

Sofi Thanhauser

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EDUCATION

2014 M.F.A. in Creative Writing & Environment and Natural Resources, University of Wyoming
2006 B.A. in History, with honors, Columbia University

POSITIONS

2019–Present Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Writing, Pratt Institute
2017–2019 Visiting Lecturer, Department of Writing, Pratt Institute
2016–2017 Adjunct Lecturer, Department of English, Baruch College
2015 Research Assistant to Folklorist Andrea Graham, University of Wyoming
2014 Communications Assistant, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources
2012–2014 Graduate Assistant, Creative Writing Program, University of Wyoming

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Worn: A People's History of Clothing (Pantheon, January 2022). Paperback edition: U.S: Vintage Books, January 2023. British Edition: Penguin Press, January 2022 (hardcover) and January 2023 (paperback). Russian Edition: AST Publishers. Taiwanese Edition: China Times. Japanese Edition: Hara Shobo.

Book Chapters

“The Book is the Lover.” *Why We Read: 70 Writers on Non-Fiction*. Josephine Greywoode, Ed. (Penguin Press). September 2022.
“Interview with Sofi Thanhauser for Entropy magazine, June 7, 2016.” *Someone Shot My Book*. Julie Carr. (University of Michigan Press). 2018.

Selected Articles and Essays

“Sewing and making clothes can inspire, heal or bind us to the past.” *Observer Magazine*, 2022.
“Behind the label: How the US stitched up the Honduras garment industry.” *The Guardian*, 2022.
“A brief history of mass manufactured clothing.” *LitHub*, 2022.
“The fabric of women’s history.” *Dame*, 2022.
“How your favorite jeans might be fueling a human rights crisis.” *Vox*, 2021.
“Interview: Sofi Thanhauser w/ Craig Dworkin.” *The Conversant*, 2017.
“Judging the Lover by the Cover.” *Dilettante Army*, 2017.
“Interview: Sofi Thanhauser w/ Nick Thurston.” *The Conversant*, 2016.
“How to Make a Feminist T-Shirt Without Exploiting Women.” *The Establishment*, 2016.
“Sofi Thanhauser With Julie Carr.” *Entropy*, 2016.
“Sofi Thanhauser With Will Alexander.” *Entropy*, 2016.
“Beating Swords into Plowshares.” *Edible Vineyard*, 2015.
“The Roar, the Crash: Sofi Thanhauser on Thomas Mann, fashion, ‘Bourgeois competence’, and fascism.” *Essay Daily*, 2014.
“Hustler Scholars.” *Wag’s Review*, 2014.
“Bay Scallops.” *Edible Vineyard*, 2012.
“Squid.” *Edible Vineyard*, 2011.
“Journey Cakes.” *Edible Vineyard*, 2011.

- “Grape Leaves.” *Edible Vineyard*, 2011.
- “Maize.” *Edible Vineyard*, 2010.
- “Wishbones.” *Edible Vineyard*, 2010.
- “Feeding More Than Student Bodies.” *Edible Vineyard*, 2010.
- “St. Joseph’s Day Cake.” *UK Daily Spectator*, 2009.
- “Oliver Payne and Nick Relph @ Gavin Brown’s Enterprise.” *whitehot magazine of contemporary art*, 2008.
- “Diego Fernandez went to Amsterdam to Roast a Goat with a Bicycle.” *whitehot magazine of contemporary art*, 2007.
- “Plains of Sweet Regret @ Lennon Weinburg Gallery.” *whitehot magazine of contemporary art*, 2007.
- “The Art of the Empty Package: Artist Whit Lasker.” *whitehot magazine of contemporary art*. 2007.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Reviews

- Andrews, Eve. “How clothing forms the fabric of society, both past and future.” *Grist*. March 9, 2022.
- Ravichandran, Balaji. “Fashion’s victims: the environment the colonized, and the poor.” *The Washington Post*. February 25, 2022.
- Hynes, Liadan. “Sofi Thanhauser’s epic history of textiles unpicks the fabric and politics of clothes.” *Irish Independent*. February 20, 2022.
- Singer, Jenny. “These Are the First Great Books of 2022.” *Glamour*. February 17, 2022
- Bailey, Pippa. “Reviewed in short: New books by Sofi Thanhauser, Jessica Au, Jo Browning Wroe and Joseph Sassoon.” *New Statesman*. February 16, 2022.
- Byrne, Paula. “Worn by Sofi Thanhauser review — the story of clothing makes for a good yarn.” *Times of London*. February 5, 2022.
- Bari, Shahidha. “The Devil Wears Cotton.” *Literary Review*. February, 2022.
- “Briefly Noted: ‘Worn,’ ‘The Secret Listener,’ ‘The Fortune Men,’ and ‘Joan Is Okay.’” *The New Yorker*, January 31, 2022.
- “In ‘Worn’, a clothes maven finds out where they come from.” *The Economist*. January 28, 2022.
- Donaldson, Emily. “26 new books coming out this winter to brighten up the darkest season.” *Globe and Mail*. January 28, 2022.
- Hughes, Kathryn. “Worn by Sofi Thanhauser review – a panoramic history of getting dressed.” *The Guardian*. January 21, 2022.
- Scholes, Lucy. “Uh oh: the (lethal) hidden cost of the clothes we wear.” *The Telegraph*. January 23, 2022.
- Hodgson, Moira. “‘Worn’ Review: Material World.” *Wall Street Journal*. Jan. 18, 2022.
- “Newly Published, From Virtual Worlds to a History of Clothing.” *The New York Times Book Review*. January 14, 2022.
- Crosley, Sloane. “Tomorrow Never Knows: Sloane Crosley looks into the future.” *Departures*. January 14, 2022.
- “Channeling ‘Lingual Energy from a Trans-Personal Level’ with Will Alexander.” *Poetry Foundation*. January 12th, 2016
- DiMarco, Sarah. “The 22 Most-Anticipated Books of the New Year: Inspiration to kick off your 2022 reading list.” *Veranda*. January 10, 2022.
- Weiss, Keely. “The Best, Buzziest New Books of 2022.” *Harper’s Bazaar*. January 6, 2022.
- Rapa, Patrick. “Your 2022 Book Goals.” *Philadelphia Inquirer*. December 30, 2021.
- “The Critics Notebook.” *New Criterion*. December 14, 2021.
- “Worn: A People’s History of Clothing” (Starred Review). *Publishers Weekly*. November 22, 2021.
- “Worn: A People’s History of Clothing.” *Booklist*. November 1, 2021.
- “An Interview Series With Information as Material.” *Poetry Foundation*. August 23rd, 2016
- Roerink, Kyle. “Low Budget, High Art.” *Casper Star Tribune*. December 22, 2013.

Television, Radio, and Podcast Appearances

- “Forced Uighur labour in China: How can companies & shoppers help?” *Al Jazeera English, The Stream*. July 5, 2022.
- “A New Book All About the Clothing Industry: 'Worn: A People's History of Clothing.'” *All of It, WNYC*. March 8, 2022.
- “SOFI THANHAUSER: author of *Worn: A People's History of Clothing* - on fashion and women's wages, the ILGWU, the impact low clothing prices has on working conditions, and great thrifting stories.” *Pre-Loved Podcast With Emily Stochl* S6 Ep8. March 7, 2022.
- “A joyous exploration via music, guests and poetry: Fabric.” *Cerys Matthews, BBC Radio 6*. February 20, 2022.
- “The ugly history of fast fashion.” *KERA Think*. February 17, 2022
- Live Interview with Nihal Arthanayake. *BBC Sounds, Radio 5*. February 10, 2022.
- “Author Sofi Thanhauser Details The History Of Clothing And The Human Cost Of Production In Her New Book “Worn.” *AirTalk KPCC 89.3 FM*. January 27, 2022.

Radio Serializations

- BBC 4 Book of the Week*. An abridged version of *Worn: A People's History of Clothing*. January 24-28, 2022.

Print Interviews and Profiles

- Morris, AJ. “Fashion Sustainability Isn't the Only Story—In Fact, It may Do More Harm Than Good: An interview with Fashion Historian Sofi Thanhauser.” *Public Seminar*. July 20, 2022.
- Sutherland, Amy. “She follows her hunches for what to read next.” *Boston Globe*. February 10, 2022.
- Weisbrod, Katelyn. “A New Book Looks at the Clothing Industry. It's Not Pretty.” *InsideClimate News*. January 29, 2022.
- Bennett, Elizabeth. “For Worn, Author Kept Following the Thread of the Story.” *Vineyard Gazette*. February 26, 2022.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS

Creative Work

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2021 | Fulbright, Budapest, Hungary |
| 2019 | VCCA Artist Residency |
| 2019 | Jentel Artist Residency |
| 2018 | Millay Colony Artist Residency, Austerlitz, NY |
| 2017 | MacDowell Fellowship |
| 2015 | UCross Foundation Fellowship |
| 2015 | Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts Residency, Saratoga, WY |

Research and Travel Grants

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| 2017 | Mellon Research Grant |
| 2014 | Haub Grant for Research and Creative Activities |
| 2014 | Plummer Interdisciplinary Excellence Award |
| 2014 | Social Justice Research Center Grant Award, |
| 2013 | Dick and Lynn Cheney Fellowship for Excellence in Study Abroad |
| 2013 | Arts and Sciences Summer Independent Study Award, |

Teaching Awards

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| 2014 | Promoting Intellectual Engagement Award |
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PRESENTATIONS

Conference Talks

- 2022 Keynote Speaker, Evolving Textiles Conference: Materializing the Future. NC State University. Raleigh, NC.
- 2018 “The Coded, the Woven, and the Spoken”, Digital-Material: Aesthetics in the 21st Century, Forum, Mana Contemporary, Jersey City, NJ.
- 2018 “Political Spirituality and Death: A Theoretical Exploration”, Eastern Sociological Society 2018 Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- 2018 “Aesthetics of Freedom: Notes on Intra-Active Becoming”, Annual National Women’s Studies Convention, Atlanta, GA.

Book Talks and Public Presentations

- 2022 Brattleboro Literary Festival, Reading, October 16, 2022
- 2022 Two Authors on the History of Clothing: Style and Substance Kimberly Chrisman Campbell, *Skirts : Fashioning Modern Femininity in the Twentieth Century* Sofi Thanhauser, *Worn: A People's History of Clothing Presented by the American Inspiration author series* Thursday, September 29.
- 2022 West Tisbury Library. “Book Talk with Sofi Thanhauser: 'Worn: A People’s History of Clothing’” July 09, 2022
- 2022 Harvard Bookstore. In conversation with Avery Trufelman. February 2, 2022.
- 2022 Book Soup, in conversation with Maria Goldverg, January 28, 2022.
- 2022 Aquinnah Public Library. “Author Talk: Sofi Thanhauser.” March 29, 2022.
- 2022 McNally Jackson Bookstore, New York. A panel discussion with Sofi Thanhauser, Rachel Tashjian, Antoine Gregory, and Amanda Garfinkel, moderated by Rachel Syme. January 26, 2022.
- 2019 Moderator, K-New Leaders Program: A Conversation with Greg Pak of Marvel Comics Korean Cultural Center New York
- 2017 “Kurt Cobain, the Iraq War, and the Rise of the \$4 T-Shirt”, Pratt Brown Bag Series
- 2017 Incantation for Constant Smiles, Silent Barn Brooklyn, NY
- 2016 WVVY Benefit Concert (as Cold Snake), Katherine Cornell Theatre, Vineyard Haven, MA
- 2016 High Plains Collective Reading: AWP Offsite Event, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 Steve Roggenbuck & Sofi Thanhauser in Concert, Laramie, WY
- 2015 “Poems and Songs: Steve Roggenbuck and Sofi Thanhauser” at Night Heron Books
- 2015 UCross Fellows Reading
- 2015 “Brush Creek Presents!” at Encampment
- 2014 MFA Reading Series, Guest Reader
- 2014 Textiles of Tamil Nadu: Presentation to the Geological Society, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY
- 2014 University of Wyoming MFA Thesis Reading, Laramie, WY
- 2014 Writers in Conversation: Saratoga Public School, Saratoga, WY
- 2014 Q&A with Ira Sukarungrung, Laramie, WY
- 2013 Cotton Harvesting in Lubbock TX, Presentation for Adrian Shirk’s English 1010 Class, Laramie, WY
- 2013 MFA Reading Series, University of Wyoming
- 2012 “Polyphony and Reflected Truth: A Nonfiction Response to Wyoming River Fugues.” University of Wyoming symposium on water, *Never Drink Downstream: Factual Tales and Artful Musing on Wyoming Water*, Friday, November 10, 2012

2009 Jump Over the Fence of Taste Multimedia performance as The Spoonbreakers at the Outerland, Edgartown Martha's Vineyard

Exhibitions and Artist Book Editions

2017 Tongue Tried, In collaboration with Nick Thurston, published as a limited edition broadside by Whiskey Jack Press

2016 Artifact and Process: The Evolving Field of Graphic Design, The Weeks Gallery, Jamestown NY

2014 Portrait of Wyoming, Travelling Exhibition, Laramie, Casper, Lander Art Center and Jackson WY

2009 Mapa de Guerra del Día de Brujas 3: Mirando Atrás Con Rabia, Galeria Metropolitana, Santiago

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Pratt Institute (2019-Present)

WR-360: The Art of Teaching Writing

Pratt's Saturday Writing School is a teaching laboratory that provides writing classes for local adolescents. Depending on program enrollment, each pair of writing major undergraduates is assigned a class of between three and six middle school students. Writing undergrads are responsible for the planning and teaching of a ten-week sequence of writing lessons guided by the theory and strategies presented by the instructor. The instructor supervises and advises student teachers and visits them in their classroom during each two-hour session. A seminar immediately following each class is a forum for reflection on common issues and problems, both classroom and societal, emerging from the Saturday Writing School experience.

WR-320: The Fabric Book

From medieval tapestry and Navajo weaving to contemporary artists like Louise Bourgeois and Keith Smith, textiles and language have an interwoven history that students in *The Fabric Book* explore as makers and as theorists. We read weavings as texts, explore 20th century artists books that use fabric as a substrate, and produce original works that employ modern digital fabric printing technologies alongside more traditional binding, weaving, dyeing, and printing techniques. Research into historic, economic and conceptual ties between text and textiles fuel our own creative discoveries as we delineate and produce work within a canon that is unfolding in real time.

WR-320: The Graphic Novel I

In this course, students read and dissect seminal graphic novels from 1973 to the present. At the same time, we explore the work of several lesser known, early-career graphic novelists, many of whom live and work here in New York. Each class period we discuss both a well-known graphic novel, and the work of an emerging contemporary graphic novelist. Twice during the semester, students have the opportunity to present their own work to their peers, in a midterm critique and a final critique. Our classroom will also serve as a maker space, with a portion of each class devoted to creative work. Through readings like McCloud's *Understanding Comics*, we work towards a critical vocabulary with which to speak about some of the unique affordances of the graphic novel form. We consider what fresh new directions mixed text/graphic works might take, and expand the horizons of what the term "graphic novel" can become.

WR-320: The Graphic Novel II

The graphic novel is a relatively new, and constantly evolving genre. In this course we focus on the graphic novels as a contemporary form, emphasizing works produced in the past 10 years both in the U.S. and abroad. As we familiarize ourselves with the contemporary conversation, students are positioned to enter into the field as creators as well as connoisseurs. Weekly critiques of student work will help students define their style and message, and the semester's work culminates in a printed zine or published web comic.

WR-320: Character Studies

The course focuses on and explore the making of characters. We look to examples in fiction, film, nonfiction, and hybrid forms. Classes include discussion, writing exercises, and visits from guest artists. Over the semester, as an on-going homework project, students write *one* story or essay. We begin in the first weeks by gathering material in relation to a series of questions and prompts. The idea is to allow the story and its characters to emerge over time, to use the course readings and discussions to generate new directions and possibilities for the work.

English 100S-01: Pre-College Creative Writing

In this course students gain experience in writing poetry, essay, fiction, and screenwriting. Through reading /writing assignments and critical reviews, students examine written language, the composing process, and voice. Students produce written works in various styles and genres, and then present the work for peer review and critique. The workshops are designed to provide critical feedback from other students and the instructor through revision into final form.

XHA53 32: Pre-College Art History

This course uses the culturally rich resources of New York City to help students experience key elements of the history of art. Students explore the many functions of art and the stylistic differences and similarities across historical periods. The course also serves as a complement to studio classes, helping students find meaningful connections between art history and the development of their own work. This course is a non-credit class offering a pass/fail grade.

Baruch College (2017-2019)

English 2100: Writing I

This is an intensive course introducing students to writing as a means of discovery. In Writing I students practice and share their written articulation of ideas as a community of writers. Students read a variety of intellectually challenging and thematically coherent texts in a range of genres. Throughout, the emphasis is on writing and communication skills as processes involving multiple steps, including drafting, discussion, revision, and re-thinking. The work of the class is conducted in classroom, small-group, and one-on-one sessions.

English 2150: Writing II

Writing II is an intensification of Writing I. This course encourages students to read, reflect on, write about, and synthesize ideas from a range of genres and literary forms. Students examine and learn how to employ different styles, various appropriate uses of evidence and counter-evidence, multiple methods of interpretations, close readings of texts, and, finally, literary-cultural contextualizations.

University of Wyoming (2016-2017)

English 1010: Freshman Composition

Composition & Rhetoric is an introductory college writing course highlighting expository writing and close, critical reading. The class is designed to prepare students for the types of

writing expected at UW in their majors. At the end of the semester, students should be able to complete an expository and research essay that reflects students' own point of view and that demonstrate thoughtful engagement with complex readings at some length.

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Committees:

Writing Curriculum Review Committee, Pratt Institute (2018, 2019, 2020)

School of Language Arts and Sciences Curriculum Review Committee, Pratt Institute (2018, 2019, 2020)

School of Language Arts and Sciences General Education Committee, Pratt Institute (2018)

Peer Course Observations:

Adrian Shirk, Eliza Swann, and Max Ludington (Spring 2022)

Rachel Levitsky (Winter 2019)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Creative Writing (Nonfiction), Artists' Books and Artists' Publishing, Textile Art. å