# Graham Akhurst

# Academic/Creative Curriculum Vitae

Email address: [graham.akhurst@uts.edu.au](mailto:graham.akhurst@uts.edu.au)

Website: [www.grahamakhurst.com](http://www.grahamakhurst.com)

# Current Positions

Lecturer, Indigenous Australian Studies and Creative Writing: University of Technology Sydney. Australia.

Indigenous Lead: IGA Champion and Indigenous Student Liaison Officer. School of Communications UTS.

Board Member: First Nations Artist and Writers Network.

Board Member: Varuna, The National Writers House.

Editorial Board Member: Impact Studios. Sydney Australia.

Contributing Editor: Kweli Journal. New York City.

# Academic Qualifications

MFA Creative Writing (Fiction), 2021. “Blood and Country,” Hunter College, CUNY. New York/NY, America.

MPhil Creative Writing, 2019. “Borderland: The Indigenous Experience of Australian Literary Institutions,” University of Queensland, Brisbane/QLD, Australia. (Received Dean’s Award for Outstanding Higher Degree by Research Theses).

BA Honours 1A Creative Writing, 2015. “Aboriginal Dreaming and Masculine Identity in Fiction,” University of Queensland, Brisbane/QLD, Australia.

BCA Creative Writing Extended Major, 2014. University of Queensland, Brisbane/QLD, Australia.

# Awards and Grants

2023 Heroics Award: UTS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

2022 Nominated: Pushcart Prize for ‘This Country’

2022 Nominated: Pen Dau award for ‘Staffy.’

2022 Nominated: Best American Short Stories for ‘Staffy.’

2022 Nominated: O’Henry Prize for ‘Staffy.’

2022 Nominated: Pushcart Prize for ‘Staffy.’

2021 Skidmore Summer Writers Conference Scholarship $2,000.

2019 Fulbright W.G. Walker Scholarship.

2019 American Australia Association: Nomad Two Worlds Foundation Indigenous Arts Scholarship $40,000.00.

2019 Hunter College, CUNY, Mother’s Day Award $5,000.

2019 Ian Potter Cultural Foundation Scholarship $10,000.

2019 Roberta Sykes Foundation Scholarship $10,000.

2019 Australia Council of the Arts Professional Development Grant $25,000.

2019 Dean’s Award for Outstanding Higher Degree by Research Theses. (Awarded for MPhil Thesis).

2018 Future Leaders Program Participant: Australia Council of the Arts.

2018 Cecilie Anne Sloane Postgraduate English Creative Writing Research Scholarship: University of

Queensland $3,000.

2018 Candidate Development Award: University of Queensland $5,000.

2016 Australia Council Literature Board Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups $20,000.

2015 Aurora International Study Tour Participant.

2015 Deans List for academic excellence.

2014 Valedictorian Bachelor of Arts cohort.

2012 EOH Handy Scholarship.

# Publications

**Academic Publications:**

**Book Chapter:**

Akhurst, Graham, and Katelyn Barney “Articulating my own black history: Success factors in a pathway from undergraduate to postgraduate study”. *Indigenous postgraduate education: Intercultural perspectives.* Edited by Karen Trimmer, Debra Hoven, and Pigga Keskitalo. Information Age Publishing, 2020, pp. 47-60.

**Journal Articles:**

Rivera, Carlos, and Graham Akhurst “Critical Creative Pedagogies: A Decolonial and Indigenous Approach Using Visual Arts and Creative Writing.” *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*, 2019, pp. 1-8.

Akhurst, Graham. “The Space Between: Ekphrasis and the Re-Imagining of The Australian Collection.” *Artlines,* vol 2, 2018, pp. 38-41.

**Creative Works:**

Book:

Akhurst, Graham. *Borderland*. UWAP 2023. (*Borderland* has a publication date of October 1, 2023).

**Fiction:**

Akhurst, Graham. “This Country.” *J Journal*, Spring 2022 edition.

---. “Staffy.” *Kweli Journal* (2021).

---. “*True* History of the Ned Kelly Gang.” *Kweli Journal* (2020).

**Non-Fiction:**

Akhurst, Graham. "Standing on the Shoulders of my Ancestors." *American Australian Association* (2020).

---. "Clutching the Void." *Westerly* 61.1 (2016): 228-34.

---. "Lyndhurst." *Mascara Literature Review* 16 (2014).

**Poetry:**

Akhurst, Graham “Empire Builder.” *Meanjin*, 82.3 (2023).

---. “New York City.” *Cordite*, TMLYMI V6 (2023).

---. “Bird’s Nest.” *Meanjin, 80.2* (2021).

---. “Sunlight/Dear Mum.” *Island*, 159 (2020).

---. “Dream.” *Voices from the Intersection.* Fremantle Arts Press (2018).

---. “River.” *Red Ink,* 19.2 (2018).

---. “Ruby.” *Red Ink,* 19.2 (2018).

---. “Red Eye.” *Red Ink,* 19.2 (2018).

---. “River Home.” *Australian Poetry Journal* 7.1 (2017).

---. *Over the Fence: Contemporary Indigenous Photography from the Corrigan Collection*. UQ Art Museum

(2016).

---. “Thai.” *Cordite Poetry Review* 55.1 (2016).

---. “Circle.” *Off the Coast* 21.4 (2015).

---. "Fracking." *VerityLa* October(2015).

---. "Master of the Ghost Dreaming." *VerityLa* May (2015).

---. "Unfold." *Australian Book Review* 16 (2015).

---. "Jenna." *Cordite Poetry Review* 50.0 (2015).

# Conference papers and presentations

**Conference Proceedings.**

Recentring the Region: Association for the Study of Australian Literature, 4-7 July 2023. “Radical Locality: A Roundtable with Jeanine Leane, Evelyn Araluen and Graham Akhurst.

Keynote: American Association of Australasian Literary Studies , 12-15 April 2023. “Staffy” Akhurst, Graham.

Bringing Creative Writing into the Community: An International Symposium. Hong Kong Baptist University, October 2022. “Writing the Real: How fiction can voice trauma in Indigenous Australian communities.” Akhurst, Graham, Conference Paper.

NAISA: Conference 17-19 May 2018. “Publishing Indigenous Literature in Australia.” Akhurst, Graham, Conference Paper.

South Dialogues: Coloniality, Race, and Indigenous Epistemologies, 29-30 November 2017. “Indigenous Knowledges and Creative Critical Pedagogy.” Akhurst, Graham and Carlos Rivera. Conference Paper.

AARE: Education: What’s politics got to do with it? 26-30 November 2017. “Articulating my own black history: Success factors in a pathway from undergraduate to postgraduate study.” Akhurst, Graham and Katelyn Barney. Conference Paper.

NIRAKN: Race, Whiteness and Indigeneity International Conference, June 2017. “Indigenous Knowledges and Critical Creative Pedagogy.” Akhurst, Graham., and Carlos Rivera. Conference paper.

# Tertiary Teaching Experience

**Semester 2, 2023:**

52692 Imagining the Real

Course Coordinator.

Developing an Indigenised Curriculum.

Micro Credential.

Course Coordinator and Tutor.

**Semester 1, 2023:**

57041 Narrative Writing.

Course Coordinator

2 Tutorial Groups.

**Semester 2, 2022:**

52672 Comparing Indigenous Histories and Politics.

2 Tutorial Groups.

52692 Imagining the Real.

2 lectures. 2 Tutorial Groups.

**Semester 1, 2019:**

ABTS 1020: Ten Canoes

1 Lecture.

**Semester 1, 2018:**

ABTS 1020: Ten Canoes

3 Lectures.

**Semester 2, 2017:**

ABTS 2020: Contemporary Indigenous Knowledge, Thought, and Philosophy.

2 Tutorials Groups.

2 Lectures.

**Semester 1, 2017:**

ABTS 1020: Ten Canoes

2 Tutorial Groups.

4 Lectures.

This was a new course. I worked with Dr Katelyn Barney (Course Coordinator) in developing the curriculum. This included: course readings, assessment, sourcing guest lecturers, and implementing pedagogical practices.

**Semester 2, 2016:**

ABTS 2020: Contemporary Indigenous Knowledge, Thought, and Philosophy.

2 Tutorials Groups.

2 Lectures.

This course was reshaped. I worked with Dr Carlos Rivera in redeveloping the curriculum. This Included: course readings, assessment, sourcing guest lecturers, and implementing pedagogical practices.

**Semester 1, 2016:**

ABTS 1000: Indigenous Australian Issues: Past, Present, Future.

4 Tutorial Groups.

I developed a tutorial handbook so that future tutors had a guide for teaching.

# Academic and related experience

July 2022—Present.

**University or Technology Sydney.**

**Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.**

**Lecturer Indigenous Australian Studies and Creative Writing.**

-Lecturing

-Tutoring

-Course development

-Administration

I am the **Indigenous Lead** for the School of Communications. My duties involve being the Indigenous Liaison officer for the SoC Indigenous students and also the lead for the advising the embedding of the Indigenous Graduate Attributes into the SoC courses. I sit on the FASS Teaching and Learning Committee and run best practice and community of practice sessions for academics to help their work with the IGA.

May 2021—Present

**Kweli Journal.**

**Contributing Editor.**

-Conference Presentations and public engagement.

-Mentoring emerging writers of colour.

-Contributing fiction to the journal

Nov 2017—Aug 2019

**University of Queensland: ATSIS Unit**

**Casual Lecturer: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.**

-Lecturing

-Tutoring

-Course development

-Administration

Feb 2016—Nov 2017

**University of Queensland: ATSIS Unit**

**Associate Lecturer: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.**

-Lecturing

-Tutoring

-Course development

-Administration

# Professional Memberships

FNAWN: Board Member

Varuna: Board Member

NAISA: Paying Member

ASAL: Paying Member

# Academic Referees

Professor Heidi Norman.

Associate Dean (Indigenous) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Email: Heidi.Norman@uts.edu.au

Distinguished Professor Peter Carey.

Executive Director Creative Writing MFA Program Hunter College.

Email: petercarey40@gmail.com