

## Inara Verzemnieks

MFA University of Iowa, English, 2013

BA University of Washington, Communications/Journalism, 1996

### Professional Appointments

2015-present Assistant Professor, English, University of Iowa  
2014-2015 Visiting Assistant Professor, English, Oregon State University  
1997-2009 Staff Writer, The Oregonian Newspaper, Portland, Oregon

### Professional Awards and Honors

2018 Early Career Faculty Scholar of the Year, University of Iowa  
2018 Beinecke Library Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Yale University  
2017 Anšlavs Eglītis and Veronika Janelšina Literary Prize, for outstanding contributions to Latvian art and culture  
2017 Fulbright-Hays Award from the U.S. State Department to travel to Latvia to lead creative writing classes and to speak about my book  
2016 Best American Nonrequired Reading, for the essay “Homer Dill’s Undead”  
2014 Pushcart Prize, for the essay “The Last Days of the Baldock”  
2014 B. Frank Vogel Tuition Scholar, Breadloaf  
2012 Rona Jaffe Writer’s Award  
2007 Finalist, The Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing

### Professional Service

2018-Present Contributing Editor, Speculative Nonfiction  
2015-2016 Reviewed two nonfiction manuscripts for The University of Nevada Press and Palgrave MacMillan

### Refereed Scholarship/Creative Work

**Books:** *Among the Living and the Dead: A Tale of Exile and Homecoming*, W.W. Norton (US) and Pushkin Press (UK); reviewed in such publications as *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Telegraph*; *Times (of London)* 2018 Best History Book of the Year; a Kirkus starred review; named a *New York Times Sunday Book Review* Editors’ Choice; the *Brooklyn Rail* and *Minneapolis Star Tribune* Best Books of 2017

**Journalism and Essays:** “Erica Cantona: A Love Story,” *Gutter Literary Magazine* (2018); “Stay,” *Upstreet Literary Magazine* (2017); “Life in Obamacare’s Dead Zone,” *The New York Times Magazine* (2016); “Homer Dill’s Undead,” *The Iowa Review* (2015); “America at its Plainest,” *The New York Times Magazine* (2013); “The Last Days of the Baldock,” *Tin House* (2013)

**Anthology inclusions:** *Best American Nonrequired Reading* (2016; Houghton Mifflin Harcourt); *I'll Tell You Mine: Thirty Years of Essays from the Iowa Nonfiction Writing Program* (2015; University of Chicago Press); *Pushcart Prize XXXIX* (2014; W.W. Norton)

**Conference and Invited Presentations:** 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Presidential Lecture, University of Guam (2019); James Jones Lecture, Eastern Illinois University (2018); Edinburgh International Book Festival (2018); The Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, Stanford University (2018); Water-Stone Summer Writing Workshop, invited faculty, Hamline University (2018); Association of Writers and Writing Programs, five panel presentations since 2015; NonfictionNow, four panel presentations since 2015

### **Teaching Areas/Specialized Courses:**

**Graduate:** “A History of the Essay,” a seminar typically enrolling 18 students; “The Resurrectionists: The Art of Literary Reconstruction in Nonfiction, a seminar typically enrolling 18 students; “Still Life: The Fine Art of Literary Portraiture from Immersive Biographies to the Brief Character Sketch,” a graduate seminar capped at 18 students; “Essay Writing Workshop,” a graduate-level creative writing workshop typically enrolling 10 students

**Undergraduate:** “Special Topics in Creative Writing: Literary Journalism,” an upper level workshop/seminar typically enrolling 18 students; “Remix: Tracing the History of the Essay through Literary Mashups, Samples, Covers and Collage,” a reading-intensive introductory seminar capped at 18 students; “Personal Writing: Literary Portraiture,” a workshop/seminar typically enrolling 18 students; “Advanced Essay Writing Workshop,” an upper level workshop typically enrolling 18 students.

**Thesis Direction:** chair for five English undergraduate honors students since 2013; eight MFA students; committee member for 11 MFA students

### **Service to the Institution**

**Department:** Nonfiction Writing Program Advisory Committee; Co-Director of the Nonfiction Writing Program Visiting Writer Series; Nonfiction Writing Program Admissions Committee; Chair of Nonfiction Writing Program Summer Internships for Undergraduates; English Executive Committee (2016-2017); Director of Undergraduate Nonfiction Writing (2016-2017); Chair of Nonfiction Writing Program Community Master Classes (2016-2017); Member of Undergraduate Nonfiction Writing (2015)

**University:** CLAS Faculty Processional Representative, Commencement (2018)