

# José Orduña

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Department of English  
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## EDUCATION

### Completed Degrees

MFA, Nonfiction Writing, The Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa, May 2013. Thesis: *Small Reveries*.

BA, Film/Video, Columbia College Chicago, May 2008.

### Extracurricular Writing Workshops

University of Iowa Overseas Writing Workshop (nonfiction), Philippines, 2012.

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, Department of English, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Fall 2017.

Joseph M. Russo Endowed Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, Department of English Language and Literature, University of New Mexico, Fall 2016-Spring 2017.

Adjunct Professor, Frank N. Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing, University of Iowa, Fall 2014-Spring 2016.

Teaching Assistant, Department of Rhetoric, University of Iowa, Fall 2011-Spring 2013.

## TEACHING

### Courses Independently Taught

“Graduate Nonfiction Workshop: The Political Essay.” University of New Mexico, Department of English Language and Literature, Spring 2017.

“Blue Mesa Review: Working on a Literary Magazine.” University of New Mexico, Department of English Language and Literature, Fall 2016-Spring 2017.

“Advanced Fiction Workshop.” University of New Mexico, Department of English Language and Literature, Fall 2016.

“Writing Commons: A Community of Writers, Voices of Dissent: Critiquing the Status Quo.” University of Iowa, Division of Interdisciplinary Programs, Frank N. Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing, Spring 2015.

“Writing Commons: A Community of Writers, The Writer’s Life: Generating, Sharing, and Publishing Our Work.” University of Iowa, Division of Interdisciplinary Programs, Frank N. Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing, Fall 2014 & Fall 2015.

“Fast Fixes: Improved Writing in 6 Weeks: Digging In: Finding, Using, and Citing Research in Your Writing.” University of Iowa, Division of Interdisciplinary Programs, Frank N. Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing, Off-Cycle Fall 2015.

“Rhetoric for General Education.” University of Iowa, Department of Rhetoric, Fall 2011–Spring 2013.

## **SERVICE**

MFA Dissertation Committee Member, Jason Curtis Thayer (nonfiction): 2017.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### Books

*The Weight of Shadows: A Memoir of Immigration and Displacement.*  
Forthcoming at Beacon Press, April 2016.

### Essays

“The Drone of Political Theatre: 2016’s DNC and RNC.” *Beacon Broadside*, August 2016.

“On the Hollow Spectacle of Attaining American Citizenship.” Excerpt from *The Weight of Shadows. Literary Hub*, June 2016.

“What It’s Like to Serve President Obama Dinner as an Unnaturalized Citizen.” Excerpt from *The Weight of Shadows. Alternet*, April 2016.

“White Crosses: Vigil Along the US/Mexico Border.” *PowellsBooks.Blog*, April 2016.

“That Our Mind Hinders Itself.” *After Montaigne: Contemporary Writers Cover the Essays*. Ed. David Lazar and Patrick Madden. University of Georgia Press, September 2015.

“Tasers, Drones, and Cold Chicken: Inside the Multibillion-Dollar Business of Keeping Me Out of America.” *BuzzFeed*, December 2014.

#### Video Essays

“This Is Not My Home.” *TriQuarterly*, Issue 149, Spring/Summer 2016.

#### Reviews

“David Shields = Straight Gangster.” Review of *Reality Hunger: A Manifesto*, by David Shields. *Essay Daily: A Filter for and an Ongoing Conversation About Essays and Magazines of Interest*, April 2011.

“My Constant: Notes of a Native Son.” Review of *Notes of a Native Son*, by James Baldwin. *Beacon Broadside*, March 2014.

#### Interviews

“My Story Doesn’t Begin When I Was Born.” Conducted by Micah McCrary. *Los Angeles Review of Books*, January 2017.

“Out from the Shadows: A Normal Interview with José Orduña.” Conducted by Eddie P. Gomez. *The Normal School*, January 2017.

“José Orduña: *The Weight of Shadows*.” Conducted by Cristina Baccin. *Espejos de Aztlán* on New Mexico Public Radio, October 2016.

“A Good Deal of Light.” Conducted by Gemma de Choisy. *Guernica*, August 2016.

“*The Weight of Shadows: A Memoir of Immigration and Displacement*.” Conducted by Ben Kieffer. *River to River* on Iowa Public Radio, May 2016.

“*The Weight of Shadows: A Memoir of Immigration and Displacement*.” Conducted by Sonali Kolhatkar. *Rising Up With Sonali* on Pacifica Radio, May 2016.

“Deferred Action is Mostly a PR Tactic: An Interview with José Orduña.” Conducted by Patrick Reilly. *Global Voices* University of Chicago Undergraduate Political Review, May 2016.

“Writer José Orduña on the U.S.’ Inconsistent Immigration Policies, Trump Rhetoric and the Scapegoating of Migrants.” Conducted by Benjamin Kuperman. *Little Village Magazine*, April 2016.

“Defying Literary Borders with Memoir: Immigration and the Meaning of ‘America.’” Conducted by Gayatri Patnaik. *Beacon Broadside*, April 2016.

#### Translations

“Qué se siente que me quieran fuera de Estados Unidos.” Translation of “Tasers, Drones, and Cold Chicken: Inside the Multibillion-Dollar Business of Keeping Me Out of America.” *Buzzfeed*, March 2015.

#### **EDITORIAL POSITIONS**

The Sunday Rumpus, Guest Editor, October 2016-December 2016.

#### **FELLOWSHIPS**

University of Iowa, Dean’s Graduate Research Fellowship, Fall 2010–Spring 2013.

#### **RESIDENCIES**

Kopkind Colony: Sniffing the Zeitgeist, “Border-crossings: Danger, Desire, and Delusion in This Country of Immigrants.” July 2013.

#### **CONFERENCE PAPERS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

“The New New New Journalism: Reporting with the I.” Association of Writers & Writing Programs, Washington D.C., February 2017.

“Historicizing the Ineffable: Essaying in and from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” WordFest Literary Festival presented by the San Joaquin Literary Association in conjunction with Fresno State University, Fresno, CA, January 2017.

“We the People.” *BookTV-C-SPAN2*, Brooklyn Book Festival, New York, NY, September 2016.

“The Weight of Shadows: A Discussion about Race, Class, Citizenship, and Literature.” The Arkansas Literary Festival, Little Rock, AR, April 2016.

“An Arts Degree for Journalists?: The Nonfiction MFA as an Incubator for Reportage.” Association of Writers & Writing Programs. Minneapolis, MN, April 2015.

“The Limits of Narrativity: Essay as Epistemological Technology.” Kopkind Colony: Sniffing the Zeitgeist, Guilford, VT, July 2013.

“Latinos in the Midwest.” Latino Midwest Symposium. University of Iowa. Iowa City, IA, November 2012.

“Technology and the Essay: Making Attempts in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” Craft Culture Critique. University of Iowa. Iowa City, IA, April 2011.

## **INVITED READINGS**

“Disappearing Act,” from *The Weight of Shadows*, at University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, April 2017.

“Disappearing Act,” from *The Weight of Shadows*, at the National Council of Teachers of English—Cultivating New Voices Among Scholars of Color Spring Institute 2017. Albuquerque, NM, February 2017.

Excerpt from *The Weight of Shadows*, at WordFest Literary Festival presented by the San Joaquin Literary Association in conjunction with Fresno State University, Fresno, CA, January 2017.

Excerpt from *The Weight of Shadows*, at Bookworks Bookstore. Albuquerque, NM, October 2016.

Excerpt from *The Weight of Shadows*, at University of Chicago International House in conjunction with the Seminary Co-op Bookstore. Chicago, IL, April 2016.

Excerpt from *The Weight of Shadows*, at Mission Creek Festival. Iowa City, IA, April 2016.

Excerpt from *The Weight of Shadows*, at Arkansas Literary Festival. Little Rock, AR, April 2016.

Excerpt from *The Weight of Shadows*, at Prairie Lights Bookstore. Iowa City, IA, April 2016.

Excerpt from *The Weight of Shadows*, at Arkansas Literary Festival. Little Rock, AR, April 2016.

Excerpt from “A Civilized Man,” at Kopkind Colony: Sniffing the Zeitgeist. Guilford, VT, July 2013.

Excerpt from “Good Moral Character,” at the Sanctuary for the Nonfiction Writing Program Reading Series: Speakeasy. Iowa City, IA, March 2013.

Excerpt from “Good Moral Character,” at Public Space One for Iowa Writers’ Workshop and Nonfiction Writing Program Reading Series: Anthology. Iowa City, IA, February 2013.

Excerpt from “Armadillo,” at the Englert Theatre for the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and Nonfiction Writing Program Reading Series: Anthology. Iowa City, IA, February 2010.