



The Dispatch

Community News for Minnesota State University Adjuncts and Community Faculty

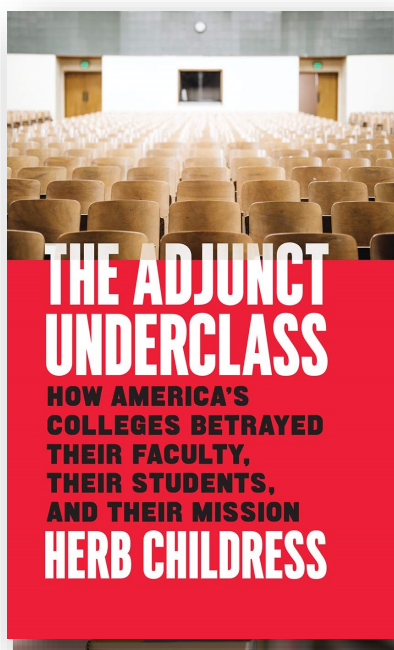
If your life has been anything like mine for the past several months, it's been a deluge of information, constantly-shifting policy changes, and a scramble to do right by students and ourselves to transition classes and services the best we can to an online format. As research has long shown and as we all likely suspected, faculty in contingent appointments are often the first (and most negatively) affected—as well as the most vulnerable—when a widespread and penetrating crisis like this hits.

I hope all is well with each of you, and encourage you to reach out to your departments, your deans, your campus contingent appointments committees, the IFO, or myself if you have questions or concerns. We don't know what the future holds in store, but we do know that whatever it is, we stand a far better chance of emerging from the other side by coming together.

Sincerely, Ry Marcattilio-McCracken
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Herb Childress, with a patient but determined shovel, exposes the structural origins of the adjunctification of Higher Ed in this spring 2019 release. Over eight chapters he documents the roots, evolution, and consequences (both hidden and obvious) that come with a system that has consistently come to prefer what it sees as an interchangeable, low-cost work force it doesn't have to employ on long-term contracts.

He persuasively charts how vanishing state funds and ever more complex managerial systems have led universities at all levels—from community college to SLAC to Ivy League powerhouse—to increasing reliance on contingent teaching labor. The consequences are damning. This book will be an eye-opener for

grad students, recently graduated job-seekers, and adjuncts who have held on, eating the costs of what Childress calls “hope labor.” The hard truth he uncovers is that these jobs are never, ever coming back.

It's also critical for undergraduates and their parents, seeking to understand why tuition has increased threefold over the last forty years while first- and second-year courses continue to be taught by the ubiquitous faculty member named “Staff.” The long-term consequences of this shift are troublesome.

This book is a must-read. Get it at the links below.

[Powell's Books](#)//[Barnes and Noble](#)//[Amazon](#)

*“College teaching, as a profession, is being eliminated one small, undetected drop at a time.” —Herb Childress, *The Adjunct Underclass* (2019)*

CONTINGENT FACULTY IN THE NEWS

- Chronicle of Higher Ed: [Can you have a rewarding intellectual life outside academe?](#) (turns out yes, you can).
- NY Times: [The gaping, recession-sized hole in 2020 college plans](#)
- NY Daily News: [CUNY adjunct union agreement sees per course pay increase from \\$3222 to \\$5500](#)
- The Tower: [Kean Faculty picket on behalf of adjunct faculty for more pay](#)
- Advocate: [This is what it looks like when you lean on an adjunct](#)
- In These Times: New podcast, [Working People](#)
- KQED: [Staff at Mills College follow adjunct faculty in unionizing](#)
- Academe Blog: [Adjunct faculty member fired for bad joke](#)
- Counterpunch.org: [From Impoverished Graduate Students to Impoverished College Professors](#)
- New York Times: [The Bleak Job Landscape of Adjunctopia for Ph.D.s](#)

Contingent Faculty News related to Coronavirus

- Daily Hampshire Gazette: [Smith College hiring freeze prompts petition on behalf of non-tenured faculty](#)
- APA blog: [Equity and Teaching during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Most of Miami's contingent teacher told contracts won't be renewed](#)
- [40% of contingent faculty have trouble affording basic expenses](#)
- [New report on adjuncts says many make less than \\$3500/course and live in poverty](#)
- [AFT report shows grave plight of contingent faculty](#)

RESOURCES FOR CONTINGENT FACULTY

Below are some links and resources for adjunct, fixed-term, and community faculty. This is far from an exhaustive list; if you know of other resources, please considering sharing them with your colleagues (or forward them to the IFO).

Financial

- [Minnesota Management and Budget Office Vacation Donation Fund](#)
- [Steve Street National Unemployment Compensation Initiative](#): New Faculty Majority campaign with resources for in-between contract adjuncts. [They need campus liaisons](#) if you can help.
- [Precaricorps](#): Nonprofit that provides temporary financial aid for contingent faculty
- [Contingent Magazine](#): Featuring the scholarly and creative work of contingent faculty, for fair compensation.

Field-specific (Not comprehensive, but here's a place to start)

- Geospatial Science: [Training and Retaining Leaders in STEM](#)
- History: [AHA resource guide](#)
- English: [MLA professional development grants](#)
- Psychology: [APA resource guide](#)
- Communication and Theater: [Communication and Theater Association of Minnesota awards, grants, and community](#)

Career/Mentoring/Scholarship

- [TheProfessorIsIn](#): Job materials review (discounts for ; career advice
- [Publish My Paper](#) podcast
- [BeyondProf](#) + [conference](#)

Mental Health

- Temple University Collaborative [Resource Guide](#)

Action/Equity/Community

- [Adjunct Justice](#)
- [Adjunct Noise](#)
- [Adjunct Crisis](#)
- [New Faculty Majority Women and Contingency Project](#)
- [National Mobilization for Equity](#)
- [Contingent Talk](#) podcast with Sarah Dreller
- [The Contingent Professor](#) podcast

FEATURE

The Journal of Higher Education published an article in January 2020 titled “To Be Black Women and Contingent Faculty: Four Scholarly Personal Narratives.” It does a wonderful job of sketching out how teaching and scholarly pursuits intersect with the realities of being a contingent faculty.

There's a paywall, but [click here](#) for the permanent link.

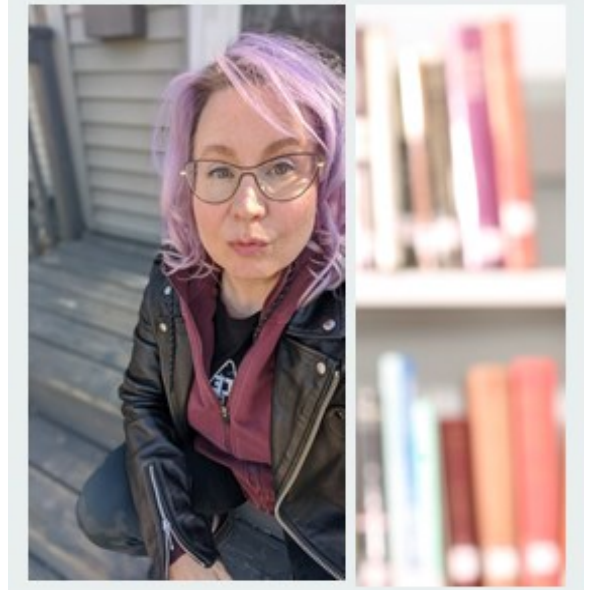
MEET AN ADJUNCT

Hey, y'all! I'm Saara Myrene Raappana. I've been teaching composition and creative writing for about fifteen years. I'm a poet and fiction writer; my writing tends to focus on the feminine rural, familial brutality and grace, reboots of Finnish legends, post-apocalyptic pastoral fiction, and stories about women deciding how they want to be women.

My primary interest as an instructor is using anti-racist pedagogical methods to help my students develop practical, nuanced communication skills. Interestingly, I've found that dismantling the white supremacy in my own methodology has been uniquely useful in teaching my students everything from critical thinking to paragraph structure.

I was born and raised in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and I got my MFA from the University of Florida. I've published two short poetry collections, and I've received grants and awards from the Seawanee Writers' Conference, the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council, and the Minnesota State Arts Board. In addition to writing and teaching writerly ideas, I coach at and manage a gym that specializes in holistic fitness using kettlebells, sandbags, resistance bands, and friendliness.

I live with my husband Eric, an English professor who likes baseball, hifalutin foreign films, and cooking amazing meals. We have two cats who like sleeping, each other, and eating stray bits of cheese. I wear socks to bed but wake up barefoot. I like Red Hots. I try to approach everything with an attitude of strategic pessimism, which is really just optimism in a raincoat.



Three fun facts about me:

I moved to Minnesota from Guizhou, China.

The A-Team from 2010 is one of my very favorite action movies. I will fight any of you for its honor.

Justin Morneau, then of the Minnesota Twins, almost killed me with a foul ball while I was watching a baseball game in Milwaukee (as far as I know, this act of aggression was neither premeditated nor personal). I don't know enough about baseball to explain how this happened. All I know is that a baseball came flying at my head, and I ducked, and then some kid got to go home with the ball that almost killed me, which is fine because what would I do with a baseball?