



# Fall 2019

## GUS 530 GRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOPS

Course Number	Topic	Instructor	Date and Time
GUS 530-01	Professional Development Tools: Grant Writing, Conference Poster Design, Conference Presentations	Julye Bidmead, Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies	Wednesday September 4, 2019 4-6:50PM
GUS 530-02	Immersive Weekend Poetry Workshop with Carolyn Forché	Carolyn Forché, Chapman University Presidential Fellow in Creative Writing, American poet, editor, professor, translator, and human rights advocate	Friday, Sept. 6, 2019 4-7PM Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019 12-4:30PM Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019 12-4:30PM
GUS 530-03	Careers with the United Nations	Thomas Frøyland	Wednesday September 11, 2019 4-6:50PM
GUS 530-04	Career Development Skills: Resumes, Cover Letters, Handshake, LinkedIn, Networking	Erin Berthon, Career Advisor	Tuesday, September 17, 2019 4-6:50PM
GUS 530-05	Library Research Methods: Pathways to Success	Rand Boyd, Special Collections & Archives Librarian, Leatherby Libraries	Thursday, September 26, 2019 4-6:50PM
GUS 530-06	Telling Your Story: Building an Authentic Brand	Alison Williams	Thursday October 3, 2019 7-9:50PM
GUS 530-07	Lies versus Damned Lies: Evaluating Research Sources	Gregory A. Daddis, Associate Professor, Department of History	Tuesday October 8, 2019 4-6:50PM
GUS 530-08	How to Solve Absolutely Any Writer's Block	Bruce McAllister, Writing Coach, Writer, Consultant, Workshop Leader, and Agent Finder	Thursday October 17, 2019 4-6:50PM
GUS 530-10	Getting in the Door: The art of pitching book proposals and articles	Samantha Dunn, author, journalist, writing teacher and advocate for storytellers everywhere	Monday, October 28, 2019 4-6:50PM
GUS 530-11	Path to Publication: Query Letters, Agents, Rejection, and Success	Liz Harmer, Chapman University MFA Creative Writing Alumna, 2019; Author of <i>The Amateurs</i> (Penguin Random House, April 2, 2019)	Wednesday, November 6, 2019 4-6:50PM
GUS 530-12	Conference Presentations	Jennifer Keene, Professor, Chair, Department of History	Monday, November 11, 2019 4-6:50PM
GUS 530-13	From Sources to Story: Techniques for Building Research-Based Narratives	Glenn Kurtz, Presidential Fellow in English and History	Monday, November 18, 2019 4-6:50PM

Wednesday, September 4, 2019 4-6:50PM

Professional Development Tools

Building Blocks for the Future: Turning Untamed Potential into Professional Reality

Laura Scudder Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall 121

*This workshop will focus on three areas focused on providing the tools necessary to turn untamed potential into professional reality.*

1. *Grant Writing - Find out how to develop great ideas for research and creative activity, describe your projects, find faculty mentors, and ask for recommendation letters. In addition, learn about International Opportunities, including the various Fulbright programs that you can apply for, and what the application process is like.*
2. *Conference Poster Design - Find out how to develop a better poster design to grab the attention of your audience through use of better lay-out and visuals.*
3. *Conference Presentations - Develop your skills as a presenter to engage your audience about your project. The three-minute thesis (3MT) will also be discussed.*

**Dr. Julye Bidmead, Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies  
Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences**



Dr. Julye Bidmead (Ph.D., Vanderbilt University) is the Director of OURCA, the Director of the Office of Fellowships and Scholar Programs and an Associate Professor of Religious Studies in Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. She received a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in Method and Theory of Religion. Prior to joining Chapman University in 2007, she held faculty positions at Miami University (OH), James Madison University, and California State University, Fresno. Dr. Bidmead teaches classes in Religious Studies, First Year Foundation (FFC), and the University Honors Program. She has won several teaching awards including the Valerie Scudder Award and Pedagogical Innovative Award. Dr. Bidmead's publications include *The Akitu Festival: Religious Continuity and Royal Legitimation in Mesopotamia* (Gorgias Press, 2004), *Invest Your Humanity* (Pickwick, 2016), and numerous articles on Near Eastern religion, ritual studies, and gender. Her most recent research project, *Recovering Women's Rituals in the Ancient Near East* (Equinox Press), explores women's religious roles and rites of passage in ancient Israel, Mesopotamia, and Canaan. Dr. Bidmead is currently the Education Director and field archaeologist on the Jezreel Expedition, where she spends her summers excavating the world of the ancient Israelites.

Friday, Sept. 6, 2019 4-7PM | Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019 12-4:30PM | Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019 12-4:30PM  
Immersive Weekend Poetry Workshop with Carolyn Forché  
Laura Scudder Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall 121

This three-day, intensive workshop with Presidential Fellow Carolyn Forché combines generative assignments, critique, and new approaches to revision. We will consider poetic modes (elegiac, epistolary, enumerative, anagogic), as well as contemporary forms (documentary, day-book, prose poem). At the end of each session, an assignment will be presented with two or three options that include examples, and students will be expected to produce an original creative work by the following class meeting. During our meetings, we will share and discuss the work. In addition to in-class writing, short presentations will be offered by the instructor on the poetic process, composition, revision, sequencing, and the development of the poet's notebook. By the end of the workshop, each student will have written and revised new poems. There will be some assigned reading, including model poems, examples of documentary poetry, and works in notebook form (such as those of Anna Kamienska).

To apply, please submit a poetry portfolio of 6-8 pages and a short statement of how this workshop will support your writing life in the [online submission form](#) by **Friday August 16, 2019**. Be sure to include your name in the writing sample file. Space is limited, and the deadline is firm.

**Carolyn Forché, Chapman University Presidential Fellow in Creative Writing, American poet, editor, professor, translator, and human rights advocate**



"Carolyn Forché shows how people survive in an unbearable world." —Daina Savage  
Renowned as a "poet of witness," Carolyn Forché is the author of four books of poetry. Her first poetry collection, *Gathering The Tribes* (Yale University Press, 1976), won the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award. In 1977, she traveled to Spain to translate the work of Salvadoran-exiled poet Claribel Alegria, and upon her return, received a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, which enabled her to travel to El Salvador, where she worked as a human rights advocate. Her second book, *The Country Between Us* (Harper and Row, 1982), received the Poetry Society of America's Alice Fay di Castagnola Award, and was also the Lamont Selection of the Academy of American Poets. Her third book of poetry, *The Angel of History* (HarperCollins, 1994), was chosen for The Los Angeles Times Book Award. *Blue Hour* is her fourth collection of poems (HarperCollins, 2003). She is currently at work on a memoir of her years in El Salvador, Lebanon, South Africa, and France.

Her memoir *What You Have Heard Is True* (Penguin Random House, 2019) is a devastating, lyrical, and visionary memoir about a young woman's brave choice to engage with horror in order to help others. Written by one of the most gifted poets of her generation, this is the story of a woman's radical act of empathy, and her fateful encounter with an intriguing man who changes the course of her life.

Forché's anthology, *Against Forgetting: Twentieth Century Poetry of Witness*, was published by W.W. Norton & Co. in 1993. In 2014, her new anthology, *The Poetry of Witness: The Tradition in English, 1500-2001*, was published. Her translation of Claribel Alegria's work, *Flowers From The Volcano*, was published by the University Pittsburgh Press in 1983. In 2000, Curbstone Press published a new book of her translations of Alegria, entitled *Sorrow*. In 1983, Writers and Readers Cooperative (New York and London) published *El Salvador: Work of Thirty Photographers*, for which she wrote the text. In 1991, The Ecco Press published her translations of *The Selected Poetry of Robert Desnos* (with William Kulik). She co-translated *Selected Poetry of Mahmoud Darwish* (University of California Press, 2002), from which a chapbook selection had been published by The Lannan Foundation (2001).

In 1998 in Stockholm, she was given the Edita and Ira Morris Hiroshima Foundation for Peace and Culture Award, in recognition of her work on behalf of human rights and the preservation of memory and culture. Her articles and reviews have appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Nation, Esquire, Mother Jones, and others. Forché has held three fellowships from The National Endowment for the Arts, and in 1992 received a Lannan Foundation Literary Fellowship. In 2013, Forché won the Academy of American Poets Fellowship for distinguished poetic achievement. "For her steady gaze into the abyss and for her crafted house of awakened human heavens where she calls us to live," said academy chancellor [Juan Felipe Herrera](#), "we celebrate and recognize Carolyn Forché and her heroic career: gathering word-by-word embers to face and save lives. Before they are disappeared." In 2014 Forché was announced a finalist for the 24th Neustadt International Prize for Literature.

Carolyn Forché directs the Lannan Center for Poetry and Social Practice and is a University Professor of English at Georgetown University. She lives in Maryland with her husband, photographer Harry Mattison, and visits Chapman University each semester as a Presidential Fellow.

Wednesday September 11, 2019 4-6:50PM  
Careers with the United Nations  
Laura Scudder Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall 121

*With more than 30 specialized agencies, funds and programs spread all over the world, the UN System is large, complex and often confusing. Finding your way to a career within the UN can seem even more overwhelming. This workshop outlines the main ways to become a UN intern, consultant or staff member, with a few tips from someone who's been all three.*

**Thomas Frøyland**



After interning as a speechwriter for former Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York, Thomas joined the United Nations as an information officer for peace and security issues. In this role, he travelled to conflict zones on the African continent and covered hostilities in the Middle East. As a political officer, he focused especially on conflict prevention and counter-terrorism initiatives in Central Asia and the Sahel region, as well as on the UN's cooperation with regional organizations.

His later work as a communications consultant has included assignments for the UN and NGOs, as well as counseling corporations on crisis management. He was previously Director of International Affairs at the University of Chicago's Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies. Born and raised in Norway, Thomas is a graduate of the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po).

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 4-6:50PM  
Career Development Skills  
Laura Scudder Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall 121

- *RESUMES AND COVER LETTERS* - You hear the word "resume" and you know you need it to make an immediate great first impression. Learn tips for building effective resumes that successfully market you to employers and/or further education.
- *HANDSHAKE*
- *LINKEDIN*
- *NETWORKING*

Erin Berthon, Career Advisor  
Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences



Erin Berthon is an experienced Career Development professional in higher education. She has a 12-year history of working in education, including the last 5 years in higher education with the Office of Disability Services and in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Chapman University. Erin is passionate about working with students and helping them reach their career and academic goals. Erin has a master's degree focused in School Counseling and is skilled in Career Development, Higher Education Leadership, and Team Building. Erin enjoys building relationships and partnerships, teaching and growing within the university setting, and encouraging students to reach their full potential.

**Thursday, September 26, 2019 4-6:50PM**  
**Library Research Methods: Pathways to Success**  
**Leatherby Libraries 305**

*Being aware of the resources available to you at the Leatherby Libraries will prepare you to manage your time efficiently, to do your research more effectively, and to write your papers more successfully. The Library Research Methods: Pathways to Success workshop will cover the concepts and skills needed to conduct library research with an emphasis on electronic resources and sourcing and using primary documents. Graduate students will gain an understanding of the library research process and the skills by which they can successfully find information for their research, presentations, and other class assignments.*

**Rand Boyd, Special Collections & Archives Librarian**  
**Leatherby Libraries**



Rand Boyd is the Special Collections and Archives Librarian for the Frank Mt. Pleasant Library of Special Collections and Archives. He is the subject liaison librarian for the Department of History and Holocaust Studies and has been with Chapman University since 2007.

Thursday, October 3, 2019 7-9:50PM  
Telling Your Story: Building an Authentic Brand  
Laura Scudder Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall 121

*As a writer or scholar in the digital era, like it or not, what people find online about you is often the first portal to how they will perceive you and your work. Creating a brand that is an authentic personal and professional reflection can be a challenge. This workshop will focus on tools to help develop your own brand identity. We will look first at discovering a narrative that connects you and your work. We will then spotlight practical building blocks of creating a successful brand. From logos, names, and how to take a great headshot; to creating a streamlined website and building your portfolio; to curated and effective social media in communicating your brand story, this workshop will provide you with ideas and jumping-off points, regardless of what stage you're at in your work.*

### Alison Williams



Alison Williams is a graduate ('18) of Chapman University's dual master's degree program in Creative Writing (Poetry) and English. She is the founding Editor-in-Chief of *Anastamos*, the graduate interdisciplinary journal of Chapman ([www.anastamos.com](http://www.anastamos.com)), and was the Chair of Public Relations for the Graduate Student Council from 2015-2017. Interests include digital humanities, interdisciplinarity, feminist rhetorical theory, women's professional networks, media and communication, and intersectionality.

**Tuesday October 8, 2019 4-6:50PM**

**Lies versus Damned Lies: Evaluating Research Sources**

**Laura Scudder Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall 121**

*Mark Twain once quipped, "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics." How do students in the humanities determine "truth" when conducting research among various sources? This workshop will explore the problems researchers confront when different stories emerge from the likes of memoirs, newspaper articles, autobiographies, and historical works.*

**Dr. Gregory A. Daddis, Associate Professor, Department of History**

**Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences**



Gregory Daddis is an associate professor of history and director of Chapman's MA Program in War and Society. Dr. Daddis joined the History Department in the summer of 2015 after having served as the Chief of the American History Division in the Department of History at the United States Military Academy at West Point. A retired US Army colonel, he has served in both Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. Dr. Daddis specializes in the history of the Vietnam Wars and the Cold War era.

Thursday October 17, 2019 4-6:50PM  
How to Solve Absolutely Any Writer's Block  
Laura Scudder Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall 121

*Writers have been struggling through one kind of writer's block or another since writers started writing. If you're a writer, you'll have one—even if you haven't yet had one and don't have one at the moment. Why? Because writer's blocks are a completely natural part of the writing process—and the writer's career—and there are so many kinds. But it can take an inordinate amount of time you could better spend on writing to break through a block if you don't know how to do it. The good news is, blocks reduce to one of two kinds: psyche or craft...though psyche affects craft and craft psyche, obscuring the source and the solution often. More good news: There isn't a block that can't be solved, and pretty quickly. And while some writer's blocks are from "mis-definitions" or lack of experience with craft and process, some are wonderful and should be celebrated because they're our deepest/highest Self speaking to us.*

### **Bruce McAllister, Writing Coach, Writer, Consultant, Workshop Leader, and Agent Finder**



Bruce McAllister is an award-winning West-Coast-based writing coach, writer in a wide range of genres, consultant in the fields of publishing and Hollywood, workshop leader and an "agent finder" for both new and established writers. As a writing coach, he specializes in all kinds of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and screenplays.

Bruce's literary and genre fiction has appeared in national magazines, literary quarterlies, college textbooks and 'year's best' anthologies. His second novel, *Dream Baby*, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship winner, and was called a "stunning tour de force" by Publishers Weekly. His most recent novel,

the autobiographical *The Village Sang to the Sea: A Memoir of Magic*, was a *Cibils* and *Locus* nominee. His fiction has been translated widely and received national awards and notable mentions in the *New York Times*, other U.S. newspapers, U.S. and foreign magazines and journals, and reference works for major publishers and literary presses. His poetry and experimental work have appeared in literary quarterlies and anthologies; he has co-edited magazines and anthologies; and his articles on popular science, writing craft and sports have appeared in publications like *Life*, *International Wildlife*, *The Writer* and newspapers across the country.

Bruce has been a writing coach and consultant on a wide range of popular books for major and smaller publishers and scientific books published by scholarly presses, including Pulitzer and National Book Award nominees; and a facilitator of autobiography and memoir workshops. At a private university in southern California, where he taught writing for twenty-four years, he helped establish and direct the Creative Writing Program, directed both the Professional Writing Track of that program and its Communications Internship program, received various teaching and service awards, and was Distinguished Professor of Literature and Writing from 1990 to 1995

His interests include cultural anthropology, creativity theory, storytelling, popular culture and popular fiction, Early Man archeology, advertising and the media, science and multicultural education, theory and methodology in the social and natural sciences, the Vietnam War, U.S. foreign policy, oceanography. The son of a career Navy officer and an anthropologist mother, he grew up in Washington, D.C., Florida, California and Italy; attended middle school and art school in Italy; received degrees in English and writing from Claremont McKenna College and the University of California at Irvine; has three wonderful children (Annie, Ben and Liz); and is married to choreographer Amelie Hunter. He lives in Orange, California.

Monday, October 28, 2019 4-6:50PM

Getting in the Door: The art of pitching book proposals and articles  
Laura Scudder Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall 121

*Getting your work into the publishing industry can be confusing. This workshop seeks to define terms, provide tips and offer templates to assist you with that process.*

**Samantha Dunn, author, journalist, writing teacher and advocate for storytellers everywhere**



I'm Samantha Dunn, an author, journalist, writing teacher and advocate for storytellers everywhere.

I wrote the novel [Failing Paris](#), a finalist for the PEN West Fiction Award in 2000. I also published the bestselling memoir [Not By Accident: Reconstructing a Careless Life](#) (Henry Holt & Co.), a BookSense 76 pick, as well as [Faith in Carlos Gomez: A Memoir of Salsa, Sex and Salvation](#).

My essays are anthologized in a number of places, including the short story anthology, [Women on the Edge: Writing from Los Angeles](#), which I co-edited with Julianne Ortale. Other collections showcasing my work include the Seal Press releases [Dancing at the Shame Prom: Sharing the Stories That Kept Us Small](#) and [Drinking Diaries: Women Serve Their Stories Straight Up](#). David Ulin's anthology of L.A. writers, *Another City*, also features my work, as does Rob Spillman's *The Time of My Life*.

As a journalist, my bylines have been widely published, from [O the Oprah Magazine](#) to *Ms.*, *Shape*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Miami Herald*, not to mention *InStyle*, *Glamour*, *SELF*, *Men's Health* and a variety of other consumer magazines. I have also written for the stage and have taken a few turns screenwriting as a member of the Writers Guild of America.

In a former life, I was a longtime writer-in-residence at the [New York State Summer Writers Institute](#). Now I teach memoir at Chapman University, work with [Pam Houston's](#) nonprofit writing program [Writing x Writers](#), and direct the [Esalen](#) Writers Camp, founded by [Cheryl Strayed](#).

I'm currently the executive editor of [Coast Magazine](#) in Southern California. I live in Orange, California, with my husband, musician/politico Jimmy Camp, our son Benen, and a menagerie of horses, dogs, a goat, a cat and one grumpy pet [pig](#).

Wednesday, November 6, 2019 4-6:50PM

Path to Publication: Query Letters, Agents, Rejection, and Success  
Laura Scudder Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall 121

*Often it feels as though there's a strong but invisible barrier between the unpublished and published author. For this workshop, we'll discuss the many paths to and kinds of publication. Drawing on my own story and the stories of other successful writers, we'll talk about both the emotional and practical consequences of becoming a published author, from serious dedication to craft, to first publications of short pieces, to querying agents, and beyond. I'll talk about the ways you might be intentional about researching publishers and agents, as well as setting goals and achieving them in a field that often feels precarious and out of one's own control. Students will be encouraged to bring their questions and ideas.*

Liz Harmer, Chapman University MFA Creative Writing Alumna, 2019; Author of *The Amateurs* (Penguin Random House, April 2, 2019)



[My debut novel \*The Amateurs\* was published by Knopf Canada in 2018 as part of the Knopf New Face of Fiction program.](#) It's being released with Vintage Canada in the US in 2019. It received starred reviews from *The Quill & Quire* and *Publishers Weekly*.

I also write essays and short stories. [My story "Never Prosper" was a finalist for the 30th Journey Prize](#) & is also published in [Best Canadian Stories 2018](#). My [short story collection was a finalist for the 2014 Flannery O'Connor Short Fiction Award](#). I've been nominated for National Magazine Awards three times. In 2014, I won Gold in Personal Journalism for my essay "Blip". I've been longlisted for the CBC short story award and a finalist for a Glimmer Train prize. My book reviews have been published all over.

I'm currently a Fellow in the MFA program at Chapman University. In 2015 I finished my MA in Creative Writing at the University of Toronto, where my mentor is Charles Foran. I've also taken workshops with David Bezmozgis, Richard Greene, Robert

McGill, and Richard Bausch.

In 2014, I moved with my academic family from our hometown of Hamilton, Ontario to Southern California for my husband's work. I'm a college teacher, a freelance editor, and I've worked at libraries on and off since I was a teenager. I have three daughters, who have the names, my friend tells me, of a trio of trapeze artists. The youngest of these is now six.

A warm, dynamic speaker, I am available for interviews, book chats, and lectures. Please get in touch with me at [ec.harmer \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:ec.harmer@gmail.com).

(Photo credit Scott W. Nichols 2016)

Monday, November 11, 2019 4-6:50PM  
Conference Presentations  
Laura Scudder Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall 121

*Making an effective conference presentation is an important step in the education of every graduate student. Presenting at conferences is important for successful networking, getting out the word about your work, and building a professional reputation. Yet we spend very little time in graduate school assessing and perfecting conference presentation techniques. This workshop will discuss ways to mentally approach giving a presentation, explore a variety of techniques to crafting an effective presentation, the pitfalls and possibilities of PowerPoint, and discovering a presentation persona that matches your personality.*

**Jennifer Keene, Dean**  
**Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences**



Jennifer D. Keene is a specialist in American military experience during World War I. She is currently President of the Society of Military History. She has published three books on the American involvement in the First World War: *Doughboys, the Great War and the Remaking of America* (2001), *World War I: The American Soldier Experience* (2011), and *The United States and the First World War* (2000). She is also the lead author for an American history textbook, *Visions of America: A History of the United States* that uses a visual approach to teaching students U.S. history. She has received numerous awards for her scholarship, including Fulbright Senior Scholar Awards to France and Australia and Mellon Library of Congress Fellowship in International Studies. She served as an associate editor for the *Encyclopedia of War and American Society* (2005) which won the Society of Military History's prize for best military history reference book. She co-edited, along with Michael Neiberg of *Finding Common Ground: New Directions in First World War Studies* (2011). In 2011 she won the Jack Miller Center Prize for the best military or diplomatic history essay published in *Historically Speaking*. She has published numerous essays and journal articles on the war, served as an historical consultant for exhibits and films, and as an associate editor of the *Journal of First World War Studies*. She is currently working on several projects related to the upcoming centennial of World War I, including a book on African American soldiers and a new synthesis of the American experience during the war under contract with Oxford University Press. She is also a general editor for the "1914-1918-online," peer-reviewed online encyclopedia, <http://www.1914-1918-online.net/>, a major digital humanities project.

Monday, November 18, 2019 4-6:50PM

From Sources to Story: Techniques for Building Research-Based Narratives

Laura Scudder Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall 121

*How do you move from primary sources to narrative? Whether writing fiction or nonfiction, the incorporation of research material into narrative presents thorny problems of balance, synthesis, and historical, intellectual, and emotional integrity. How do you preserve the source's voice in your own? How do you negotiate multiple sources or source types, or organize the mass of mismatched fragments that clutter your notebook, folders, or recording logs?*

*This hands-on colloquium is for students engaged in research-based projects who are confronting the challenge of crafting a coherent narrative from the mess of their source material. Working with assigned readings, student work, and the professor's own work-in-progress, we will explore and critique a range of possible solutions and techniques. While focused on textual narrative, we may also examine examples from films, podcasts, and other mixed-media projects.*

### **Glenn Kurtz, Presidential Fellow in English and History**



Glenn Kurtz is the author of *Three Minutes in Poland: Discovering a Lost World in a 1938 Family Film* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux 2014), which was named a "Best Book of 2014" by *The New Yorker*, *The Boston Globe*, and National Public Radio. *The Los Angeles Times* called the book "breathtaking," and it has received high critical praise in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and many other publications. A Dutch translation appeared in 2015. A documentary film based on *Three Minutes in Poland* is in production.

His first book, *Practicing: A Musician's Return to Music*, also received enthusiastic reviews from *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and elsewhere. *Practicing* was featured on NPR's "Weekend Edition" with Scott Simon, "To the Best of our Knowledge," and WNYC's "The Leonard Lopate Show." An Italian edition appeared in 2010, and Chinese and Korean editions have been published recently.

For four years, Kurtz hosted "Conversations on Practice," a discussion series about the writing process and the writer's life. Guests included Martin Amis, Patti Smith, Jennifer Egan, Adam Gopnik, Francine Prose, Tom McCarthy, Dani Shapiro, and Rebecca Newberger - Goldstein, among many others.

A 2016 Guggenheim Foundation Fellow, he is a graduate of Tufts University, the New England Conservatory of Music, and holds a PhD from Stanford University in German studies and comparative literature. He has taught at Stanford University, San Francisco State University, and is currently on the faculty at The Gallatin School at New York University. He lives in New York City and is at work on a novel and a nonfiction project, both about the Empire State Building.