



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

*A private university in the public service*

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Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Literary Reportage. This letter contains lots of information about, and links to, various aspects of the program. I know it isn't possible for every applicant to visit NYU, but I urge anyone who can to do so. While here you can sit in on [classes](#), and meet with [students](#) and [faculty](#). If you can come, contact Savannah Lucas ([savylucas@gmail.com](mailto:savylucas@gmail.com)), the Lit Rep GA, who will help coordinate your visit.

The biggest news of 2019 was that New York State approved our application for an MFA in Literary Reportage. From its inception a decade ago, Literary Reportage combined the best of the project-based, workshop-oriented, writing-intensive MFA model with the reporting/research-intensive, reality-based journalism model. The MFA is merely recognition of the program that exists. One advantage of an MFA is that it is recognized as a teaching credential by nonfiction MFA programs. Like the former MA, the MFA will be granted by NYU's Arthur L. Journalism Institute, and carry all its advantages.

2019 year was especially busy and productive. Here are some highlights:

- Ryan Sweikert (Literary Reportage, 2018) & *Narratively's* founder, Noah Rosenberg, discussed their new podcast, [Believable](#)
- Professor Suketu Mehta published *This Land is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto*, which was recognized by [Time](#) as one of 2019's ten best works of nonfiction
- 2019 Literary Reportage graduate DJ Cashmere came in second in the [NYU Threesis](#)

## Competition

- Professor Suketu Mehta and *New York Times* reporter Jason DeParle for an eye-opening discussed migration and immigration
- *Esquire* writer Jeff Gordinier talked with David Kamp (*The United States of Arugula*) about his Gordinier's new book *Hungry: Eating, Road-Tripping, and Risking It All With the Greatest Chef in the World*
- Literary Reportage alum Lance Richardson got a contract from Knopf for his second book, a biography of the writer Peter Mathiesson.
- Literary Reportage student Jerad Alexander (2020) got a contract from Algonquin Books for *Volunteers: A Memoir of War, Manhood, and America*
- Eight books, and one podcast, have emerged from the program.
- Our students and alumni continue to publish widely.
- Because some of today's best literary reportage come from *This American Life*, *Radiolab*, *Studio 360*, *Planet Money* and other programs, we've expanded the program's commitment to audio reportage by requiring all incoming students to take an Introduction to Audio Reportage. In addition, we now offer intermediate and advanced audio courses every semester.
- The Mentorship Program continues to pair every Lit Rep student with a professional journalist. In exchange for five hours of research per week, the journalist will spend one hour on your work.
- The scope and quality of Lit Rep theses (both written and audio) continue to grow.

## Classes

You are welcome to sit in on as many classes as you like. Email the professor the day before, both as a courtesy, and to make sure the schedule hasn't changed. All syllabi are available [here](#). These are some of the classes Lit Rep students are most likely to take:

- **Portfolio I**, Wednesday, 9:15-12:55, room #659, Prof. Featherstone
- **WRRII: Ethnography for Journalists**, Monday, 2-5, 7th Floor Library, Prof. Ted Conover
- **Storied New York**, Wednesday, 4:30-7:30, room #657, Prof. Suketu Mehta
- **Introduction to Audio Reportage**, Thursday, 4:45-8:45, Room #659, Prof. Audrey Quinn
- **Intermediate Audio Reportage**, Tuesday, 2:00-5:30, Room #653, Prof. Horne
- **History and the Novel**, Tuesday, 5:00-8:00, 7th Fl Library, Prof. Susie Linfield
- **Personal Essay**, Monday 10:00 - 1:00, 7th Floor Library, Prof. Perri Klass
- **Profiles: Lives on the Brink**, Tuesday, 1:30-4:30, Room #659, Prof. Swarns
- **Writing Social Commentary**, Monday, 2:00-5:40, room #659, Prof. Kate Bolick

- **The Longform Essay**, Wednesday, 9:25-12:25, 7th Floor Library, Prof. Roiphe

Students are the best sources of information about the program. Here is contact information for some current and past Lit Rep students.

Current Students

Jerad Alexander, [jerad.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:jerad.alexander@gmail.com)

Kaitlyn Nicholas, [kaitlyn.j.nicholas@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlyn.j.nicholas@gmail.com)

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Robyn Lanz, [robyn.n.lanz@gmail.com](mailto:robyn.n.lanz@gmail.com) (religion and journalism)

Ryan Krause, [krause.ryank@gmail.com](mailto:krause.ryank@gmail.com)

Alum

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Will Hunt, [willhuntblue@gmail.com](mailto:willhuntblue@gmail.com)

Robert Moor, [rmoor1984@gmail.com](mailto:rmoor1984@gmail.com)

I hope this information is helpful. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best,

Robert Boynton

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