

Bernard Ferguson^(they/them)

Poet & Writer & Climate Activist

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Education.

- 2013 B.A. in Computer Science, Minor in Japanese, Saint John's University
- 2022 M.F.A. in Creative Writing, New York University

Relevant Teaching Experience.

- **Adjunct Instructor, The New School**
 - “Writing as Revenge,” Writing the Essay II, Lang College, Spring 2024
 - “Unlocking Revenge,” Writing the Essay I, Lang College, Fall 2023
 - “[Unlocking Revenge](#),” Writing the Essay I, Lang College, Fall 2022
 - “[What is the Climate Crisis?](#)” Writing the Essay, Lang College, Fall 2022
- **Adjunct Instructor, New York University**
 - “[Planetary Poetics](#),” Intermediate Poetry Workshop, Creative Writing Department, Spring 2023
 - “[What is Revenge](#),” Intro into Poetry and Prose, Creative Writing Department, Spring 2023
 - “Pop Literature,” Intro into Poetry and Prose, Creative Writing Department, Fall 2019
- **LGBTQ Writers in Schools Program, Lambda Literary, January 2022 - present**

Lead numerous hour-long, self-architected queer and LGBTQ+ themed workshops in elementary, middle and high schools throughout NYC. Each workshop asked students to investigate the origins of “gender”—both the word and the concept—and invited them to investigate the ways all of us, in some way or another, don’t fit neatly into what a “man” or a “woman” is. Then students were prompted to use writing to define their own genders on their own terms.
- **Poetry Workshop Instructor, Brooklyn Poets, September 2021 - Present**

Lead one workshop per season that involves both lecturing and workshopping participants’ poems. Themed workshops so far include *The Poetics of Revenge*, the syllabus of which uses poems about vengeance as a door to think about restorative and transformative justice in poetry; and *At the Edge of Our Language: The Poetics of Climate Change*, the syllabus of which guides workshop participants through contemporary poems about climate change while also studying tools that might help invent new and necessary language for the climate crisis.
- **NY Writers in the Public Schools Teacher, East Village Community School, Manhattan, NY, 2018-2019**

Taught poetry classes to 2nd and 3rd grade students at East Village Community School. Produced an anthology and a performance showcase of the work they did over the semester.
- **Poetry Workshop Leader, Boys and Girls Club, Minneapolis, July 2017**

Led a series of writing workshops focused on hip-hop and pop music with teenagers aged 12-16.

Lectures, Workshops and Public Conversations.

- Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Lecture and Workshop, "On Entanglement," March 2024
- Santa Barbara City College, Lecture, "Defining the Climate Crisis," March 2024
- Columbia University, Lecture, "You're Going to Need a Bigger Circle: Expanding the American View of the Climate Crisis," Spring 2023
- The Metropolitan Museum, Public Conversation, "[The Gulf Stream and the Atlantic World: a conversation between Ada Ferrer, Bernard Ferguson, Hugh Hayden and Stephanie Herdrich](#)", June 2022
- The Noguchi Museum, Lecture and Workshop, "At the Core," June 2022
- The New School, Lecture, "[The Poetics of the Climate Crisis](#)", May 2022
- Pangea World Theater, Lecture and Workshop, "The Poetics of the Climate Crisis", April 2022
- Cave Canem & Lambda Literary, Public Reading and Folio, "Poets on Environmental Justice", March 2021
- Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference, Conference Panel, "Arab & Muslim Writers Surviving Trump's America: A Reading and Discussion Presented by Mizna," March 2018

Awards & Achievements.

Fellowships, Residencies & Institutional Support.

- Post-Grad Research Fellowship with Terrance Hayes, New York University, January - December 2024
- Creative Writing Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts, January - December 2023
- Artist Fellowship, New York Foundation for the Arts, October 2021
- Artist-in-Residence, Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts, July - August 2021
- Artist-in-Residence, Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency, April - June 2021
- Artist-in-Residence, Atlantic Center for the Arts, June 2021
- NYU's Global Research Initiative Fellowship, January - February 2020
(funding to conduct two months of research in London, UK)
- Artist-in-Residence, Atlantic Center for the Arts Residency, June 2019
(was also awarded the Pabst Cultural Endowment Scholarship)
- New York City's Writers in the Public Schools Fellowship, 2018-2019
- The Fromer Fellowship, NYU's Creative Writing Program, 2018-2020
(a full two years of funding and a livable stipend from NYU's MFA graduate program)

Awards.

- Winner, Hurston/Wright College Writers Award, 2019
- Winner, 92Y Discovery Contest, 2019
- Winner, *Cincinnati Review* Poetry Prize, 2019
- Winner, *Breakwater* Peseroff Poetry Prize, 2019
- Winner, *Adroit Journal* Gregory Djanikian Scholarship Contest, 2019
- Winner, Nâzım Hikmet Poetry Prize, 2019
- Finalist, *The Georgia Review's* Loraine Williams Poetry Prize, 2020

- Finalist, *Black Warrior Review's* Poetry Contest, 2020
- Semi-finalist, *Nimrod International's* Pablo Neruda Poetry Prize, 2020
- Finalist, *Write Bloody's* Manuscript Contest, 2017
- Selected, by Natalie Diaz to be included in 2017's *Best New Poets Anthology*
- Nominee, Pushcart Prize, by the editors of *The Cincinnati Review* for "far past the beginning and quite close to the end," 2020
- Nominee, Pushcart Prize, by the editors of *Breakwater Review* for "hearsay", 2020
- Nominee, Pushcart Prize, by the editors of *Raleigh Review* for "only so many types of hungers you can pack onto an island before you're surrounded." 2018
- Nominee, Pushcart Prize, by the editors at *Epiphany Magazine* for "on humor," 2017
- Nominee, Pushcart Prize, by the editors at *Glass: A Journal of Poetry* for "and Batman never came back to my island," 2017
- Grand Slam Winner, University of Minnesota SLAM Grand Slam, December, 2015

Publications.

Books.

- *The Climate Sirens*, forthcoming from Graywolf Press, 2025

Nonfiction.

- *Kenyon Review*, "The Lantern, the Lightning, the Sea and the Raft," 2023
- *The New York Times Magazine*, "Damage and Loss," 2021
- *The Paris Review*, "Looking for Gwendolyn Brooks," 2021
- *The New Yorker*, "Hurricane Dorian Was a Climate Injustice," 2019
- *The Common*, Review of Jenny Odell's *How to Do Nothing*, 2019
- *Washington Square Review*, "Through the Doors of History: Tiana Clark's *I Can't Talk About the Trees Without the Blood*," 2019
- *LEVEL/Medium*, "HBO's *Insecure* and the End of Black Love," 2018
- *Entropy*, "Infinity War and The Reckoning on its Way," 2018
- *The Rumpus*, "Look At How The Bullets Have Missed," 2018
- *Medium*, "Toward Chester: On Loneliness, Anime and Healing," 2018

Poetry.

- *Academy of American Poet's Poem-A-Day*, "*Parkside & Ocean*," 2024
- *Kenyon Review*, "Four Poems," alongside an Introduction from Terrance Hayes, 2023
- *Academy of American Poets Poem-A-Day*, "awaiting a carriage, any," 2022
- *The Daily News*, "at last rationing the blue," 2022

- *Bat City Review*, "the wrong horses," 2022
- *No Tokens Journal*, "niggas in the sun," 2021
- *Indiana Review*, "laugh track," 2021
- *The Georgia Review*, "far past the beginning and quite close to the end," 2020
- *Nimrod International Journal*, "origin story," 2020
- *New Ohio Review*, "forecast for tomorrow says snow," 2020
- *Narrative Magazine*, "it might be a hurricane year," 2020
- *A Long House*, "the gnats" and "juxtaposition with seeds," 2020
- *Cincinnati Review*, "you're welcome," 2020
- *The Paris Review*, "up the creek of my nostril, with an uncoiling thing," 2019
- *The Common*, "LDR," 2019
- *The Southampton Review*, "nosecums," 2019
- *Breakwater Review*, "hearsay," 2019
- *Water-Stone Review*, "The Weekend", 2019
- *Pinwheel*, "i just don't think we should have to subject ourselves to the violence that beckons outside," 2019
- *SLICE Magazine*, "on the night my father died," 2019
- *Berkeley Poetry Review*, "death is a currency," 2019
- *The Adroit Journal*, "only so many types of hunger you can pack onto an island before you're surrounded," "on humor," and "juxtaposition with foliage", 2019 (republished upon winning an *Adroit Journal* Djanikian Scholarship)
- *Up North Lit*, "in defense of selfies," and "the thing about touch," February 2019
- *Best New Poets 2017*, "on eagerness," 2017
- *Winter Tangerine*, "the #2 bus riding along franklin avenue in Minneapolis is filled with black people," 2018
- *Adroit Journal*, "the immigrant drafts a cover letter," August 2018
- *The Boiler*, "under fireworks, the immigrant remembers his feet," 2018
- *Up The Staircase Quarterly*, "all these flavors and you chose salty," "on nihilism," 2018
- *Raleigh Review*, "self-portrait with nostalgia," "only so many types of hunger you can pack onto an island before you're surrounded," 2018
- *Nashville Review*, "juxtaposition with foliage," 2018
- *THIS. Magazine*, "sunday," "i have never been higher," "...i would not ask for better friends to call my homies," 2018
- *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*, "love does not want this body," "when i say yall dont move like we do," 2018
- *Epiphany Magazine*, "on humor," 2017
- *Santa Ana River Review*, "glory," 2017
- *Glass: A Journal of Poetry*, "and Batman never came back to my island," "for the call to comcast," 2017
- *TRACK//FOUR*, "and Batman never came back to my island," 2017
- *Third Point Press*, "on eagerness," 2017
- *The Rush*, "folks come out the woodwork to like your successes on facebook," "for the commute," 2017
- *Poets Reading The News*, "weeks after announcing her boycott of the death penalty, state attorney Aramis Ayala is pulled over by the police," 2017

- *FreezeRay*, “while standing in the kitchen, my roommate say luke cage aint shit,” “in which i mistake ruby from blackish as a family member,” 2017
- *Mizna*, “alternate universe in which no human body is illegal,” 2017
- *HEArt Online*, “Common and John Legend’s Glory echoes in the background ...,” “one day the tide will recede and we’ll all be dead,” 2017

Commissions, Collaborations and Public Art Projects.

- Adrian Brinkerhoff Foundation in collaboration with the 92nd Street Y, *Read By Series*, “[Blizzard](#)” and “[poem to be read at the end of a year](#)”, April 2021
- “Walking Through The City”, a commission and collaboration with drummer and composer Chase Kuesel, 2021-2023
- National Art Gallery of The Bahamas, *Refuge* exhibition, “Hurricane Year,” December 2019-August 2020

Selected Readings & Performances.

- “Notes on Migration,” Hurston/Wright Legacy Awards Ceremony, Washington, D.C, October 2019
- “Hurricane Dorian Was a Climate Injustice,” Vigil for The Bahamas, NYU, Manhattan, NY, September 2019
- “[Lineage Suite](#),” 92Y Discovery Contest Winners Reading, 92nd Street Y, Manhattan, NY, May 2019
- NYU Emerging Writers Series, KGB Bar, Manhattan, NY, September 2018
- “Immigrant Treatise,” New Sh!t Show Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN, May 2017
- “Immigrant Treatise,” The Loft Literary Center Equilibrium Series, Minneapolis, MN, April 2017
- “[Message](#),” College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational, Austin, Texas, April 2016
- “Message,” Great Planes Poetry Pileup, June 2016
- “[Falsehoods](#),” Spotlight Feature, Button Poetry Live, Saint Paul, MN, February 2016
- “Value Judgements,” The Free Black Table, Minneapolis, MN, November 2015

Online Performances.

- *Button Poetry*, “On Resistance,” 2017
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HbUnmofg6A&t=10s>>
- “On Sex for the Immigrant”, 2017
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESZAYRMEwmE>>
- “Message,” 2016
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Igdccd4iso&t=14s>>