-strained relationships between the sisters. Few relationships, in fact, emerge from the narrative as fully functional. The plot is propelled as much by the deterioration of Walter's health as it is by the deteriorating relationships of those who will survive him, and questions about whether or not these relationships, unlike Walter's life, can be saved.

Although "I Want It So" is a stand-alone novel, it will feel familiar to avid readers of CanLit, who will recognize parallels to Ross's 1941 classic. The idea for the story came to me several years ago, when I was teaching *As For Me and My House* for the dozenth time and making claims, as I routinely do, about the "timelessness" of Mrs. Bentley's narrative. I found myself wondering how timeless Mrs. Bentley really is. What would happen if she, or a version of her, were plunked into a more contemporary setting? Same sort of small, prairie town, with a similar cast of characters, but, say, 80 or so years later. How would she fare? How would they all?

While my Mrs. Bentley is not an exact reincarnation Ross's, the similarities between the two are unmistakable. Both are savvy and often self-aware yet prone to misreading and self-pity. Not unlike Mrs. Bentley before her, my narrator faces a number of obstacles to happiness, some of her own making: she has been married to Ross, an aspiring but directionless musician, for 20 years; her own ambitions of becoming a writer have gone nowhere, in part because of her fierce pragmatism (which explains her career as a nurse and fixation on owning a house). A woman of contradictions and inconsistencies, she is torn between meeting others' (especially her parents') expectations and freeing herself from them. Her return to her parents' home—in the immediate aftermath of her two failed attempts at having a baby, via in vitro fertilization—throws into sharp relief the tensions between performances of duty, as she sees them (being a good daughter, a good wife, a good mother), and their alternatives.

What are these alternatives? My novel's ambiguities and absent details (its unspecified geographical setting, Walter's never-explicitly-spelled-out illness, his older daughter's/our narrator's missing first name) echo the narrator's fundamental lack of clarity about what it is that she wants. *As For Me and My House* is marked by similar ambiguities which have frustrated readers for decades (who, or what, is to blame for the Bentleys' dysfunctional marriage? Is Mrs. Bentley's husband the father of the baby they wind up adopting? Does Mrs. Bentley actually want to adopt the child?).

Without giving away the conclusion to the story of my Mrs. Bentley, I will say that it is less ambivalent and more hopeful. Read alongside *As For Me and My House*, "I Want It So" affirms the timelessness of Ross's insights into "false-fronted" relationships, even as it envisions a different ending for its "false-fronted" characters. Read on its own terms, my novel, in its examination of grief, loss, and longing, illustrates that the anguished process of healing begins with baby steps, slight adjustments, and small acts of courage.

The novel is under consideration with Turnstone Press.