

Micheal Hooker, Ph.D.

Writer and Educator

micheal hooker is a writer working at the intersection of queer embodiment, mutual care, and contemporary screen cultures. Their practice moves between critical inquiry and literary form, drawing on autofiction, hybrid essay, and experimental narrative to explore how coping, trauma, and perception are shaped through media and the body.

Their work is grounded in over two decades of somatic teaching and interdisciplinary study, including a Ph.D. from the California Institute of Integral Studies. Their dissertation, *Beyond Binary Coping: Queer Embodiments of Mutual Care in Queer Screen Cultures* (2024), threads together queer theory, performance studies, and embodied research, which continues to inform their writing practice.

Across projects, hooker is interested in how stories are held in the body and how narrative can register forms of care, rupture, and resilience that exceed dominant representational frames. Their forthcoming and published work appears in journals and edited collections, including the queer anthology *CRIMINAL* (Dopamine Books, in press), alongside ongoing work in autofiction and hybrid literary forms.

Across contexts, they are committed to cultivating rigorous and inclusive learning environments that foster reflective practice, engaged dialogue, and pathways for navigating complexity across difference with critical awareness and care.

Education

California Institute of Integral Studies – Doctorate in Transformative Studies, 2024

- Research Topic: Screen Cultures and Embodied Queer Experiences of Coping in (semi)Ethnographic Film and Television
- Dissertation Advisors:
- Cindy Shearer, D.O., Interdisciplinary Arts and Research Psychology
- Targol Mesbah, Ph.D., Anthropology and Social Change
- Ann Cvetkovich, Ph.D., Women's and Gender Studies
- Student Union and Departmental Community Building Fellowships (2020-2022); NCORE Sponsorship (2022); Diversity, Equity and Belonging Committee (2020)

New York University – Master of Arts in Art and Public Policy, 2019

- Tisch School of the Arts Fellowship (2018-2019)

Goddard College – Bachelor of Arts in psychology, 2017

- Capstone: Ecofeminist psychology through lens of participatory arts

Florida School of Massage – Massage and Hydrotherapy, 2002-2003

Licensure

- Registered Licensed Massage Therapist, New York #025638—2011-Present
- Licensed Massage Establishment, Florida MM22048—2008-2011
- Licensed Massage Therapist, Florida MA39860—2003-2013

Academic Positions and Other Educator Roles

- California Institute of Integral Studies, Lead Instructor, Student Affairs Office, 2019-2023
- Middle Tennessee University, Guest Lecturer Film Studies Department, 2021
- California Institute of Integral Studies, Co-instructor, Transformative Studies, 2020
- Lector Social Club, Founder and Interdisciplinary Art Programs Facilitator, 2015-2020
- Swedish Institute of Manhattan, Polarity Therapy Instructor, 2013-2015
- Florida School of Massage, Polarity Therapy Instructor, 2010-2014 (At Large)
- Alchemy Massage and Bodywork, Polarity Therapy Instructor Groups and 1:1, 2003-2015

Publications

Dissertation and Books

- Hooker, M. (2024). *Beyond Binary Coping: Queer Embodiments of Mutual Care in Queer Screen Cultures*. California Institute of Integral Studies.
- Hooker, M. (2017) “The Art of Living: Slow counseling and art converge” In D. Tresemer (Ed.), *Slow Counseling: Emphasize the healing power of relationships*. Lindisfarne.

Journal Articles

- Hooker, M. Howard, S. (2017). Why Performance Art Now in *ArtBorne Magazine Online*.
- Hooker, M. (Year). We Make Peace in *Consequence Magazine Online*.

Short Stories

- Hooker, M. (in press). Light-fingered Sandspurs. In M. Tea (Ed.), *CRIMINAL: Anthology*. Dopamine Books.

Additional Select Fellowships and Workshops

- NCORE, National Conference on Race and Ethnicity, Portland, Oregon—2022
- Climate Reality Leadership Corps, Climate Reality Project, Atlanta, Georgia—2019

Selected Works in Progress

- **Eating Disorders and Coping Representations in Screen Cultures**—Journal article exploring representations of eating disorders in North American film, television, and over-the-top (OTT) media services. Engages “beyond binary” frameworks of coping and embodiment.
- *Plant Pears, Plant for Your Heirs*—Linked autofiction short story collection exploring encounters with home truths and the consequences of keeping family secrets.

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Selected Workshops, Invited Presentations and Conferences

- Write with Care: 5 Habits to Sustain Focus and Momentum Writing a Dissertation, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco—2026
- How to Choose a Dissertation Topic That Won’t Drain You, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco—2026
- Avoid the “Kitchen Sink” Dissertation: How to Do Less and Go Deeper, Faster, California Institute of Integral Studies— 2026
- Finish on Your Terms: Complete Your Dissertation with Clarity and Authority, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco—2026
- Anchoring in Values to Prevent Harm in the Classroom: Restorative Practice Call-in for New Students with White Privilege, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco— 2022-2023
- Transforming Discomfort: Basics for People with White Privilege, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco—2021
- Tampa Mayor’s Forum on the Arts, Tampa, Florida—2019

Memberships in Associations and Institutional Affiliations

- Building Out Safer Spaces (BOSS), Board Member and Programs Committee Member, Tuscan, Arizona—2023-Present
- Housing Works, Volunteer, New York City, New York—2022
- Trevor Project, Volunteer, online—2022
- Bridge the Gap, Student Advocacy Member, San Francisco, California—2020-2023
- The Battleground, Board Member, Tampa, Florida—2021-Present
- We Make Peace, Board Member, New York City, New York—2013-2015

Select Continuing Education

- Embodied Recovery from Eating Disorders Training, Embodied Recovery Institute, Chapel Hill, North Carolina—2024-Present (Current Case Consult Supervisee)
- Somatic Experiencing (SE) Practitioner, SE International—2023-Expected 2025

- Resilience Tool-Kit Training, Lumos Transforms, Los Angeles, California—2020-2023
- Emergent Strategy Facilitator Training, Emergent Strategy Ideation Institute, online—2022
- Polarity Therapy Certification, Soma-Psyche Institute, New York City, New York—20102013
- Massage and Polarity Therapy Teacher Training, Florida School of Massage, Gainesville, Florida—2009-2010