

Sam Wachman - sam.s.wachman@gmail.com - +1 (617) 981-9465 - samwachman.com

EDUCATION

Postgraduate Studies in Ukrainian Language and Literature

Ukrainian Catholic University – Lviv, Ukraine

2022-2024

Bachelor's in Public Health; minors in Slavic Studies, English, and Creative Writing

Brandeis University – Waltham, MA

2018 to 2022

Thesis: “*Homeland is where they understand you when you talk in your sleep*”:
Displaced Ukrainian Youth Experiences of Belonging.

Capstone: “*Intimacy and Politics in Tomasz Jędrowski’s ,Płynąc w ciemnościach’*”

Capstone: “*Translating Vsevolod Nestayko’s «Топадопу з Васюківки»*”

LANGUAGES

English (N)

Ukrainian (C2) - translation into English

Russian (C2) - translation into English

Winner of 2021 New England Olympiada of Spoken Russian

Winner of 2021 ACTR National Postsecondary Russian Essay Contest

Norwegian (C1) - translation into English

EXPERIENCE

Writer (2018-present)

-Author of novel *The Sunflower Boys*. (HarperCollins, 2025) Starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly* and *Kirkus Reviews*; praise from Ron Charles at *The Washington Post*, Scott Simon at NPR Weekend Edition, Bradley Babendir at *The Boston Globe*, and Julia Klein at *The Forward*.

-Featured in *People Magazine*, *Harper’s Bazaar*, *Forbes*, *Oprah Daily*, *Electric Literature*, *Literary Hub*, *Bay Area Reporter*, *The Gay and Lesbian Review*, *Shelf Awareness*, *Debutiful*, and *The Washington Post’s* “50 Notable Works of Fiction from 2025”.

-Short fiction published in *Sonora Review*, *New England Review*, and *Berkeley Fiction Review*.

-Other work published in *River Styx*, *Bright Lights Film Journal*, *Electric Literature*, and *Literary Hub*.

Peer Reviewer (2025-present)

Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University

-Reviewed and edited Ukrainian-language and English-language manuscripts under consideration for publication.

Copywriter & Editor (2023-present)

Smartleaf, Inc.

-Wrote and edited clear and engaging copy, including website content and user guides. Ensured brand consistency and compliance with financial regulations by collaborating with legal, marketing, and product teams.

English Instructor (2023)

TaШo - демократична школа-табір. Baia Mare, Romania.

-Taught English as a foreign language at a camp for Ukrainian refugee youth in Romania. Created and implemented a curriculum to meet the unique needs of students facing displacement.

English Teacher (2019-2022)

Божє, вільна школа; Vinnytsia, Vinnytsia Oblast, Ukraine

-Taught English as a foreign language at an independent school in Vinnytsia, Ukraine. Created a curriculum to meet the needs of English language learners aged five to sixteen, and adapted said curriculum to meet the needs of students during wartime.

-Represented the school at conferences in four countries. Organized and led class trips to the United States. Organized all fundraising activities.

PUBLICATIONS

2025 *The Sunflower Boys*. HarperCollins.

2025 *A Sketchbook to Preserve Our Family in Peacetime*. Foreword by Santiago Jose Sanchez. Electric Literature.

2025 *10 Ukrainian Books That Show the Many Sides of a Nation*. Nonfiction. Electric Literature.

2025 *Literature is a Force For Peace and Solidarity: On Writing a Novel of the War in Ukraine*. Literary Hub.

2025 *Deportation Notice, Corrected, 2025*. River Styx.

2025 *Boy Meets Boy: Young Hearts Ushers In a New Era of Queer Cinema*. Bright Lights Film Journal.

2024 *Between Here and There*. Berkeley Fiction Review.

2021 *The Right Way To Drown*. New England Review.

2019 *Thirteen*. Sonora Review.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “CHAT with Sam Wachman”, moderated by Karen Dukess. Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill. Truro, MA, November 2025.
- Guest lecturer, “Fiction Workshop”, prof. Stephen McCauley. Brandeis University. Waltham, MA. November 2025.
- “Informed by War”, in conversation with Julian Zabalbeascoa and Jill Morningstar, moderated by Rachel Barenbaum. Boston Book Festival. Boston, MA, October 2025.
- “Against the Grain”, in conversation with Oksana Lutsyshyna, moderated by Johannes Lichtman. Ukrainian Cultural Festival and Center For Fiction. New York, NY, October 2025.
- “Transnational Literature Series”, moderated by Grace Talusan. Brookline Booksmith. Brookline, MA, September 2025.
- “Weekend Edition Saturday” with Scott Simon. NPR. Boston, MA, August 2025.
- “The Sunflower Boys” with Grant Ginder. The Strand. New York, NY, August 2025.
- “The Sunflower Boys”. Porter Square Books. Cambridge, MA, August 2025.
- “Ukrainian Youth Perspectives on Alternative Education”. Alternative Education Resource Organization Conference. Long Island University Post. Brookville, NY. July 2023.
- “Ukrainian Youth Perspectives on Alternative Education”. International Democratic Education Conference. *Боже, вільна школа*. Vinnytsia, Ukraine. August 2019.
- “Ukrainian Youth Perspectives on Alternative Education”. European Democratic Education Community. Kyiv, Ukraine. August 2019.