

## Curriculum Vitae

**Date:** February 26, 2015

### **PERSONAL**

**Name:** Becka Mara McKay

**Current Academic Rank:** Associate Professor

**Primary Department:** English

**Secondary or Joint Appointments:** N/A

### **HIGHER EDUCATION**

University of Iowa; PhD in Comparative Literature; December 2009

Dissertation: *A Scar on the Surface of God: Translation Biblical Allusion in Modern Hebrew Poetry*

University of Iowa; MFA in Literary Translation; May 2005

University of Washington; MFA in Creative Writing (Poetry); June 1998

Barnard College; B.A. in History with a minor in Architecture; May 1989

### **EXPERIENCE**

Florida Atlantic University; Associate Professor of English; 2014-present

Florida Atlantic University; Assistant Professor of English; 2009-2014

University of Iowa; Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2002-2007

Microsoft Press, Microsoft Corp., Redmond, WA; Project manager; edited manuscripts, managed book projects, and performed wide variety of related office duties in support of publishing process; May 1998 – June 2002

Lerner Publishing Group, Minneapolis; Editor; Edited children's books, developed book projects with authors, and performed wide variety of related office duties in support of publishing process; June 1991 – June 1996

### **PUBLICATIONS: BOOKS**

#### ***Translation***

McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Shimon Adaf. *Kaleidoscope: Three Hebrew Poets*. Mosaic Press, September 2014. Editorial Review.

McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. *Lunar Savings Time*. Clockroot Books, May 2011. Editorial Review.

McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. *Blue Has No South*. Clockroot Books, 2010. Editorial Review.

McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Suzane Adam. *Laundry*. Autumn Hill Books, 2008. Editorial Review.

### **Poetry**

McKay, Becka Mara. *A Meteorologist in the Promised Land*. Shearsman Books. March 2010. Editorial Review.

### **PUBLICATIONS: JOURNALS**

#### ***Translation***

McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. “Depth of Field,” “Another War Began,” and “Three Beginnings.” 1111, July 2013. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Anat Levin. “Fertility Lexicon,” “Birthday Poem 2005,” “Birthday Poem 2006,” Poetry International, March 2013.

<<http://www.poetryinternationalweb.net/pi/site/poem/item/22822/auto/FERTILITY-LEXICON>> Editorial Review.

McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. “More True Superheroes,” and “You Need to Take These Shoes Home.” World Literature Today, 2012. Editorial Review.

McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. “True Illusions,” Discoveries: New Writing from the Iowa Review, 2012. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. “On the Power of Russian Literature,” “On Mythology,” “On the Metamorphosis,” “On the Black Angel,” “On the Painter of Doors,” “On Cain and Abel,” “On How the iPad Saved the Short Story.” The Kenyon Review, 2011. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara, with Edgar Platelis, from the Lithuanian of Tomas Butkus. “Volcano Dweller,” and “Wedge.” 3:AM Magazine, 2011.  
< <http://www.3ammagazine.com/3am/six-poems-tomas-s-butkus/>> Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. *Sharp Sticks, Driven Nails: An Anthology of New Stories*. Stinging Fly Press, 2010. Editorial Review.

McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. “Ten Approximations.” PEN Journal, 2010. Editorial Review.

- McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. “Three Pieces of Time,” “The Book of Sleep,” and “Super Zxn.” The Outlet, 2010.  
< <http://electricliterature.com/blog/2010/07/23/3-micro-stories-by-alex-epstein/>>. Editorial Board.
- McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. “A Short Report on Old Age and the Music of Celestial Bodies” and “Memory Card.” Natural Bridge, 2010. Editorial Board.
- McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. “Beyond the Wall.” RHINO 2009. Editorial Board.
- McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. “Penelope’s Last Glance,” “Magico juegos del tiempo,” and “Instruction Manual for a Rented Time Machine.” Zeek, 2009. Editorial Review.
- McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Suzane Adam. Excerpt from the novel Laundry. Words Without Borders, 2008.  
< <http://wordswithoutborders.org/article/from-laundry>>. Editorial Review.
- McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Suzane Adam. “Learning to Draw.” Zeek, 2008. Editorial Review.
- McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Shimon Adaf. “Evening Prayer” and “Tikkun.” PEN, 2008. Editorial Review.
- McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Shimon Adaf. “Psalm.” Agriculture Reader, 2008. Editorial Review.
- McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. “The Mystery of Jewish and Aryan Chess” Zeek, 2008. Editorial Review.
- McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. “Jung’s Nightmare of Watches,” “Homer’s Childhood Games,” “The Woman Who Collected Solved Crossword Puzzles,” “True Illusions,” and “On the Mourning Customs of Elephants” The Iowa Review, 2008. Editorial Board.
- McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Alex Epstein. “The Artist’s Likeness Is Like an Artist,” “The Angel Who Photographed God,” “A Story in Which No Snow Will Fall,” “Gloss,” “The Woman Who Dreamed of Imaginary Chansons,” “Edgar Allen Poe in Yiddish,” “Gibraltar, A Love Story,” “Lullaby for an Old Chess Player,” “On the Difference Between Poetry and Prose,” and “Blue Has No South.” Words Without Borders, 2007.  
< <http://wordswithoutborders.org/article/ten-short-pieces>> Editorial Board.
- McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Shimon Adaf. “Recognizing the Body.”

TWO LINES, 2004. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara, from the Hebrew of Shimon Adaf. "Icarus Remembers,"  
eXchanges, 2003. <<http://exchanges.uiowa.edu/archives/fall03/trans/mckay.htm>>.  
Editorial Board.

**Poetry**

McKay, Becka Mara. "Hands Are Better as Birdless Cages," "A Brief Guide to the Firmament," and "The Anthrophony of Unfamiliar Landscapes." Shearsman, May 2014. Editorial Review.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Parts of Speech in the Roman Landscape." White Stag Review, Spring 2014. Editorial Review.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Happiness is the New Bedtime, I – XII" Fortnightly Review, March 2014. <<http://fortnightlyreview.co.uk/>> . Editorial Review.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Hypnagogic (Hands)". Triquarterly, January 2014. Editorial Board. <<http://www.triquarterly.org/issues/issue-145/hypnagogic-hands>>

McKay, Becka Mara. "The War in the North: A Report." Hotel Amerika, 2009. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Good Excuses in Lousy Weather," "A Meteorologist in the Promised Land," and "Epithalamium." Rattapallax, 2009. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara. "The Thesaurus Fails to Replace the Direction of the Sun," Birds in April," and "You Are Not Here." small spiral notebook, 2006. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara. "T'Philot (Prayers: Jerusalem, 1997) and "Letter From the Editor." Cranky, 2005. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Letters to the Minor Prophet." Columbia, 2005. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Seventeen Lessons About Utopia." Another Chicago Magazine, 2004. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Sometimes You Find the Shape of Africa." Hayden's Ferry Review, 2004. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara. "After the Tombs (Tarquinia, 1997)" and "In Praise of the Overlooked." Third Coast Review, 2004. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara. "How to Picture an Edge." Controlled Burn, 2003. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Tabloids." American Letters & Commentary, 2003. Editorial Review.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Rosh Hashanah." Pontoon V, 2001. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara. "The Unveiling." Elysian Fields Quarterly, 2000. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Not Miami." Florida Review, 2000. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Memorial Day." Sycamore Review, 1999. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara. "God Didn't Give Me the Patience of Saints." The Oregonian, 1999. Editorial Review.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Devotion" and "Refrigerator Notes." Crania, 1999. Editorial Review.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Leaving the Desert." Pontoon II, 1998. Editorial Board.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Dawn" and "Seven Statements on the All-Night Mailman." Pontoon I, 1997. Editorial Board.

### **Work in Progress:**

#### **Translation (Books):**

*Mouth to Mouth* by Anat Levin. Translating.

*A Scar on the Surface of God* (various authors). Revising.

#### **Poetry (Books):**

*Euphobic*. Revising.

### **GRANTS RECEIVED**

2013; College Advisory Board Faculty Research Support Grant. For research trip to Israel (\$750)

2013; Yehoshua Rabinovich Tel Aviv Foundation for the Arts. For the translation of *Mouth to Mouth* by Anat Levin, 3500 NIS (\$975).

2007; T. Anne Cleary Fellowship, University of Iowa. For international study, \$3,000.

2005-2007; Crossing Borders Fellowship for international travel/study, \$5000.

2003-2004 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship. For studying Hebrew, \$14,500.

2002; Seattle Arts Commission. For new work (poetry); \$2000.

### **CREATIVE ACTIVITY**

See publications

### **PROFESSIONAL**

#### **Professional and Honorary Organizations (member; officer; date)**

Member; AWP: Associated Writing Programs; 2009-present.

Member; ALTA: American Literary Translators Association; 2002-present.

#### **Honors and Awards**

Selected for 2015 Ashbery Home School

Scholar of the Year, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, 2014

Nominated, NEH Summer Stipend for 2014

Witter Bynner Poet Translator Residency, Santa Fe Art Institute, April 2009

Semifinalist, 2008 Beatrice Hawley Award (poetry manuscript)

Finalist, 2008 Poets Out Loud Poetry Prize (poetry manuscript)

Nominee, 2006 Pushcart Prize (poem, "Birds in April")

Fellowship from the American Literary Translators Association, 2004

Finalist, 2004 Marsh Hawk Press Poetry Prize (poetry manuscript)

Finalist, 2004 Sawtooth Poetry Prize (poetry manuscript)

Selected to participate in the 2004 UCLA Conference for Literary Translators

Honorable mention, 2003 Writers at Work fellowship competition (poetry)

Finalist, 2003 Sawtooth Poetry Prize (poetry manuscript)

Finalist, 2001 Dorothy Brunsman Book Award, Bear Star Press (poetry manuscript)

Finalist, 2001 Sawtooth Poetry Prize (poetry manuscript)

Selected to participate in the 1999 Jack Straw Writers Program, Seattle

Nominee, *Best of the Web*, 1997 (poem, "Refrigerator Notes")

#### **Other Professional Activities**

##### *Invited Readings:*

AWP Offsite reading sponsored by Shearsman Books, February 2012

"Four Poets—Mass Hysteria" with Neil de la Flor, Maureen Seaton and Brian Spears.

Books & Books Fort Lauderdale, February 24, 2011

AWP Offsite reading sponsored by Kenyon Review, AWP conference, February 2011

FAU Literary Author Series, Boca Raton, April 2011  
Boston University “Underground” Reading Series, May 2010.  
“Contemporary Jewish Writing in Translation,” University of Chicago, May 2010 (This conference included a public lecture, a master class in translation, a poetry reading, and a bilingual reading from *Blue Has No South*)  
“Literature, War, and the Arts,” a conference at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado

*Conference Presentations:*

McKay, Becka Mara. “Best Practices in Translation Pedagogy.” Roundtable moderator. American Literary Translators Association annual conference, November 2014.

McKay, Becka Mara. “Best Practices in Translation Pedagogy.” Roundtable moderator. American Literary Translators Association annual conference, October 2013.

McKay, Becka Mara. “Multi-modal Translation as Teaching Strategy.” Panel moderator. American Literary Translators Association annual conference, October 2013.

McKay, Becka Mara. “Lot’s Wife Speaks to the Hobgoblin’s Hat.” Presenter/participant. 2013 Nida School for Translation Studies in Misano, Italy, May 2013.

McKay, Becka Mara. “Translating ‘Dead’ Languages.” Workshop organizer and moderator. American Literary Translators Association annual conference, October 2012.

McKay, Becka Mara. “Translating Form in Poetry.” Workshop organizer and moderator. American Literary Translators Association annual conference, October 2012.

McKay, Becka Mara. “Retranslation.” Workshop organizer and moderator. American Literary Translators Association annual conference, October 2012.

McKay, Becka Mara. “To MFA or Not?” Panelist. American Literary Translators Association annual conference, October 2012.

McKay, Becka Mara. “War Is Not Lost in Translation.” Panelist. Associated Writing Programs annual conference, February 2012.

McKay, Becka Mara. “Words Without Borders: International Writing in the Workshop.” Panelist. Associated Writing Programs annual conference, February 2012.

McKay, Becka Mara. “Translating ‘Blind’: Working from a Language You Don’t Read.” Panelist. American Literary Translators Association annual conference, November 2011.

McKay, Becka Mara. “For the Sake of Music: Shifting Notions in Poetry Translation.” Panelist. American Literary Translators Association annual conference, November

2010.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Translation in Academia." Panelist. American Literary Translators Association annual conference, November 2010.

McKay, Becka Mara. Workshop leader, annual student translation conference, Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea. October 2010.

McKay, Becka Mara. "World Literature in Translation." Panelist. University of Miami, April 2010.

McKay, Becka Mara. "More than Words Can Say: Moments of Cultural Untranslatability." Panel moderator. American Literary Translators Association annual conference, November 2009.

McKay, Becka Mara., "The Translator in Fiction." Panelist. American Literary Translators Association annual conference, November 2009.

McKay, Becka Mara, "Women Translating Women." Panelist. PEN World Voices Festival, April 2009

McKay, Becka Mara. "Translating Biblical Allusion in Modern Hebrew Poetry." Presenter/participant. 2009 Nida School for Translation Studies in Misano, Italy, September 2009.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Biblical Allusion in Three American Poets." Presenter. "Translatable: Creativity and Knowledge Formation Across Cultures," Duke University and UNC Chapel Hill, April 2009.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Comparative Translation as a Teaching Toolbox," Panel moderator/participant. American Literary Translators Association annual conference, October 2008.

McKay, Becka Mara. "The Translation Workshop." Panel moderator/participant. American Literary Translators Association annual conference, October 2008.

McKay, Becka Mara "Translation and Ethics." Panelist. National Graduate Student Translation Conference, Columbia University, March 2008.

McKay, Becka Mara. "Translating/Mistranslating the Bible." Presenter. 2007 Nonfiction Now conference, University of Iowa, November 2007.

McKay, Becka Mara and Jason Grunebaum. "More or Less: A Collaboration of Echoes." Multimedia presentation. Uptown Writers Space, Chicago, July 2007.

McKay, Becka Mara and Jason Grunebaum. "More or Less: A Collaboration of Echoes."



Multimedia presentation. "Studies in Sound: Listening in the Age of Visual Culture," University of Iowa, February 2007.

## **TEACHING**

### ***Florida Atlantic University:***

#### *Creative Writing Courses*

CRW 6024: Teaching Creative Writing  
CRW 6024: Graduate Translation Workshop  
CRW 6331: Graduate Poetry Workshop  
CRW 4310: Poetry Workshop I  
CRW 4311: Poetic Forms  
CRW 4321: Poetry Workshop II  
CRW 4120: Fiction Workshop (eLearning)  
CRW 3010: Creative Writing (Poetry, Fiction, Creative Nonfiction)

#### *Undergraduate Literature Courses*

ENG 3822: Introduction to Literary Studies  
AML 4663: Jewish-American Literature  
LIT 4605: The Literature of War  
LIT 4032: Modern Poetry  
LIT 2040: Interpretation of Drama

#### *Undergraduate Writing Course*

ENC 3310: Advanced Exposition

#### *Independent Studies*

LIT 6905: Readings in Translation (Fall 2010)  
LIT 6905: Literary Translation of the Hebrew Bible (Summer 2011)  
LIT 6905: Translation/Adaptation (Fall 2011)

### ***University of Iowa:***

Interpretation of Literature  
Undergraduate Translation Workshop

### **Thesis Advising:**

Zachary Scalzo (LLCL: Translation Studies), Member, in progress  
Brittany Ackerman, Chair, memoir, in progress  
Matthew Parker, Chair, short stories, in progress  
Mikaela von Kursell, Member, short stories, in progress  
Caryn Suhr, Member, short stories, in progress  
Diana Burgos, Member, short stories, in progress  
Nuala Carr, Chair, poetry collection, in progress  
Donovan Ortega, Member, short stories, in progress  
Cathy Shelton, Member, short stories, completed fall 2013  
Negean Mohi, Chair, poetry collection, completed fall 2013

Beau Ewan, Chair, memoir, completed spring 2013  
Mary Long, Chair, short stories, completed spring 2013  
Renee Long, Member, short stories, completed spring 2013  
Rebecca Harthcock, Member, poetry collection, completed spring 2013  
Erin Elio (LLCL: Translation Studies), Member, completed fall 2012  
Michelle Hasler, Member, creative nonfiction, completed fall 2012  
Stephen Michael Shier, Member, memoir, completed spring 2012  
Nicole Oquendo, Member, memoir, completed summer 2012  
Erin Hobbie, Member, memoir, completed spring 2012  
Michael Seminerio, Member, novel, in progress  
Patricia Straub, Member, poetry collection, completed fall 2011  
Michael Pagan, Member, poetry collection, completed summer 2011  
Kelly De Stefano, Member, short story collection, completed summer 2011  
Jill Bergkamp, Member, poetry collection, completed spring 2011  
Robert Slattery, Member, story collection, completed spring 2011  
Scott Wood, Member, short story collection, completed spring 2011  
Efrat Friedman, Member, novel, completed fall 2010

## **SERVICE**

### **Department Committees**

2009-present: Creative Writing Committee (currently Director)  
2011-present: Technology and Pedagogy Committee (currently Chair)  
2013: Search committee, Asian-American Literature/Asian Literatures in English

### **University Committees**

2013: Member, College Strategic Plan Committee (Research subcommittee)  
2009-2010: Faculty Learning Community: Academic Service-Learning

### **Professional Service**

Thesis reader for Adva Levine, MFA candidate at Columbia University  
Thesis reader for Yardenne Greenspan, MFA candidate at Columbia University  
Judge, 2013 PEN Translation Prize. National competition sponsored by the literary organization PEN USA  
Judge, Best Translated Book Award (Poetry) 2013. National competition cosponsored by Open Letter Books and Amazon.com.  
Admissions Committee, 2014 Nida School of Translation Studies