Cecilia Savala

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EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts. Creative writing, poetry.
Arizona State University (ASU). Tempe, AZ. May 2024.

Bachelor of Arts. English, creative writing.
University of Central Missouri (UCMO). Warrensburg, MO. May 2021.
Minors in psychology and instructional technology.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Faculty Adjunct, GateWay Community College, Maricopa Community Colleges. 2025-2026.
Fall 2026
ENG 101 First Year Composition, online (1 session).
ENG 102 First Year Composition, hybrid (1 session).
Spring 2026
ENG 101 First Year Composition, online (1 session).
ENG 102 First Year Composition (1 session).
Fall 2025
ENG 101 First Year Composition (1 session).
ENG 101 First Year Composition, online (1 session).
ENG 102 First Year Composition, hybrid (1 session).
Spring 2025
ENG 102 First Year Composition, hybrid (1 session).

Clinical Assistant Professor, Arizona State University. 2024-2026.
Fall 2026
ENG 101 First Year Composition (3 sessions).
ENG 302 Business Writing, online (1 session).
Summer 2026
ENG 302 Business Writing, online (1 session).
Spring 2026
ENG 387 Creative Writing: Intermediate Poetry (1 session).
Fall 2025
ENG 251 Reading As a Writer (1 session).
Spring 2025
ENG 387 Creative Writing: Intermediate Poetry (1 session).
Fall 2024
ENG 387 Creative Writing: Intermediate Poetry (1 session).

Instructor, Arizona State University. 2024.
Summer 2024
ENG 302 Business Writing, online (3 sessions).

Graduate Teaching Associate. Arizona State University. 2021-2024.
Spring 2024
ENG 594 Teaching First Year Composition (1 session).
Fall 2023

ENG 101 First Year Composition, hybrid (1 session).
ENG 594 Teaching First Year Composition (1 session).

Summer 2023
ENG 102 First Year Composition, online (1 session).

Spring 2023
ENG 102 First Year Composition (1 session).

Fall 2022
ENG 102 First Year Composition (1 session).
ENG 387 Creative Writing: Intermediate Poetry (1 session).

Spring 2022
ENG 102 First Year Composition (2 sessions).

Fall 2021
ENG 101 First Year Composition (1 session).

Substitute teacher. Grain Valley School District. Grain Valley, MO. 2018-2021.
Kindergarten through 12th grade, including special education.

Substitute teacher. Blue Springs School District. Blue Springs, MO. 2018-2019.
Kindergarten through 12th grade, including special education.

PUBLICATIONS

POETRY IN ANTHOLOGIES

Querencia Press Quarterly Anthology. Autumn 2025. “How to Be a Girl,” “How to Be a Girl,” “You know what they say,” “How to Be a Girl.”
Curating Home. Ed. Dan Burns. Kansas City, MO: Woodneath Press, 2021. “Lane Ends. Merge Left."
Lift Every Voice: An Anthology of Poetry. Ed. Christine Taylor. Scotch Plains, NJ: Kissing Dynamite Poetry Press, 2019. “Elegy to a Woman’s Place in the Home.”

POETRY IN LITERARY JOURNALS

Lost Pilots Lit. Forthcoming. “Cultural Detachment, 1200 Miles from Home.”
Sport Literate. Forthcoming. “I Used to Be a Personal Trainer,” “I Watch Cooking Shows while Walking on the Treadmill.”
South Florida Poetry Journal. August 2026. “Self Portrait as Hinge Profile.”
The Meadow. Summer 2026. “How to Be a Girl.”
The LEON Review. Iss. 35. “Evolution Ghazal.”
Pink Panther Magazine. March 2026. “Athazagoraphobia.”
Bending Genres Journal. February 2026. “Periodic Table of Fitness.”
Bear Review. November 2025. “Legs.”
Shot Glass Journal. #47. September 2025. “Made of Iron,” “Form.”
Acentos Review. August 2025. “The Golden Ratio,” “Hijo, My Love Language is Letting You Win at Chess,” “This Body.”
Abstract Magazine: Contemporary Expressions. Summer 2024. “Billar,” “Epistle to My Cheekbones.”
South Florida Poetry Journal. August 2024. “Song.”
Poetry South. 15. December 2023. “Be Good.”
Lunch Ticket. Amuse-Bouche. November 2023. “Exercise.”
New Note Poetry. Autumn 2023. “Fat shaming—an erasure.”
Call Me Brackets. 10. Summer 2023. “Made of Iron,” “Advice From the Handbook of Empty Nesters,” “Epistle to My Belly.”

the Under Review. Summer 2023. “Ms. Olympia.”
Red Ogre Review. June 2023. “Asterisms.”
Thousand Languages Project. May 2023. “El Cuarto Donde Nací,” “Quinceañera."
Passengers Journal. 4:1. March 2023. “Cardio.”
Sheila-Na-Gig Online. 7.3. Spring 2023. “Less is More.”
Swamp Ape Review. 5. 2022. "Casamentero."
Drunk Monkeys. May 2021. "Math Poem," "Fight Song."
The Boiler. 32. July 2020 "Fit."
Mochila Review. 22. Spring 2020. "HIIT."
Roadrunner Review. 3. December 2019. "The Floods Dirtied Your Plains.”
Red Flag Poetry. 6.1. December 2019. "Trading Up."
the winnow. 1.3. November 2019. "Self Help."
Arcade. 12. May 2019. "Assumptions of Home."
Underground. 9.2. April 2019. "rebel."
Mangrove Journal. 14. Spring 2019. "The State of the Undone."
Arcade. 6. Fall 2012. "Grandmother," "Poem Against Shane Jackson's New Girlfriend."

INTERVIEWS AND REVIEWS

Hayden’s Ferry Review: The Dock. November 2022. “Review of C.T. Salazar’s Headless John the Baptist Hitchhiking.”
Barrelhouse Reviews. July 2019. “*Dark // Thing* by Ashley M. Jones.”
New South Journal. May 2019. “Jehanne Dubrow’s *Dots & Dashes."*
Pleiades Press. April 2019. “Un-Othered Together: An Interview With Ashley M. Jones.”

ACADEMIC JOURNALS

Savala, Cecilia and Erin Adair-Hodges. “Comorbid Confessionalism: The Concurrence of Mental Illness and Poverty in Contemporary Post-Confessional Poetry.” *The McNair Journal,* vol 29, University of Central Missouri, 2021.

PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

CREATIVE

Reader. South Florida Poetry Journal. August 2026.
Reader. Desert Grit Reading Series. April 2026.
Reader. Orbit Reading Series. January 2026.
Reader. Stories and Snacks. Clark Park Community Garden. November 2025.
Conference Faculty. Revision: A Writer’s Secret Superpower. Desert Nights, Rising Stars. Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. October 2025.
Reader. Writers of Piper: A Round Robin. Desert Nights, Rising Stars. Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. October 2025.
Panel Moderator. The Poet Laureates: A Conversation on Creativity, Advocacy, and Discovery. Desert Nights, Rising Stars. Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. October 2025.
Panelist. How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love My Red Pencil. Desert Nights, Rising Stars. Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. October 2024.
Reader and Panelist. Azad Sharma Reading. College of Integrative Science and Arts. Arizona State University. March 2024.
Panel Moderator. Distinguished Visiting Writers Series: Ellen Bryant Voigt and Sally Ball. Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. February 2024.
Reader. Tiny Works VI. Sisao Gallery, Phoenix, AZ. December 2023.

Panelist. Body Stories: Strength, Shame, Sex, and Sadness. Desert Nights, Rising Stars. Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. October 2023.
Exhibitor. "Fulfillment." Echoes Seen: Collaborations in Image and Verse. Step Gallery, Phoenix, AZ. September-October 2023.
Reader. Twenty-First Century Voices: Graduate Student Poetry Reading. Institute for Humanities Research. Arizona State University. October 2022.
Reader. ASU MFA Reading Series. Arizona State University. October 2022.
Panel Moderator. Stellar Alumni Series: After the MFA. Arizona State University. October 2022.
Panel Moderator. The Power of Poetry. Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. April 2022.
Panel Moderator. Stellar Alumni Series: After the MFA. Arizona State University. March 2022.
Reader. ASU MFA Reading Series. Arizona State University. March 2022.
Reader. Twenty-First Century Voices: Graduate Student Poetry Reading. Institute for Humanities Research. Arizona State University. October 2021.
Reader. State of Stories: Poetry Anthology Book Launch. Woodneath Press. April 2021.
Reader. A Reading by Pleiades Press Award-Winning Authors and The David Baker Awards. *Pleiades* and the University of Central Missouri English Department. April 2021.

SCHOLARLY

Panelist. ASU English Department, Convocation. "Creative Writers Teaching Composition." August 2026.
Presenter. University of Central Missouri, McNair Summer Seminar. "Spreadsheets for Organizing Grad School Applications." June 2026.
Presenter. GateWay Community College Day of Learning, Breakout Session. "High-Volume, Low-Risk Writing Assignments to Reduce Student Reliance on Generative AI." January 2026.
Presenter. ASU English Department, Faculty Flash Talks. "High-Volume, Low-Risk Writing Assignments to Reduce Student Reliance on Generative AI." November 2025.
Presenter. ASU Composition Conference. "Encouraging 'Writer Identity' Within College Composition Classrooms." February 2023.
Presenter. ASU Composition Conference. "*The Literacy Letters*: Fostering Engagement by *Doing* Engagement." February 2022.
Panelist. University of Central Missouri Undergraduate Research Symposium and Creative Achievement Day. "Comorbid Confessionalism: The Concurrence of Mental Illness and Poverty in Contemporary Post-Confessional Poetry." April 2021. Provost Panel Award.
Presenter. University of Central Missouri McNair Research Poster Showcase. "Comorbid Confessionalism: The Concurrence of Mental Illness and Poverty in Contemporary Post-Confessional Poetry." November 2020.
Presenter. University of Central Missouri McNair Research Symposium. "Comorbid Confessionalism: The Concurrence of Mental Illness and Poverty in Contemporary Post-Confessional Poetry." October 2020.
Presenter. Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska (MKN) Heartland McNair Research Conference. "Comorbid Confessionalism: The Concurrence of Mental Illness and Poverty in Contemporary Post-Confessional Poetry." September 2020.

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Hayden's Ferry Review. Poetry editor, associate poetry editor. Arizona State University. 2021-2024.
Arcade Magazine. Editor in chief, poetry editor, social media and web director, managing editor. University of Central Missouri. 2018-2021.
Pleiades Magazine. Assistant poetry editor, University of Central Missouri 2018-2020.

INTERNSHIPS

Thousand Languages Project (TLP). Virginia G Piper Center for Creative Writing. 2022.

Created ekphrastic, cross-textual translations of original *Hayden's Ferry Review* contributions from visual art to poetry.

Coordinated with language and culture clubs and communities on campus toward the establishment of the annual TLP Campus Translation Challenge.

Hayden's Ferry Review. Arizona State University. 2021-2022.

McNair Research Internship. University of Central Missouri. 2020-2021.

Practicum in Instructional Technology. Mid-Continent Public Library (MCPL). 2020.

Compiled and presented in-depth research on MCPL's digital learning resources.

Pleiades Press. Assistant book contest director. University of Central Missouri. 2019.

Compiled and organized contact information of poets and authors who submitted work to the Lena-Miles Wever Todd poetry prize, the Pleiades Press Editors Prize for Poetry, and the Robert C. Jones Prize for Short Prose.

Pleiades Magazine. Assistant poetry editor. University of Central Missouri. 2019.

Communicated with *Pleiades Magazine* contributors to solicit and conduct interviews to be featured online in conjunction with poets' published work in *Pleiades*'s print edition.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Fellow-in-Residence, Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. 2024-2026.

Manager, Thousand Languages Project.

Finalist, *How to Be a Girl.* Trio Award for First or Second Book. Trio House Press. 2024.

Virginia G. Piper Professional Development Fellowship. Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. 2021, 2022, 2024.

Graduate Research Grant. ASU English Department. 2023.

Second place, Glendon and Kathryn Swarthout Awards in Writing. "Made of Iron." ASU. 2023.

Marvin Fisher Scholar. ASU English Department. 2023-2024

Graduate Programs Initiative Mini Grant for TA Planning Period. ASU English Department. 2023.

Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) Excellence in Teaching Award. ASU. 2022.

Kundiman BIPOC Scholarship. Kundiman. 2022.

The College Student Leader Award. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. ASU. 2022.

University Graduate Fellowship, ASU. 2021.

Innovation in Creative Research Award. Center for Imagination in the Borderlands (CIB) ASU. 2021.

Success in Graduate Writing Scholarship. University Academic Success Programs (UASP). ASU. 2021.

McNair Scholar. Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program. UCMO. 2019-2021.

David Baker Award in Poetry. "How to Be a Girl." UCMO. 2021.

Undergraduate Critical Essay Award. UCMO. 2021.

UCMO Who's Who. UCMO. 2021.

Provost's Panel. Undergraduate Research Symposium and Creative Achievement Day. UCMO. 2021.

Outstanding Student Leader Award. UCMO. 2021.

Nominee, UCMO Charno Outstanding Graduating Senior Student Award. UCMO. 2021.

Outstanding Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Award. School of English and Philosophy. UCMO. 2021.

Candidate. "We Are UCMO" Homecoming Queen. University of Central Missouri. 2021.

Dean's List. University of Central Missouri. 2018-2021.

Charles N. Hagan Scholarship. UCMO. 2020.

Runner-up. David Baker Award in Poetry. "Grandmother." UCMO. 2020.

The Dr. Jose Z. & Mrs. Theresa R. Almaguer Family Scholarship. UCMO. 2020.

Forrest and Marjorie Martin Undergraduate Scholarship. Truman Heartland Community Foundation. 2020.

G.B. Crump Scholarship in English. UCMO. 2020.

Swezy Family Scholarship. UCMO. 2020.

Nominee. Best of the Net. "The Floods Dirtied Your Plans." 2020.

Honorable mention. Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar Future Teacher Award. 2019

Ginny McTighe Creative Writing Award. UCMO. 2019.

Department of English and Philosophy Scholarship. UCMO. 2019.
Adult Learner Scholarship. KC Scholars. 2018.

LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONS

TA Mentoring Workshop. Founder and facilitator. ASU. 2025-2026.
ASU Leadership Reimagined: Achievement and Influence Scholar. ASU. 2023.
Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA). Elected Assembly Member. 2022-2023.
    Assembly operations committee.
    Innovation fellows committee.
Kappa Delta Pi. International Honor Society in Education.
    Vice president. 2020-2021.
    Member. 2019.
Sigma Tau Delta. International English Honor Society.
    Vice President. 2020-2021.
    Member. 2019-2020.
Leading Educator Advocates for Diversity (LEAD).
    President. 2020-2021.
    Public relations officer. 2019-2020.
    Member. 2018-2019.
Creative Writing Club. Founder and president. 2019-2020.
UCMO Mule Team Leader. UCMO. 2019.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WORKSHOPS

"Reimagining Instruction through Student Engagement" (RISE). CTL-ED. Maricopa Community College. 2025.
"Teaching Internet/Hybrid Courses." Andrea Dickens. ASU. 2023.
"Exploring the Surreal and the Strange in the Prose Poem." Jose Hernandez Diaz. The Hugo House. 2023.
"Growth." Julian Randall. The Speakeasy Project. 2023.
"Radical Afterlives: A Translation Craft Class with Rohan Chhetri." Kundiman. 2022.
ASU CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) Professional Development Conference. ASU. 2022.
"Leveraging Learner Choice to Improve Student Outcomes." ASU Online. ASU. 2022.
"Digital Competencies for Teaching and Learning Online." ASU Online. ASU. 2022.
"Envisioning Your Course Through Cultural Pedagogies and Frameworks." Perusall for Active and Collaborative Learning. ASU. 2022.
"ASU Online Services and Resources for Faculty Teaching Online." ASU Online. ASU. 2022.
"Reducing Instructor Headaches in Group Projects." Envision. ASU Online. ASU. 2022.
"Submittable Training for Editors." Christie Louie. Managing Editor. *Hayden's Ferry Review*. 2022.
"On Endings and Longing." Eunsong Kim. CIB. 2021.
"McNair Summer Success Institute." Academic Advancement Program and McNair Scholars Program. University of Central Florida. 2021.
"Success in Graduate Writing Camp." University Academic Success Programs. ASU. 2021.
"A New American Curriculum." Erica Armstong Dunbar, Jason Reynolds, Tracy K. Smith. National Book Foundation. 2020.
"Decolonizing Craft - The Future of Creative Writing Instruction." Matt Bell, Ru Freeman, Matthew Salesses. Inkubator. 2020.
"How Do Oppressed People Build Community?" William Sturkey, David W. Blight. Zócalo Public Square. 2020.
Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT) Professional Development. UCMO. Dr. C. L. Atkins, Dr. Angela J Danley. 2018-2019.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP). 2019-present.
Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA). 2019-present.
National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). 2018-present.
National Education Association (NEA). 2018-2021.
Missouri National Education Association (MNEA). 2018-2021.
National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA). 2016-2021.

SERVICE

TBA Comedy Club Advisor. 2026-present.
Sigma Tau Delta Advisor. 2026-present.
Community Submissions Leaderboard facilitator. 2024-present.
International Education Week Poetry Contest Judge. Maricopa Community College. 2024-present.
Firecracker Awards Judge. Community of Literary Magazines and Presses (CLMP). 2021-present.
Events Committee, English Department, ASU. 2025-2026.
Poetry Out Loud Regionals Judge, State Judge. Poetry Out Loud. 2025-2026.
Writer's Place Award Judge. ASU. 2022-2024.
Desert Nights, Rising Stars Volunteer. Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. 2024.
Canto Mundo Retreat Volunteer. Canto Mundo. 2024.
Assistant Director of Writing Programs. Department of English. ASU. 2023-2024.
Graduate Scholars of English Association (GSEA) Graduate Student Representative. ASU. 2022-2024.
Writing Programs Committee. Department of English. ASU. 2022-2024.
MFA Reading Series Committee. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. ASU. 2022-2023.
Guest Services Registration and Management. Salsa Bachata Mastery. 2022.
Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) Grant Reviewer. ASU. 2021-2022.
AWP Student Work-Exchange Program Volunteer. AWP. 2021.
Professional Reader and Reviewer. NetGalley. 2020-2022.
ARC (Advanced Reviewer Copy) Reviewer. Edelweiss+. 2020-2022.
Community Research Advisor. Mendeley. 2020-2021.
Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines (REALM) Judge. NCTE. 2018-2020.
Grain Valley High School (GVHS) Speech and Debate Tournament Judge. GVHS. 2015-2020.
Dean's Advisory Committee. College of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. UCMO. 2019-2020.
GVHS Theatre Department Booster Club Liaison. GVHS. 2019-2020.
Author Ambassador, Children's Literature Festival. UCMO. 2018-2019.

RELATED EMPLOYMENT

Planet Fitness
- Member Services Representative. 2012-2014, 2021-2022.
- Fitness Instructor. 2014-2015.

Mid-Continent Public Library
- Customer Service Associate II. 2019-2021.
  - Readers' Advisory Committee.
  - 2021 Tech Navigator Certificate.
  - Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Focus Group.

Exceligent, Inc.
- Commercial Research Associate. 2016-2017.
- Tenant Researcher. 2017.

CERTIFICATIONS

ASU Writing Programs Certification to Teach Hybrid and Online. 2023.
Institutional Review Boards (IRB). Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI). 2022.
How to Teach Online for the Classroom Teacher. Smart Practices. 2020.
Ditch That Textbook Digital Summit. Matt Miller. Ditch That Textbook. 2018- 2020.
Google Educator Level I Certificate. Google. 2019.
The Essentials of Managing Conflict. Sophia Learning. 2019.
Guiding Principles for Substitute Educators. Smart Practices. 2019.
Adjudicating Speech and Debate. NSDA. 2018.
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Substitute Certificate. 2018.
Classroom Management. Smart Practices. 2018.
Developing Effective Teams. Sophia Learning. 2018.
Personal Training Certification. ACTION Personal Training. 2014.