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## MEGAN DOWD LAMBERT ST. MARIE

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### OBJECTIVES

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To harness the humanizing power of stories and art through writing, reading, teaching, listening, and helping others tell their stories.

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### SKILLS

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Writing, interviewing, editing, reviewing, public speaking, leading storytimes, teaching, and training.

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### PRESIDENT & CO-OWNER MODERN MEMOIRS, INC.

Company purchase and assumption of duties, July 2019

I purchased this private publishing company, established in 1994, from founder, Kitty Axelson-Berry, who was instrumental in creating the Personal Historian field. My husband is company co-owner, and we oversee a staff of regular and freelance employees to offer clients interview, writing, editorial, design and production services, as well as personal archives management consultation under our company name and our imprint, White Poppy Press.

Most projects are **Commissioned** (based on interview transcripts) or **Assisted Memoirs**, and **Family Histories** or genealogy books. We also work with clients on books ranging from **Celebration** and **Tribute Books**, to poetry, essay, and art collections. Clients usually publish their books to give to friends and family; we assist clients with custom book websites if they request such services, but we are not otherwise involved in their commercial efforts.

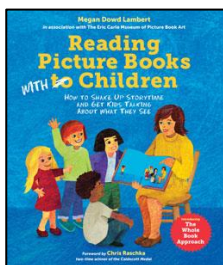
My regular responsibilities include:

- Client communications, contracts, and billing
- Client interviews for Commissioned Memoirs
- Design oversight (page proofs, consultation on cover design)
- Editorial work on client manuscripts (developmental editing, line editing, proofreading, supplemental writing services)
- Marketing (social media, print mailings, website updates, press inquiries)
- Personnel supervision (oversight of 10 full-time, part-time, and freelance employees in year 1 of business ownership)
- Project administration & wrap-ups in coordination with the Director of Publishing and Bookkeeper (20 projects completed or underway in year 1 of ownership, of which 3 were in progress at the time of sale; 5 smaller-scale writing & editorial projects completed during the same period)
- Writing Services: We offer (Advance) Obituary writing, among other smaller scale services.

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## STORYTIME GUIDES, CHAPTERS & BOOKS

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*Reading Picture Books with Children:  
How to Shake Up Storytime and Get  
Kids Talking About What They See*

(CHARLESBRIDGE 2015; PB 2020)

**SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL  
STARRED REVIEW**



*Whole Book Approach Storytime  
Guides, Pre-K – Grade 5*

(STEPS TO LITERACY, 2020)

## LECTURER IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, SIMMONS UNIVERSITY

First hired, 2003. Promoted, 2009 and 2014. Departed, 2020.

After several adjunct appointments between 2003 and 2008 I served as contract faculty from 2009–2019. I carried a full course-load, split between the university's main campus in Boston and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art satellite site in Amherst. I shifted to a 4/7 course-load during my final year of teaching, 2019–2020.

**Courses:** Criticism of Children's Literature; The Picturebook; The Child and the Book; Survey of Children's & YA Literature; A Whole Book Approach; Creators & Ideologies: Jacqueline Woodson; Special Topics: Visual Literacy & Visual Rhetoric.

**Administrative & Service Duties:** overseeing MFA students' mentorship placements with publishing professionals; planning biennial Children's Literature Institutes, including associated art exhibits in the Trustman Gallery; supervising Teaching and Research Assistants; advising Independent Studies; supporting program assessment; conducting admissions events at The Carle, and reviewing MFA and MFA/MA applications; academic advising for two dozen students annually; representing the university at professional conferences such as NESCBWI and ALA.

**Spring 2018 Professional Development Leave,** which I devoted to creative writing projects and studying the teaching of writing.

## EDUCATOR THE ERIC CARLE MUSEUM OF PICTURE BOOK ART

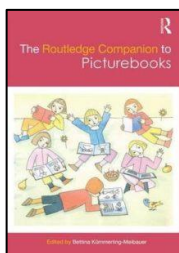
Sept 2001 – January 2011

**Storytime & Professional Development Programming:** I led storytime at The Carle's information office for a year before its grand opening, then onsite throughout my tenure. I received several promotions as I developed and led book-centered programs for children and adults arising from my original Whole Book Approach storytime model. Outreach programs reached 25,000 participants.

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(STORYTIME GUIDES, BOOKS, CHAPTERS  
CONT'D.)

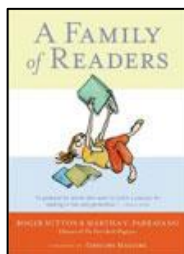
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### “Layout in Picturebooks”

ESSAY IN *THE ROUTLEDGE COMPANION TO  
PICTUREBOOKS*, ROUTLEDGE 2018

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### “Reading about Families in My Family”

ESSAY IN *A FAMILY OF READERS: THE BOOK  
LOVER'S GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG  
ADULT LITERATURE*, CANDLEWICK, 2011

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### Book Bonds: *A Family's Reading Life*

ESSAY COLLECTION PUBLISHING IN 2021  
WITH CHARLESBRIDGE, IN ASSOCIATION  
WITH THE HORN BOOK

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**Administrative duties at The Carle included:** supervising 5–10 work-study, volunteer, and support staff each semester; maintaining two non-circulating book collections comprised of roughly 6,000 titles; collaborating with nonprofits and educational institutions; working with Education Department staff to plan and deliver events for children, families, and professional audiences.

## PAST ADJUNCT FACULTY WORK

**Adjunct teaching posts in Children's Literature between 2003 and 2009** held at: Simmons University; Bay Path University; Mt. Holyoke College; Boston University; UMass-Dartmouth; and, Greenfield Community College. I also served as a reader and advisor for graduate student work at Lesley University and Plymouth State University.

## Guest Lectures in Graduate & Undergraduate Courses

Colleagues at the following institutions have invited me to speak in their classes:

- University of Washington iSchool
- Hampshire College
- Smith College
- UMass-Amherst
- The College of Education at the University of Arizona
- Bates College
- Wellesley College
- Eastern Connecticut State University
- Mt. Holyoke College
- Simmons University
- Middlebury College
- Bay Path University
- Lesley University
- Tunxis Community College

## FREELANCE WRITER, REVIEWER, AND AUTHOR

**My books for children and adults** are linked in the left margin. Other publications, [linked here](#), date back to 2001 and are found in:

- *The Horn Book*
- *Kirkus Reviews*

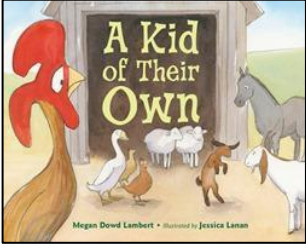


(freelance publication list cont'd.)

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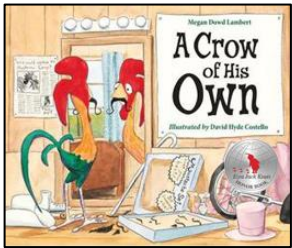
## CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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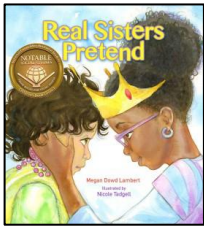
**A Kid of Their Own**  
(CHARLESBRIDGE, 2020)

**KIRKUS STARRED REVIEW**



**A Crow Of His Own**  
(CHARLESBRIDGE, 2015; PB 2019)

**2016 EZRA JACK KEATS  
NEW WRITER HONOR**



**Real Sisters Pretend**  
(TILBURY HOUSE 2016; PB 2019)

**2017 NOTABLE SOCIAL STUDIES  
TRADE BOOK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE  
A 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MA BOOK AWARDS  
MUST READ PICTURE BOOK**

- #KidLitWomen\*
- EmbraceRace
- Reading While White
- Shelf Awareness
- The Huffington Post
- Children & Libraries
- The Five Owls
- The Public Humanist
- The Children's Literature Association Quarterly
- The Daily Hampshire Gazette
- CREA rTA
- Bookbird

**Guest Reviewer at The Horn Book** since 2013, where I annually write signed reviews of roughly a dozen picture books, chapter books, and children's audiobooks.

**Reviewer at Kirkus Reviews** since 2009, where I annually write roughly 100 unsigned reviews of picture books and early readers.

### ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

**Youth Services Librarian, Gaylord Memorial Library**, South Hadley, MA, Sept. 2001–Jan. 2003, where I: led weekly storytime and craft sessions and other patron programs; oversaw collection development; wrote successful grants; wrote monthly reports to the Board of Trustees; hired and supervised department assistants; ran the annual statewide summer reading program sponsored by the MA Board of Library Commissioners and MA Regional Library Systems.

**Manager, Booklink Booksellers**, Northampton, MA, Jan. 1999–Jan. 2001. I started as a bookseller at this independent bookshop and was promoted to Children's Book Dept. Manager, and then Manager.

**Associate/Asociada, Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)**, Washington, D.C., Aug. 1996-Aug. 1998.

Office manager for this non-governmental, non-profit human rights organization affiliated with Human Rights Watch.





(CHILDREN'S BOOKS CONT'D.)



**EVERY DAY WITH APRIL AND MAE**

A NEW EARLY READER SERIES ABOUT BEST FRIENDS, APRIL & MAE, DEBUTING WITH CHARLESBRIDGE IN 2022 (WORKING TITLES BELOW)

*April and Mae and the Tea Party Fight*

*April and Mae and the Book Club Cake*

*April and Mae and the Soccer Match*

*April and Mae and the Talent Show*

*April and Mae and the Animal Shelter*

*April and Mae and the Sleepover*

*April And Mae and the Scary Movie*

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

**CURRENT:**

- THE SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS (NEW ENGLAND REGION)

**PROFESSIONAL HONORS & EDUCATION**

**PROFESSIONAL HONORS**

**Appointed** to give the NESCBWI 2020, 2019, and 2018 Peg Davol Scholarship Critique

**Awarded** a 2016 Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Honor for my first picture book, *A Crow of His Own* (Charlesbridge 2015)

**Appointed** to serve as a Judge on the 2012 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Committee

**Elected** to serve as a Member of the 2011 Randolph Caldecott Medal Committee of the ALSC

**Named** a 2009 Massachusetts Literacy Champion by Mass Literacy

**Appointed** as a Member of the 2009 Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Committee of the ALSC

**EDUCATION**

**MA in Children's Literature, Simmons University,** Boston, MA (formerly Simmons College), received January 2002.

I was a Children's Literature Scholarship Fund and Virginia Haviland Scholarship recipient, and I was awarded a TA position in my final semester, Fall 2001. My culminating Independent Study with The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art led to my creation of the Whole Book Approach storytime model.

**BA, Magna Cum Laude, Smith College,** Northampton, MA, received May 1996.

I completed a double major in Government and African American Studies, and I was a First Group Scholar (top 5% of my class) and on the Dean's List for all six semesters I was enrolled under an accelerated degree program. In Fall 1995, I participated in the Jean Picker Semester in Washington. My final semester's Independent Study on multicultural education built on two years of work-study with an anti-racism consultancy group, Communitas, Inc., and a j-term service-learning trip to Nicaragua with the Global Women's Project.





#### PAST MEMBERSHIPS:

- THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
- THE ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN
- THE CHILDREN'S LITERATURE ASSOCIATION
- THE WESTERN MA REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM EXECUTIVE BOARD (JANUARY 2006-DECEMBER 2007)
- THE AMHERST READS STEERING COMMITTEE (2005)

## SOME WORDS ABOUT MY WORK



**JBRARY:** "One of the reasons Megan's approach hit home for me is that she respects kids. Plain and simple. The focus of her storytimes aren't the songs, rhymes, or books – it's the kids who attend them and their ideas, opinions, and observations."

**KIRKUS:** "Striking is how much Lambert believes in picture books and the power they can have in children's lives."

**KIRKUS:** "[A KID OF THEIR OWN] is a sweet and unusual new baby story with an uncommonly broadening vocabulary."

**JERRY PINKNEY:** "Everything one needs to know about bookmaking and book sharing is bound up here, in one well-considered, strikingly designed volume, *Reading Picture Books with Children*."

**ANNE SIBLEY-O'BRIEN:** "The Whole Book Approach invites me to consider how my choices as an illustrator might add layers of meaning for child readers as they engage with the entire book as art." (SCBWI FALL 2019 BULLETIN)

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, CONSULTANCIES & VOLUNTEER WORK

### SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

A full chronology appears on my website's [Events page](#). Highlights from the past decade include:

#### Keynote Speeches, Solo Presentations, and Webinars

- Steps To Literacy webinars, April 28 & May 21, 2020
- 12x12 Picture Book Challenge webinar, April 14, 2020
- Massachusetts Library Association webinar, Jan. 10, 2020
- University of Maine, College of Education and Human Development, Orono, ME, keynote April 30, 2019
- The Week of the Young Child Conference, Greenfield Community College, keynote, Sponsored by the Elms College School of Graduate & Professional Studies in partnership with GCC, April 6, 2019
- Educational Book and Media Association Annual Conference, Austin, TX, Jan. 2019
- 31st Annual Conference on Children's Literature, Broward County Library, Fort Lauderdale, FL, April 2018
- Bank Street Book Fest, Bank Street College of Education, New York, NY, Oct. 2016
- Educator's Night with Christian Robinson, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA, Oct. 2016
- "Get the Picture" Exhibit Program, the Brandywine River Museum of Art, Chadds Ford, PA, July 2016
- Texas Library Association Annual Conference, Dallas, TX, (with illustrator, David Hyde Costello) April 2013
- "The Snowy Day and the Art of Ezra Jack Keats" Exhibit Program, the Akron Museum of Art, Akron, OH, April 2013
- "A Celebration of Picture Books" conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 2013
- Long Island Children's and YA Literature Conference, Adelphi University, Oct. 2011
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners annual conference, sponsored by the Childhood Literacy Special Interest Group, Baltimore, MD, March 2011
- ALSC pre-conference "Drawn to Delight: How Picture Books Work (and Play) Today," June 2010





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## FIND ME ONLINE



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Facebook:  
[@MeganDowdLambert](#)

Twitter:  
[@MDowdLambert](#)

Blog & Newsletter at  
[www.megandowdlambert.com](http://www.megandowdlambert.com)

"Book Happenings"

Newsletter

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## Panels

- "Picturing the World: Nonfiction Picture Books", Boston Book Fest, panel moderator with authors Hayley Barrett, Karlin Gray, Lesa Cline-Ransome, Gloria Respress-Churchwell, Boston, MA, Oct. 19, 2019
- "Telling Our Stories, Sharing Our History" panel moderator with authors Joseph Bruchac, Lesa Cline Ransome, and Pam Muñoz Ryan at the We the People: Stories of Strength and Struggle in Challenging Times at the JFK Presidential Library, Boston, MA, May 9, 2019
- "LGBTQ+ Picture Books" KidLitCon 19: Reaching Readers, panelist with Christian Trimmer, Andrea J. Loney, Alli Harper, and moderator Jeanette Bradley, Providence, RI, March 2019
- New England Independent Booksellers Association conference, panelist Providence, RI, Sept. 2018
- Assoc. of Jewish Libraries, panelist Boston, MA, June 2018
- Literacy Essentials Conference, Central CT State University, panelist New Britain, CT, April 2018
- Moderator, "Words and Pictures: Picture Book Author/Illustrators Discuss the Whole Book," an Exhibitors' Round Table with David Hyde Costello, Don Tate, and Duncan Tonatiuh, at the ALA Annual, Chicago, IL July 2017
- 2013-2014 Lowell Lecture Series: Gateway to Reading at the BPL, interview with author Norton Juster, April 2014
- Boston Book Fest: "Meet the Medalists" panel moderator with Newbery Medalists, Kate DiCamillo, Rebecca Stead, and Jack Gantos, Oct. 2013
- ALA Annual, Chicago, IL, "Caldecott: Using Caldecott Winning Books with Young Children," panelist with Beth Krommes, Chris Raschka, and Eric Rohmann, July 2013

## PD Programs & Caregiver Trainings

- Magination Press, APA Publishing, Washington, D.C. June 21, 2019
- Eldredge Public Library, Chatham, MA, June 12, 2019
- Central NY Library Resources Council, April 17, 2019
- Pre-School Enrichment Team, GCC, April 15, 2019
- Nonotuck Community School and the Collaborative for Educational Services, Easthampton, MA, April 11, 2019
- MAAEYC conference, Mansfield/Foxboro, MA, March 29, 2019
- Pennsylvania State University Child Care Center, Jan. 2019



## REFERENCES

(PD programs cont'd.)

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AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST  
from past employers, colleagues,  
and clients.

- Schlow Centre Region Libraries, PA, March & Oct. 2018
- KidLitCollege webinar, “Studying Picture Book Success,” with editor, Julie Bliven, July 2018
- Youth Services Librarian Professional Development Days in Jamestown, Painted Post, and Canandaigua, NY, May 2018
- Berkshire County, MA Head Start, Dec. 2017
- Pine Cobble School, Williamstown, MA, May 2017
- Concord Free Public Library, Concord, MA, March 2017
- Derby Academy Hingham, MA, March 2017
- Essex County Public Children’s Librarians Group, Maplewood Memorial Library, Maplewood, NJ, Jan. 2017
- Brooks School Elementary, Fishers, IN, Dec. 2016
- Claremont Library System, Claremont, OH, June 2016
- Hawlemont Elementary School, Charlemont, MA May 2016
- *School Library Journal* webinar with editor, Yolanda Scott, and educator, Emily Prabhaker, March 2016
- Union #38 Frontier RSD, Franklin County, MA, Jan. 2016
- Conroe ISD School Librarians, Conroe, TX, August 2013
- Junior Library Guild webinar, May 2011

## CONSULTANCIES

### Recent Paid Consultancies:

- Embrace Race: Staff Blogger; Community Conversations webinar series; Reading Race in Picture Books consultant (2017–)
- Story Starters Boston: storytime leader for inaugural family meetings (2019).
- MERGE for Equality Children’s Book Campaign trainer, storytime leader and consultant, curation team facilitator (2017–2019)

### Recent Volunteer Consultancies:

- Member of the OurShelves Curation Team
- Link to Libraries: 2018 Smart Stories Campaign; 2019 Family Fun Event; and Link Live Storytime Series in spring 2020.
- 2018 We Stand Together (Northampton) Hanukkah Ally Action
- March 2018 #KidLitMarchesForKids / #MarchForOurLives action in Northampton, MA
- Steward of a Little Free Library since 2013, Charter #5660