# Amanda Merritt

Master of Fine Arts in Poetry
University of St. Andrews
Sept 2014 – July 2017

Bachelor of Arts in Creative
Writing with Distinction,
Minor in Philosophy of Mind
University of Victoria
Sept 2009 – April 2013

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**Work Experience**

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May 2018 – *Program Coordinator*
June 2021 **European Studies Program (EUS) Institute for EU and European Studies, UVic**

- I managed the activities of the European Studies program, and the Institute for EU and European Studies. This included monitoring, reconciling, and reporting annually on the financial accounts of the Institute, the EUS program, as well as three Erasmus+ grants (Jean Monnet Chair, Network and Center).
- I advised EUS minor students and was responsible for student recruitment. I managed the experiential learning and study-abroad opportunities, including the West Coast Model EU and the EU Study Tour, and disbursed student mobility grants. I also tracked registration statistics, organised timetables, and managed academic calendar changes.
- I was responsible for all event planning and facilitation, including information sessions, conferences, webinars, and meetings. Specifically I coordinated outreach and promotional materials for EU grant-funded speakers, guests, and workshops. I also created and disseminated program materials, including the program manual, and managed all social media accounts.

Sept 2020 – *Instructor* **WRIT 109 The Pixar Story**
Dec 2020 **University of Victoria, Creative Writing Department**

- WRIT 109, The Pixar Story is an entry-level class with 250+ students that delves into the development of Pixar as a company, and explores its creative and commercial successes through the lens of the Hero's Journey paradigm.

Oct 2021-18 – *Instructor* **The Poetry Workshop**
Nov 2021-18 **University of Victoria, Continuing Studies**

- This annual, eight-week poetry workshop equips participants with foundational tools through in-class writing exercises, readings, and discussion. Participants receive feedback on their poetry, and learn how to offer thoughtful feedback to their peers.

Jan 2020/19 – *Instructor* **WRIT 218**, **Writing for Screen**
Apr 2020/19 **University of Victoria, Creative Writing Department**

- WRIT 218 is a screenwriting workshop that further develops the technical aspects of screenwriting as well as the art form. Students are expected to write two short screenplays, and work collaboratively in small groups on a five-minute film.

May 2019 – *Instructor* **Writing for Screen**
June 2019 **University of Victoria, Continuing Studies**

- This community course explores the craft of screenwriting. Students learn how to develop plot structures, conflict, character, and dialogue. The workshop incorporates film clips, in-class writing assignments and screenplays from award winning films.

Apr 2018 – *Instructor* **Creative Writing Workshop**
May 2018 **Division of Continuing Studies, University of Victoria**

- This eight week creative writing workshop is intended to provide participants with the skills and initiative to further their writing practice. Participants receive in-depth feedback on their work, and practical advice regarding the process of submitting to literary journals and magazines.

Oct 2017 – *Instructor*
Nov 2017 **Monterey Centr**e, **Victoria, BC**

- This five week poetry workshop provided collaborative space for individuals to share and explore new writing endeavors and to learn more about the craft of poetry.

June 2016 – *Instructor*
July 2016 [St Andrews International Summer Program, University of St Andrews, Scotland](#)

- I led a poetry and radio drama workshop with high school graduates, providing one-on-one career and writing mentorship, and judged their poetry slam competition.

Jan-Mar 2016 – *Instructor*
Dec-Feb 2014/5 [StAnza International Poetry festival, St Andrews, Scotland](#)

- As part of StAnza's education outreach program I led sixteen poetry workshops in both primary and secondary schools across Fife, most notably at Madras College, St. Leonards School, Waid Academy, and Newport primary school. These workshops were designed with the aim to have students produce a four line poem on the theme of masks. The student's poems were displayed in St Andrews' town hall and the Byre theatre.

## Community and Volunteer Activities

Mar 2016 – *Instructor*
Apr 2016 **On the Rocks**[—The Byre Theatre, Saint Andrews, Fife, Scotland](#)

- I led a three-day poetry workshop series with members of the local arts community during the annual Scottish students' art festival, On The Rocks.

Feb 2016 –*Speaker*
**Museum of the University of St Andrews (MUSA)**

- I participated in a collaborative translation workshop of ancient Chinese poetry into Scots. On the 4th of February, the workshop participants presented their work, and discussed the process of literary translation at [MUSA's "One World" exhibit](#).

Oct 2015 – *Instructor*
April 2016 **Undergraduate Creative Writing Course**—the University of St. Andrews, Scotland

- With assistance from the Program Development Fund, I established an eight-week undergraduate course for poetry and prose. This pilot program established the teaching guidelines for future MFA students and was the first of its kind.

Sept 2015 – *Poetry editor*
Sept 2016 [**'The Sores'** an online poetry journal](#)

- As the founding editor of the online poetry journal, *The Scores*, I solicited and curated content for [the first online edition](#), managing a four-person team of Master's students and PhD candidates from the School of English at the University of St Andrews.

Feb 2015—*Speaker*
[**UNESCO International Year of Light** hosted by the Royal Society of Edinburgh](#)

- I was commissioned to write a poem celebrating the [2015 UNESCO International Year of Light (ILY)](#) for Robert Crawford and Norman MacBeath's collaborative anthology of poetry, photography, and physics, entitled "Light Box." This poem was a response to the scientific research of Ashu Bansal (a research fellow in the school of physics and astronomy at the University of St. Andrews) in organic optoelectronics.