

  
**LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY**  
2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CIRCLE AWARD RECIPIENT



**Cadwell Turnbull '09, MFA, M.A.**

*Writer*

*Assistant Professor of Creative Writing*  
**North Carolina State University**

Cadwell Turnbull '09 is a speculative fiction writer. His debut science-fiction novel, "The Lesson," was published in 2019 by Blackstone Publishing. His novel made several "Best of the Year" lists including *Kirkus Reviews*, *Library Journal* and *Publishers Weekly*. It was a finalist in Science Fiction for the Audie Awards, and Mr. Turnbull has been nominated for the AAMBC Literary Award for Sci Fi/Fantasy Writer of the Year.

"The Lesson" has been optioned by AMC for a television series.

"It took me seven years, off and on, to complete the book, and it was the moment I felt like I was finally achieving a lifelong dream: a career as a professional writer. I am very proud to have stuck with it and completed it. There were some moments I thought I wouldn't," he said.

After graduating from La Roche with a bachelor's degree in English studies: professional writing, Mr. Turnbull went on to obtain a creative writing MFA in fiction and a Master of Arts in linguistics from North Carolina State University.

His short fiction has appeared in *The Verge*, *Lightspeed*, *Nightmare and Asimov's Science Fiction*. His *Nightmare* story, "Loneliness is in Your Blood," was selected for *The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2018*. His *Lightspeed* story, "Jump," was selected for the *Year's Best Science Fiction and Fantasy 2019* and featured on *LeVar Burton Reads*.

Mr. Turnbull has worked as a freelance journalist and a data associate with Amazon's Alexa. He has taught high school English and undergraduate creative writing. He was an English as a Second Language teacher in South Korea and Boston. Starting in fall 2020, Mr. Turnbull is an assistant professor of creative writing at North Carolina State University.

Mr. Turnbull volunteers as a member for Grassroots Economic Organizing, an online organization that publishes stories and other media about cooperatives, credit unions, community funds, and other forms of grassroots and solidarity economics. He also is a member of Dollars & Sense, which publishes a bimonthly magazine and textbooks on left-leaning economic theory and practice.

He said that La Roche provided the foundation that he needed to become a successful writer.

"The professional writing degree at La Roche was well-rounded," he explained. "I learned technical writing, journalism and grant writing. I wrote creative nonfiction, fiction and poetry. But some of my favorite classes were rhetoric and composition courses, and literary criticism, which gave me not just the tools to write, but to think about writing, my own work, the work of others and the conversation between discourses. All those perspectives are necessary building blocks for creative and critical work."

