

Faculty Profile

Derek Mong came to Wabash College from Portland, Oregon in the fall of 2016 to become the Byron K. Trippet Assistant Professor of English. He teaches courses in creative writing, poetry, American Literature, and various all-college courses, including his Freshman Tutorial: The American Road Trip. He is currently building a course called The Literature of the San Francisco Bay Area, which will include an immersion trip to San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley. He advises the college's literary magazine, the *Wabash Review*, and can often be spotted attending campus events with his wife and young son.

As a poet, Mong is the author of two collections from Saturnalia Books, *Other Romes* (2011) and *The Identity Thief* (forthcoming, 2018), and a chapbook of Latin adaptations, *The Scrivener's Quill* (Two Sylvias Press, 2017). As a critic, he reviews new work for the *Gettysburg Review* and blogs at the *Kenyon Review Online*. His collaborative translations of the Russian poet Maxim Amelin—made with his wife, the translator, Anne O. Fisher—have appeared widely, receiving a National Endowment for the Arts grant in 2010. Their manuscript, *The Joyous Science*, is under review. His own essays and poems have appeared in the *Kenyon Review*, *Pleiades*, *Crazyhorse*, *The Missouri Review*, *Poetry Daily*, *New England Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, the *Southern Review*, and many other publications.

His research interests include the American Renaissance, Translation Studies, photography, and American poetry from the 19th-21st centuries. He wrote his dissertation on marriage in the lives and afterlives of Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, focusing on such texts as Edward Weston's photographs for an illustrated *Leaves of Grass* (made with Charis Wilson, his new, and soon to be ex-, wife); the poetry of same-sex weddings; Jerome Charyn's novel *The Secret Life of Emily Dickinson* (2010); Joyce Carol Oates's "EDickinsonRepliluxe" (2008); and a peculiar steampunk novella, "Walt and Emily," where the titular characters fall in love. He has published essays on Ronald Johnson's erasure poem, *Radi os* (1977), and the role of male nudity of American poems.

Before Wabash, Mong taught as the Axton Poetry Fellow at the University of Louisville, the Jay C. and Ruth Halls Fellow at the University of Wisconsin, with the Edna St. Vincent Millay Society, at SUNY-Albany, and with young writers workshops at Kenyon College and Denison University (his alma matter). Raised outside of Cleveland, he has lived in San Francisco, Massachusetts, and various Midwest states. He currently makes his home with his family in Crawfordsville.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English Literature, Stanford University, 2016
M.A. in English Literature, Stanford University, 2012
M.F.A. in Poetry, The University of Michigan, 2006
B.A. in English Writing (Latin minor), Denison University, 2004

RECENT COURSES

Freshman Tutorial: The American Road Trip
Freshman Tutorial: Enduring Question

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English 101: Freshman Composition
English 110: Introduction to Creative Writing
English 212: Intermediate Poetry Writing
English 219: American Literature Before 1900
English 312: Advanced Poetry Writing

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Books and Chapbooks

The Identity Thief (poems). Ardmore, PA: Saturnalia Books, 2018 (forthcoming).

Other Romes (poems). Ardmore, PA: Saturnalia Books, 2011.

The Scrivener's Quill (poems). Seattle, WA: Two Sylvias Press, 2017.

Poems

“Colloquy with St. Mary of Egypt” (20 pages). *Blackbird: An Online Journal of Literature and the Arts*. (forthcoming spring 2017).

“Gegenschein.” *Pleiades*. (forthcoming 2017).

“When the Earth Flies into the Sun.” *Kenyon Review*. (forthcoming 2017).

“Old Tyme with a y.” *Hawai'i Pacific Review* hawaiipacificreview.org/2016/12/12/old-tyme-with-a-y/#comments (December 12, 2016).

“Letter in a Bottle for When the Seas Rise.” *Poetry Northwest* 11.2 (winter and spring 2017) 40 – 41.

“Exhausted, Renegade Elephant.” *New England Review* 37.2 (2016) 97 – 98.

“Glaciers.” *Crab Creek Review* 29.1 (winter 2016) 68 – 69.

Essays

“Headlines and Line Breaks.” *Gettysburg Review* 29.2 (summer 2016) 313 – 331.

“Nude Dude Poets.” *Michigan Quarterly Review* 55.1 (winter 2016) 138 – 148.

“Why I’m Still Not Convinced that Meter is Physiological.” *Kenyon Review Online*. www.kenyonreview.org/2016/05/im-still-not-convinced-meter-physiological-reply-annie-finch/ (May 5, 2016).

“Iambic Pentameter Has Nothing to Do with Your Heart.” *Kenyon Review Online*. www.kenyonreview.org/2016/04/iambic-pentameter-nothing-heart/ (April 16, 2016).

“To Help My Son Live Easily: Notes on the Dead in American Poetry.” *Gettysburg Review* 28.4 (winter 2015) 617 – 637.

“Ten New Ways to Read Ronald Johnson’s *Radi os*.” *The Kenyon Review* 37.4 (July/August 2015) 78 – 96.

“Walt Whitman’s iPad.” *Poetry Northwest*. www.derekmong.com/musings/walt-whitmans-ipad-essay-at-poetry-northwest (May 8, 2015).

Translation from Russian (with Anne O. Fisher)

“Belated Ode to Catherine the Great” and “Dawn’s Rosy Advent Reddened the East.”
Cardinal Points 6 (fall 2016) 148 – 151.

“Foray into Patriotism,” “Inscription Over the Entrance to a Tbilisi Banya,” and “Wasn’t I the Man Who Seized.” *International Poetry Review* 41.1 (fall 2016) 8 – 15.

“Katabasia for St. Thomas Week.” *Circumference*. circumferencemag.org/?p=3377
(summer 2016).

“The Joyous Science, Part 1: The True Story of the Famous Bruce, Composed in Verse from the Accounts of Several Eyewitnesses.” *The Brooklyn Rail* (April 2016) 16 – 21.

“Classical Ode to V. V. Mayakovsky” and “Fire-Breathing Beast, Fumes Wreathing your Figure.” *Two Lines* 24 (winter 2016) 70 – 77.

“Homer’s Shredded to Quotes,” “In August the Stars Shoot Through the Night Air,” and “Temple with an Arcade.” *Atlanta Review* 21.2 (spring/summer 2015) 37 – 39.

“In Memory of East Prussia,” “Aesop’s Language,” “You Take Root in Earth,” “Every Day,” “A Many-Throated, Many-Mawed, Many-Tongued Rumble.” *Lunch Ticket*.
<http://lunchticket.org/five-poems/> (December 2014).

SELECTED AWARDS

Runner Up, Two Sylvias Press Chapbook Contest, Kingston, WA (2017)

Semi-Finalist, The Gabo Prize for Literature in Translation & Multi-Lingual Texts, *Lunch Ticket*, Antioch University, Los Angeles, CA (2014)

Axton Fellow, Department of English, University of Louisville, KY (2008-2010)

First Prize, Artsmith Poetry Contest, Artsmith, Eastsound, Washington (2008)

Grand Prize, Happy Hour Poetry Awards, *Alehouse*, San Francisco, CA (2007)

Jay C. and Ruth Halls Poetry Fellow, Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing, Department of English, University of Wisconsin, WI (2006-2007)

Jeffrey E. Smith Editors’ Choice Prize (poetry), *The Missouri Review*, Columbia, MO (2005)

Hopwood Poetry Award and Nonfiction Award, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2005 and 2006)

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WEBSITE

www.derekmong.com