



# IRA SUKRUNGRUANG

## BIO

Ira Sukrungruang was born in Chicago to Thai immigrants. He earned his BA in English from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and his MFA from The Ohio State University. He is the author of four nonfiction books *This Jade World* (2021), *Buddha's Dog & Other Meditations* (2018), *Southside Buddhist* (2014) and *Talk Thai: The Adventures of Buddhist Boy* (2010), the short story collection *The Melting Season* (2016), and the poetry collection *In Thailand It Is Night* (2013). With friend Donna Jarrell, he co-edited two anthologies that examines the fat experience through a literary lens—*What Are You Looking At? The First Fat Fiction Anthology* (2003) and *Scout Over, Skinny: The Fat Nonfiction Anthology* (2005). He was a former member of the Board of Trustees for the Association of Writers and Writing Program (AWP), and is currently on the Advisory Board of *Machete*, an imprint of The Ohio State University Press dedicated to publishing innovative nonfiction by authors who have been historically marginalized.

Sukrungruang is the recipient of the 2015 American Book Award for *Southside Buddhist*, a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Nonfiction Literature, an Arts and Letters Fellowship, and the Anita Claire Scharf Award in Poetry. His work has appeared in many literary journals, including *The Rumpus*, *American Poetry Review*, *The Sun*, and *Creative Nonfiction*. He is the president of *Sweet: A Literary Confection*, a literary nonprofit organization, and is the Richard L. Thomas Professor of Creative Writing at Kenyon College.