SPENCER LANE JONES

MFA, Nonfiction Writing Program, University of Iowa
LinkedIn Author Website
Literary Representation: Keely Boeving, WordServe Literary Agency

EDUCATION

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA — May 2025
Master of Fine Arts in English (Nonfiction Writing)
Advisor: Professor Inara Verzemnieks
Thesis: "All Skillful in the Wars: A Story of Schooling and the State"

Brown University, Providence, RI — May 2015
Master of Arts in Teaching (Secondary Social Studies)

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA — May 2013
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Education, *High Honors*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Rhetoric, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA — AY 2026—2027
Courses Taught: Rhetoric: Writing & Communication (RHET 1030)

Visiting Assistant Professor & Visiting Writer in Nonfiction, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA — AY 2025—2026
Department of Rhetoric & Department of English
Courses Taught: Rhetoric: Writing & Communication (RHET 1030), College Communication & Reading (RHET 1060), Advanced Nonfiction Writing (ENGL 4723)

Graduate Instructor, Rhetoric Department, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA — AYs 2022—2025
Courses Taught: Rhetoric: Writing & Communication (RHET 1030), College Communication & Reading (RHET 1060)

History & Religion Faculty, Christ Church Episcopal School, Greenville, SC — AYs 2019—2022
History & English Faculty, Cristo Rey Boston High School, Boston, MA — AYs 2015—2019

HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Scholarly Teaching Program, Cohort Member, University of Iowa — 2026
Collaborative community of teaching-based faculty dedicated to exploring evidence-based teaching practices and innovation.

Scholars as Storytellers Program, Inaugural Cohort Member, $1,500 — 2025
Funded by *The Christian Century* and *Sacred Writes: Public Scholarship on Religion*; supports Christian scholars in translating their research into compelling narratives for public media.

Junior Weilienne Scholar, $500 — 2025
Awarded annually by the American Weil Society to a graduate student working on Simone Weil's philosophy.

Second Place Prize, *Sewanee Review*'s Annual Nonfiction Contest, $900 — 2025
Awarded for "To Traverse This Somber Age."

Marcus Bach Fellowship, $10,000 — 2025
This fellowship is awarded by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at the University of Iowa and supports theses that foster intercultural communication and the understanding of diverse philosophies and religious perspectives.

Stanley Graduate Award for International Research, $2,500 — 2024
Awarded annually to outstanding graduate students at the University of Iowa for research abroad.

Doug Trank Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching & Mentoring, **$500** — 2024
Department of Rhetoric, University of Iowa

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, **$1,000** — 2024
Department of Rhetoric, University of Iowa

Winner, Prairie Lights Prize in Nonfiction, $500 — 2023
Awarded for "Tripod."

LITERARY ESSAYS AND CRITICISM

Jones, Spencer Lane. *Meridian*, No. 50. "Empire Day," Winter 2026.
Jones, Spencer Lane. *Bennington Review*. "On the Margin of a Psalm." Issue Fifteen, Winter 2026.
Jones, Spencer Lane. *Sewanee Review*. "To Traverse This Somber Age." Vol. CXXXIV, No. 1, Winter 2026.
Jones, Spencer Lane. *Hopkins Review*. "It Really Was Child's Play: (Mis)Adventures in Gilman's *Herland* and Gerwig and Baumbach's *Barbie*." March 2024.
Jones, Spencer Lane. *Root Quarterly*. "'No Peaceful Dreams': On Conscientious Objection and Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*." Vol. 5, No. 3, Winter 2024, pp. 32-7.
Jones, Spencer. *Black Warrior Review.* "Tripod." Vol. 50, No. 1, Fall/Winter 2023, pp. 133-142.
Jones, Spencer Lane. *Arts & Letters*. "On Nodding Terms." Issue 46, Spring 2023, pp. 42-9.
Jones, Spencer Lane. *The Other Journal*. "Preces." Issue 36, Fall 2023.
Jones, Spencer Lane. *Relief: A Journal of Art and Faith.* "Cease and Desist." Fall 2022, pp. 30-7.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Jones, Spencer Lane. "Transgressive (Un)Scripting: Metajournalistic Discourse and 'Sonic Friendship' in The Trojan Horse Affair." *Radio Journal*, vol. 23, no. 1, 2025, pp. 25–41, https://doi.org/10.1386/rjao_00111_1

BOOK REVIEWS

Jones, Spencer Lane. *The Christian Century.* "Digging in the Alabama Dirt," Review of Alexis Okeowo's *Blessings and Disasters: A Story of Alabama* (Henry Holt and Co.). August 2026.
Jones, Spencer Lane. *Commonweal.* "Curriculum Wars," Review of Mark Hlavacik's *Willing Warriors: A New History of the Education Culture Wars* (University of Chicago Press). January 2026.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Sacred Writes: Public Scholarship on Religion, Training Workshop, Essex, VT — October 2025
XLIII Colloquy, American Weil Society, Marquette University — April 2025
Working Paper Presented: "'On the Right Use of School Studies': Simone Weil's Aesthetic Philosophy and the History Wars in U.S. K-12 Schools."
Festival of Faith and Writing, Calvin University — April 2024

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Minor Committee, Department of Rhetoric, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA — AY 2025—2026
AP Seminar Reader and Table Leader, College Board, Salt Lake City, UT — Summers 2023—2026

EXTRACURRICULAR AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Trinity Episcopal Church, Iowa City, IA — Fall 2022—Present
Choir Member, Soprano
Choir Member, Royal School of Church Music Midwest Summer Choral Residency, Summers 2024—2026

Iowa City Chamber Singers, Iowa City, IA — Spring 2023—Fall 2024
Choir Member, Soprano

Kenyon Review Writers' Workshop, Kenyon College — Summers 2021—2022

Trinity Church in Copley Square, Boston, MA — Fall 2016—Spring 2019
Choir Member, Alto
Choir in Residence, Wells Cathedral and Salisbury Cathedral, England, Summer 2019