

Stanford



Jonah Willihnganz

The Stanford Storytelling Project Manager, Writing and Rhetoric Operations

Bio

BIO

Jonah Willihnganz is the Director of the Stanford Storytelling Project, an arts program that explores how story craft and practices can be used to create personal and social change. He is also the co-founder of the LifeWorks Program for Integrative Learning in the School of Medicine, a program that helps students explore orientations and practices from the arts, humanities, psychology, and contemplative traditions that can help them meet the challenges they face.

His research focuses on how narrative practices can help deepen natural human capacities such as presence, courage, and empathy, and he has published fiction, essays, and articles on American literature. He teaches courses in creative writing, American literature, media studies, and critical theory, and created the first college courses on storytelling in audio media. A long-time contemplative and student of Aikido, he incorporates their practices of into many of his courses, and he helps faculty integrate both narrative and contemplative practices into their courses.

He received a bachelor's degree in political economy from Georgetown University, an MFA in creative writing from Hollins University, and a PhD in English from Brown. He belongs to the communities of the San Francisco Zen Center and Palo Alto Friends (Quakers), is a slow but avid swimmer, and is learning to fly fish.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- PhD, Brown University , English (2003)
- MA, Brown University , English (1999)
- MFA, Hollins University , Creative Writing (1991)
- BSFS, Georgetown University , School of Foreign Service (1989)

LINKS

- Stanford Storytelling Project: storytelling.stanford.edu
- LifeWorks Program for Integrative Learning: <https://undergrad.stanford.edu/programs/special-focus-programs/lifeworks>

Teaching

COURSES

2023-24

- Fight the Future: Speculative Fiction and Social Justice: ENGLISH 9SF (Win)
- Holistic College Student Development: Theory and Practices: EDUC 182, EDUC 382, LIFE 182 (Aut)
- Love: Art, Science, and Practice: LIFE 176 (Spr)

- Meeting the Moment: Inner Resources for Hard Times: LIFE 105, WELLNESS 105 (Spr)

2022-23

- Fight the Future: Speculative Fiction and Social Justice: ENGLISH 9SF (Win)

2021-22

- Counterstory Practice in Contemporary Literature and Media: EDUC 141A (Spr)
- Fight the Future: Researching the Social Justice Work of Speculative Fiction: ENGLISH 29SF (Win)
- Meeting the Moment: Inner Resources for Hard Times: LIFE 105, WELLNESS 105 (Aut)

2020-21

- Counterstory Practice in Contemporary Literature and Media: EDUC 141A (Win)
- Fight the Future: Speculative Fiction and Social Justice: ENGLISH 9SF (Spr)
- Oral Documentary Workshop: ORALCOMM 126 (Aut)
- Writing and Rhetoric 2: What We Talk About When We Talk About Love: PWR 2JW (Aut)

Publications

PRESENTATIONS

- Telling Stories, Stanford TEDx - Stanford Community (5/17/2015)