



# TEACHING FORUM: TEACHING CRIME FICTION AS CREATIVE WRITING

## Teaching Crime Fiction as Creative Writing: Introduction

*J.C. Bernthal*

**Abstract.** The organizer of this issue's Teaching Forum on the multifaceted relationship of crime fiction and creative writing introduces the forum.

As crime fiction continues to dominate sales and its critical reception grows, it has become an increasingly important part of creative writing courses. At the same time, creative writing is going from strength to strength as an academic discipline and a program of study in schools and other learning spaces. I am writing from the United Kingdom, where universities' increased focus on "employability skills" have led to increased attention on creative writing programs even as other elements of the humanities face rampantly reduced funding. Although creative writing as a discipline is practical, it is as theorized and rigorous as English literature, and it is not uncommon for students or teachers of one to practice the other as well.

*J.C. Bernthal* is a Visiting Fellow at the University of Suffolk, as well as an Edgar and Agatha Award-nominated author and editor, most recently of *Agatha Christie: A Companion to the Mystery Fiction* (McFarland, 2022) and (coedited with Mary Anna Evans) *The Bloomsbury Handbook to Agatha Christie* (Bloomsbury, 2022).