

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
**SARA SAMS**  
**Assistant Professor, Department of English**  
**+1 (865) 384-3577**  
**sasams@arizona.edu**

**CHRONOLOGY OF EDUCATION**

- May 2013                      M.F.A., Creative Writing, with emphasis in poetry, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ  
Thesis title: *Atom City*  
Thesis director: Cynthia Hogue  
Committee members: Norman Dubie and Sally Ball
- May 2008                      B.A. in English with Honors, Davidson College, Davidson, NC  
Major fields: English Literature, with special emphasis in creative writing, contemporary poetics, modern American poetry, literary theory, environmental history  
Minor field: Spanish, Spanish literature, and the history of Spain  
Honors thesis title: *Arroyos: Poems*  
Thesis director: Jason Koo  
Committee members: Gail Gibson; Therese Svoboda; Elizabeth Mills
- Summer 2006                      Transfer coursework, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK, Davidson Summer Intensive at Corpus Christi College
- Fall 2006                      Transfer credit, Spanish Language & Literature Intensive, La Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain

**CHRONOLOGY OF EMPLOYMENT**

- 2022-ongoing                      Assistant Professor of English, University of Arizona
- 2021-2022                      Instructor, English, College of Integrative Sciences and Arts, Writers' Studio, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- 2019-2021                      Lecturer, Department of English, Foundations Writing Program, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- 2017-2019                      Instructor, College of Integrative Sciences and Arts, Interdisciplinary Humanities & Communication/Writers' Studio, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

2014-2016	Instructor, Department of English, Writing Programs, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
2013-2014	Faculty Associate, Department of English, Writing Programs, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
2013-2014	Adjunct Faculty, English, Paradise Valley Community College, Phoenix, AZ
2010-2013	Teaching Assistant, Department of English, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

### **HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2016	Teaching Fellowship, Ministry of Education of Spain
2014	Virginia G. Piper Fellowship (South East Asia Global Writer's Residency)
2013	Teaching Excellence Award, Graduate and Professional Student Association, Arizona State University
2012	Teaching Fellowship, National University of Singapore
2010-2012	Piper Center Academic Fellowship, Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing
2004-2008	Patricia Cornwell Scholarship for Excellence in Writing, Davidson College
2006	Dean Rusk International Travel Grant, Dean Rusk International Studies Center at Davidson College

### **SERVICE/OUTREACH IN RANK**

#### **National/International Outreach**

2022-2025	Poetry Editor, <i>Identity Theory</i> , national literary magazine
-----------	--

#### **Local/State Outreach**

2025	Director, Young Arizona Writers' Workshop
2023	Director, Young Arizona Writers' Workshop

2023	Creator, April Poetry Series: AZ Meets California Poetry Reading, featuring artists Susan Nguyen, Sofia Dey, Brian Seung Heon Kim, & Jo Blair Cipriano
2022	Promoted local literary events (UA Poetry Center, Splinter Collective)

## College

2025	Developing interdisciplinary speaker series with the Physics Department
2022	Faculty Lead, Language and Literature in the UK Program, planning and promotion for summer 2023

## Departmental

2025	Junior Faculty Representative, English Department Council
2024	Member, Undergraduate Scholarship Committee
2023-present	Member, Undergraduate Creative Writing Committee
2022-present	Member, MFA in Creative Writing Graduate Admissions Committee, English Department
2022	Member, SPFI Hiring Committee (Dr. M'Balia Thomas), English Department

## PUBLICATIONS/CREATIVE ACTIVITY

[All publications have been editorially reviewed which is the standard in creative writing. "+" indicates additional anonymous peer review.]

### Books

+*Atom City*, Finishing Line Press, May 2021.

### Pedagogy

"Press Play," *Poetry for Composition Writers*, forthcoming 2025.

### Poetry Appearing in Edited Collections

"There's a Place They Almost Get To," *AND LOVE*, Jacar Press, 2012.

### Poetry Appearing in Literary Magazines and Journals

"The Middle of Everything, Horoscope Podcast," *Puerta del Sol* (Fall 2024)

"Postpartum Psychology III," *Shenandoah* (forthcoming Spring 2025)

“The First Book of Rita Imogene” & “Prophecy After the Death of a Daughter,” *Chapter House Journal*, Fall 2019

“Decayed Ghazal,” *Alternating Currents* (March 2019)

“Appraisal Report: Atom City,” *Now & Then: The Appalachian Magazine* Vol. 32 No. 1, Winter 2015

“Coming to Terms with Your Nuclear Heritage: Deploying,” *Matter Monthly*, Issue 14, Winter 2015

“Song for a Hometown Prophet,” “In Her Head She Answers Differently,” *Elke: A Little Journal*, Fall 2015

“Coming to Terms with Your Nuclear Heritage: Medical,” *The Volta, They Will Sew the Blue Sail*, Issue 45, Fall 2015

“The Marriage Voyage of Juan Ramón Jiménez,” *Blackbird*, Vol 12 No 1, Fall 2013

“Pedro Salinas and the Greatest Spanish Love Poem,” “Doña Juana La Loca,” and “Art History at the Prado,” *Hinchas de Poesía* No. 9 [[www.hinchasdepoesia.com](http://www.hinchasdepoesia.com)], Spring 2013

"Montreat" and "Pedro Salinas and the Greatest Spanish Love Poem," *Hoarse Quarterly*, No. 6, Spring 2012

“Mountain Song,” “Conocimiento,” & “Psalm for Agehya,” *Contexts Journal Volume 5*, The New School, 2010

### **Translations Appearing in Literary Magazines and Journals**

“Rotational Equilibrium” by Adriana Bañares, *Spilled Milk*, [<http://www.spilledmilkmagazine.com/issue06>] Issue 6

“Poems” by David Leo García, *The Drunken Boat* [[www.thedrunkenboat.com/davidleogarcia.html](http://www.thedrunkenboat.com/davidleogarcia.html)], Spring 2011

### **Interviews Conducted for Literary Magazines and Journals**

“In the Dark Room: Kelsey Dayle John & Santana Shorty,” *Identity Theory*, forthcoming Spring 2025.

“In the Dark Room: deep ganguli & Alan Michael Parker,” *Identity Theory*, Fall 2023.

“Voluntourism,” *Virginia G. Piper Blog* [[piper.asu.edu](http://piper.asu.edu)], August 2015

“Hunger: Man’s Coral Reef: An Encounter with *The Heights of Macchu Picchu*,” *Waxwing Magazine* [[waxwingmag.org](http://waxwingmag.org)], Spring 2015

“Winter/Spring Poetry Roundup,” *Hayden’s Ferry Review Blog*  
[haydensferryreview.blogspot.com], Spring 2012

## **Nonfiction Appearing in Literary Magazines and Journals**

“Authenticity and Shame in the Time of Shakira,” *March Danceness*. March 2024.

“A Conversation with Tina Chang: An Interview with the Poet,” *Four Way Books Blog*  
[http://fourwaybooks.tumblr.com/post/41796435887/tina-chang-in-conversation-with-sara-sams], Spring 2013

“On Translating Mikhail Aizenburg: An Interview with translator J.Kates,” *Hayden’s Ferry Review*, 51, Winter 2012.

“Bridgework: A Conversation with the Poet Marilou Awiakta,” *Revelader* [www.revelader.com], Winter/Spring 2010.

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

*Real Interior*, poetry manuscript; a few poems have been accepted by literary journals and are forthcoming, and other excerpts have been shared in 2023 featured readings. 60 of the anticipated 70 pages have been completed.

*Step Sisters of the Stranger Kind*, novel manuscript; 250 of an anticipated 400 pages have been completed.

“Wave vs. Particle Poetics,” a scholarly article about contemporary poetics and the influence of particle physics since modernism. Research and drafting have grown in scope and are in progress.

“In the Dark Room: An Interdisciplinary Interview Series,” a nonfiction interview series that pairs poets with scientists for an editorialized conversation (*Identity Theory Magazine*); one iteration has been published; two iterations have been drafted; four have been researched.

## **MEDIA**

### **Recordings**

“Stellar Alumni Reading Series, Arizona State University: Sara Sams,”  
[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thnK-0z5Gks>]

“Atom City Book Trailer,”  
[[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nZxFv\\_pvmA&ab\\_channel=SaraSams](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nZxFv_pvmA&ab_channel=SaraSams)]

“Weller Book Works Presents: Susan Nguyen, Sara Sams, and Bo Schwabacher,”  
[[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2FFwAbSD6Q&ab\\_channel=WellerBookWorks](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2FFwAbSD6Q&ab_channel=WellerBookWorks)]

## CONFERENCES/SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS (in rank)

### Invited Reading (sharing and conversation of creative work that comes with honorarium)

2024	Featured reader in upcoming LHUCA series, Texas Tech University
2023	Panelist, University of Arizona Poetry Center: On First Book Collections, Desert Nights Rising Stars Conference
2023	Featured reader at New Mexico State University Poetry Series (October), Las Cruces, NM
2023	Stellar Alumni Reading Series, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
2022	Featured Reading, Splinter Collective, Tucson, Arizona
2022	Featured Reading, <i>Hayden's Ferry Review</i> Release Party, Phoenix, AZ

### Conference Participant

2024	Tremont Writers' Conference
2024	American Literary Translators Association
2023	American Literary Translators Association