

SAM RISAK

1350 Neil Ave Unit M
Columbus, OH, 43201

sam.r.risak@gmail.com
samrisak.com

EDUCATION

PhD, English Literature	<i>Expected Spring 2028</i>
<i>The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH — Focus: addiction narratives, 4.0 GPA</i>	
MFA, Creative Writing MA, English Literature	<i>Spring 2021</i>
<i>Chapman University, Orange, CA — 3.98 GPA</i>	
Thesis: "The Ubume Challenge: A Digital Environmental Humanities Project"	
BA, Women's & Gender Studies BA, Creative Writing	<i>Spring 2017</i>
<i>University of South Florida, Tampa, FL — Honors College, 3.95 GPA</i>	

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Personal Essays

"Waiting for the Punchline," graphic essay, *The Florida Review*, *Fall 2025*
"The Tap Out," *The Sun*, *June 2025*
"Reroute," *The Pinch*, *June 2025*
"Fatherhood: A Case Study," *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Oct. 2021*

Articles & Reviews

"April Sunami Finds a Sacred Space," *Matter News*, *Jan. 2026*
"Picture (im)perfect: comics in narrative medicine," *Medical Humanities*, *Dec. 2025*
"Review: The Ubume Challenge," *Journal of American Folklore*, *Aug. 2023*
"Review of Threa Almontaser's *Wild Fox of Yemen*," *Barrelhouse*, *April 2021*
"Is Invasive Species a Capitalist Term," *Anastamos*, *April 2020*
"Life in the Residue," *Terrain.org*, *Oct. 2020*
"Review: Mitochondrial Night," *Entropy*, *July 2019*
"A Sidelined People: On the Crisis in Palestine," *LARB*, *Nov. 2018*

Interviews

"Coming of Age in Florida's Turbulent Waters," Interview with Arielle Hebert, *Electric Literature*, *July 2026*
"Lesson Plan: Pranav Jani on Free Speech and College Activism," *The Sun*, *April 2026*
"The Strong, Silent Type: Jaclyn A. Siegel on Masculinity and Male Body Image," *The Sun*, *March 2023*
"Ghosts Know No Boundaries: Interview with Massoud Hayoun," *Chicago Review of Books*, *Dec. 2022*
"How Do You Exist in a World that Sees You as Monster or as Ghost: Interview with Christian J. Collier," *Electric Literature*, *March 2022*
"Hybrid Interview: Ira Sukrungruang," *CRAFT Literary*, *Dec. 2022*
"Interview with Nancy Kuhl," *TAB: The Journal of Poetry & Poetics*, *April 2023*
"Hybrid Interview: Tyler Gillespie," *CRAFT Literary*, *July 2021*
"Interview with TAB Poets: Brent Armendinger, Angela Pañaredondo, and Michelle Brittan Rosado," *TAB*, *Nov. 2021*
"A Conversation with Carolyn Forché," *The Writer's Chronicle*, *Nov. 2020*
"No Horse, No America: Interview with Deanne Stillman," *Anastamos*, *April 2020*

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Brian McHale Award for Best Graduate Paper in Narrative Studies	<i>OSU, 2026</i>
English Graduate Human Rights Award	<i>OSU, 2024</i>

Project Narrative Travel Grant	<i>OSU, Spring 2026</i>
English Travel Grant	<i>OSU, Spring 2026</i>
Greater Columbus Arts Council Funds for Artists	<i>GCAC, Summer 2025</i>
Tom Massey Award for Outstanding MFA/MA Student	<i>Chapman, 2021</i>
HASTAC Scholar	<i>2020–2022</i>
Graduate Student Research Showcase Award	<i>Chapman, 2020</i>
MFA in Creative Writing Fellow	<i>Chapman, 2018–2020</i>
Tin House Summer Workshop Fellow	<i>2021</i>
Dorland Mountain Artist Colony Scholar	<i>2019</i>
LARB Publishing Workshop Fellow	<i>2017</i>
Harrison Middleton Fellowship in Ideas	<i>2017</i>
Thomas E. Sanders Scholarship in Creative Writing	<i>USF, 2016</i>
Engaging the Humanities Undergraduate Award	<i>USF, 2016</i>
Seide Research Scholarship	<i>USF, 2014</i>

SERVICE & COMMUNITY

Liberation At the Margins (LAM), Member — Ohio State University, 2025–Present

Collective committed to prison education and Black feminist pedagogy; taught writing workshops at the Marysville Women's Prison

Humanities & Cognitive Sciences Summer Institute, Team Leader— Ohio State University, July 13-17, 2026

Led and mentored high school students during a week-long interdisciplinary institute exploring major questions at the intersection of the humanities and cognitive sciences.

American Association of University Professors (AAUP), OSU Chapter, Communications Board Member — Ohio State University, August 2025–April 2026

Created comics for social media to raise visibility around academic freedom issues on campus

Recovery Education Institute, Memoir Workshop Instructor — April–June 2019

Taught nine-week course for adult learners with mental illnesses

Heartbeat of Mexico: Creative Writers Youth Project, Mentor — Santa Ana, CA, May 2019

Prepared high-school poets for a reading and discussion panel showcasing their work

Tampa Museum of Art, Docent — Aug.–Dec. 2016

Led discussion-based tours designed for individuals with mental illnesses

University of South Florida, Honors Peer Mentor — May–Dec. 2015

Taught a special topics course for Honors freshmen; built community within the Honors College

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor / Teaching Assistant — Ohio State University *Aug. 2023–Present*

Courses: First-Year English Composition; U.S. Literature 1865–Present; Introduction to Film; Writing About Video Games; Writing About Addiction; Feminist Perspectives on Addiction (taught at Marysville Women's Prison); Drug Use in American Culture; Addicting Drugs

Instructor — Orange County School of the Arts *Aug. 2020–May 2021*

Course: Core Short Story

Instructor — Chapman University *Aug. 2019–Dec. 2021*

Courses: Rhetoric and Composition: Writing About the Environment; Writing About Horror

Graduate Writing Assistant — Chapman University *May 2019–2021*

RESEARCH & EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Sweet: A Literary Confection — Senior Editor, Creative Nonfiction	<i>Sept. 2022–2025</i>
Led reading and acquisition process; scheduled pieces and managed author correspondence	
Ohio State University — Research Assistant	<i>2024–2025</i>
Organized research materials for Prof. Thomas Davis's book on artist William H. Johnson; copyedited an anthology for Dr. Lily Sheehan	
Two Dollar Radio — Copyeditor	<i>Sept. 2022–Aug. 2023</i>
Line-edited, fact-checked, and corresponded with authors over developmental edits	
CRAFT Literary — Senior Editor, Interviews & Craft Essays	<i>June 2020–Sept. 2022</i>
Acquired interviews and critical essays; copyedited and proofread to Chicago Manual Style; selected and provided alt-text for art; constructed social media posts and newsletters	
TAB: The Journal for Poetry & Poetics — Editorial Assistant	<i>July 2020–Sept. 2022</i>
Interviewed poets, wrote reviews, and read submissions for a journal prioritizing visual innovation	
Chapman University — Research/Teaching Assistant	<i>Jan.–July 2019</i>
Located and contacted sources and research materials for Susan Paterno's <i>Game On: Beating the College Admissions Industrial Complex</i> (St. Martin's Press, 2021). Copyedited and formatted Dr. Ian Barnard's <i>Sex Panic Rhetorics, Queer Interventions</i> (University of Alabama Press, 2020) according to Chicago style.	

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

"Bad Romance: On Writing Difficult Relationships," AWP	<i>March 2026</i>
"Addiction Studies in the Humanities and in Prison," HECAOD	<i>Oct. 2025</i>
"An Illusive Remembrance: How Comics and Museums Spatialize Memory," CUNY	<i>Nov. 2024</i>
Comic Scholars Panel, Crossroads Columbus	<i>Sept. 2024</i>
Chesapeake Digital Humanities Consortium — "The Ubume Challenge"	<i>Feb. 2021</i>

RESIDENCIES & WORKSHOPS

Sweet Retreat: Chiang Mai — Co-founder and host with Ira Sukrungruang	<i>June 2025</i>
Spatial Humanities: Exploring GIS in the Humanities (ArcGIS training)	<i>June 2021</i>
Intensive Poetry Workshop with Carolyn Forché	<i>Sept. 2020</i>
Craft Intensive with Marie-Hélène Bertino, Tin House	<i>March 2019</i>
Narrative Nonfiction Workshop with Rebecca Skloot	<i>March 2019</i>
Down the Rabbit Hole: Writing the Seductive First Sentence (with Laurie Stone)	<i>Oct. 2018</i>

READINGS

Reading with Elena Kay Herren, Two Dollar Radio	<i>May 2023</i>
Reading with Travis Lau and Ira Sukrungruang, Two Dollar Radio	<i>March 2023</i>
Reading with Dr. Sunita Puri, Write to Read Series	<i>June 2019</i>
Reading with Tyler Gillespie, Read Herring Literary Series	<i>Dec. 2019</i>
Reading with Animal Riot Press	<i>Aug. 2019</i>