

Ben Wetherbee, PhD

Assistant Professor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies
The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma

1727 W Alabama Ave
Chickasha, OK 73018

bwetherbee@usao.edu
benwetherbee.com

405 . 574 . 1394

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EDUCATION

PHD, RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION

The University of Louisville (Louisville, KY), 2015

- Dissertation: *Places in the Polity of Rhetoric: Topoi, Evolution, and the Fragmentation of Discourse* (committee: Karen Kopelson, chair; Stephen Schneider; Bronwyn T. Williams; Beth Boehm; Carolyn R. Miller)

MA, RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION

Miami University (Oxford, OH), 2011

- Thesis: *Toward a Rhetoric of Film: Theory and Classroom Praxis* (committee: Cynthia Lewiecki-Wilson, chair; Jason Palmeri; John Heyda)

BA, ENGLISH

The University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI), 2008

- Graduated with distinction

POSITIONS HELD

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA (Chickasha, OK)

Assistant Professor, Departments of Interdisciplinary Studies and English. 2018 – present.

Instructor, Departments of Interdisciplinary Studies and English. 2016-18.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE (Louisville, KY)

Interim Coordinator of Graduate Affairs, School of Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies. 2016.

Lecturer, Department of English. 2015-16.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of English. 2012-15.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY (Oxford, OH)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of English. 2009-11.

PUBLICATIONS (SINGLE-AUTHORED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- “*Dystopoi* of Memory and Invention: The Rhetorical ‘Places’ of Postmodern Dystopian Film.” *Journal of Multimodal Rhetorics*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2018, pp. 116-34.
- “*Literacy* and *Rhetoric* as Complementary Keywords.” *Literacy in Composition Studies* vol. 5, no. 2, 2017, pp. 103-12.
- “Jameson, Burke, and the Virus of Suggestion: Between Ideology and Rhetoric.” *Henry James Review*, vol. 36, no. 3, 2015, pp. 280-87.
- “The Cinematic *Topos* of Disability and the Example of *Avatar*: A Rhetorical Critique.” *Ethos: A Digital Review of Arts, Humanities, and Public Ethics*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2015, pp. 40-59.
- “Picking Up the Fragments of the 2012 Election: Memes, *Topoi*, and Political Rhetoric.” *Present Tense: A Journal of Rhetoric in Society*, vol. 5, no. 1, 2015, [10 pp.].
- Ben Wetherbee and Stephanie Weaver. “‘You Know the Business and I Know the Chemistry’: The Scientific *Ethos* of *Breaking Bad*.” *Excursions*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2013, [17 pp.].
- “Toward a Polyphonic Model of Student Coauthorship: A Response to Joseph Harris and Julie Lindquist.” *JAC*, vol. 32, no. 3-4, 2012, pp. 743-51.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- “The Audiovisual Palimpsest: Rhetoric, Poetics, and Heteroglossia in *Mystery Science Theater 3000*.” *Reading Mystery Science Theater 3000: Critical Approaches*, edited by Shelley S. Rees, Scarecrow, 2013, pp. 13-29 [lead chapter].

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of *Mikhail Bakhtin: Rhetoric, Poetics, Dialogics, Rhetoricity*, by Don Bialostosky. *Composition Studies*, vol. 46, no. 1, 2018, pp. 174-77.
- “The Descent of Evolutionism.” Review of *Rhetorical Darwinism: Religion, Evolution, and the Scientific Identity*, by Thomas M. Lessl. *Enculturation*, vol. 18, 2015.

IN PRODUCTION / UNDER REVIEW

- “*Ominatio* in Denim: *Twin Peaks*’ Bob as a Rhetorical Figure.” *The Twin Peaks Phenomenon: Essays on a Place Both Wonderful and Strange*, edited by Jenny Butler. Essay proposal accepted (Jan. 2015); book under contract with McFarland for 2018 publication.
- “Toward a Secular-Rhetorical Criticism: Burke, Said, Gourgouris.” In preparation to submit to *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*.

TEXTBOOK CONTRIBUTIONS

- “Progressive Profiteering: The Appeal and Argumentation of *Avatar*.” *Inventing Arguments*, by John Mauk and John Metz, 3rd ed., Wadsworth, 2013, pp. 120-22. Reprinted in 4th ed., pp. 104-06.

CREATIVE WRITING

- “Schrödinger’s Wrist Shot” [fiction]. *Echo Cognitio*, Founding Edition, 2013, pp. 26-28.

“Bogie’s End” [fiction]. *Xylem: The University of Michigan Undergraduate Literary Journal*, vol. 18, 2008, pp. 62-65.

“Casablanca” [poem]. *Dunes Review: Literary Journal of Northern Michigan*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2004, pg. 5. [Anne-Marie Oomen Poetry Prize first-place winner.]

PRESENTATIONS

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Outperforming Irony in the Trump Era.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Mar. 2019, Pittsburgh, PA.

“Chronotopic Immersion in *Alien* and *Metroid*: Rhetorics of Space (and Time).” Southwest Popular/American Culture Association, Feb. 2019, Albuquerque, NM.

“Rhetorical Topoi and the Other Toulmin Model: Time, Space, Evolution.” Rhetoric Society of America, June 2018, Minneapolis, MN.

“*Literacy* and *Rhetoric* as Complementary Keywords.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Mar. 2017, Portland, OR.

“Topical and Tropological Dimensions of Twitter Hashtags.” Thomas R. Watson Conference, Oct. 2016, Louisville, KY.

“Epideixis and/as Cultural Evolution.” Rhetoric Society of America, May 2016, Atlanta, GA.

“Vico’s Axioms as *Topoi* of Responsivity.” Thomas R. Watson Conference, Oct. 2014, Louisville, KY.

“Utopian Appeals and Rhetorical Borders: AIDS and the *Utopoi* of American Nationalism.” Rhetoric Society of America, May 2014, San Antonio, TX.

“Picking Up the Fragments of the 2012 Election: What Do Memes Mean for Rhetoric?” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Mar. 2014, Indianapolis, IN.

“AIDS, Immigration, and the *Topoi* of Post-Crisis American Nationalism.” Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference, Sept. 2013, Stanford, CA.

“Anti-Ethnography and the Rhetoric of Omission: Zooming Out from the *Ruins of Detroit*.” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, Feb. 2013, Louisville, KY.

“Kurt Vonnegut as Rhetorical Theorist.” Popular / American Culture Association in the South Conference, Sept. 2012, Nashville, TN.

“*Avatar* and the Topos of Disability.” Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association National Conference, Apr. 2012, Boston, MA.

“Assessing Digital Assessment: How to Confront the Current-Traditional Assumptions of E-Portfolio Systems.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Mar. 2012, St. Louis, MO.

“What Is Cinematic Ethos? Three Theoretical Inquiries into the Rhetoric of Film.” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, Feb. 2012, Louisville, KY.

“The Audiovisual Palimpsest: Rhetoric, Poetics, and Heteroglossia in *Mystery Science Theater 3000*.” Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association National Conference, Apr. 2011, San Antonio, TX.

Kevin Rutherford and Ben Wetherbee. “Digital Approaches for Integrating Literature and Composition.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Apr. 2011, Atlanta, GA. Digital Poster Presentation.

“Replicant Rhetoric: Gender, Humanity, and Ideology in *Blade Runner*.” Tenth Annual Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality Symposium, Feb. 2011, Oxford, OH.

“Film and the Dialogic Student: Using Movies in the Composition Classroom.” North Carolina Symposium on Teaching Writing, Feb. 2011, Raleigh, NC.

LOCAL PRESENTATIONS

“*Alien*, *Metroid*, and the Experience of Space.” Festival of Arts and Ideas. University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Feb. 2019. Chickasha, OK.

“*Mulholland Dr.* and the Chronotopic Unconscious.” Women’s and Gender Studies Dept., The University of Louisville, Mar. 2013, Louisville, KY.

AWARDS & HONORS

Nominee, Faculty Favorites Award, The University of Louisville, 2015-16.

University Fellowship, The University of Louisville, 2011-12, 2014-15.

Henry James Review Fellowship, The University of Louisville, 2013-14.

Carolyn Krause Maddox Prize (interdisciplinary award for best graduate essay in Women’s and Gender Studies), Women’s and Gender Studies Dept., The University of Louisville, 2013.

Academic Achievement Award, Miami University, 2009.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, 2005.

Presidential Scholarship, Northwestern Michigan College, 2004-06.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA (2016-)

Bad Space: Rhetorics of Place in Dystopian Fiction & Film (4000-level capstone seminar)

Rhetoric & Composition (3000-level survey of rhetorical theory & criticism)

Writing II (writing about literature)

Writing I (persuasive and analytic writing)

Writing for International Students

Basic Composition Skills

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE (2012-16)

Writing about Literature

Introduction to English Studies
Business Writing
Honors Composition (accelerated writing curriculum)
Intermediate College Writing (rhetoric, analysis, and research)
Introduction to College Writing (persuasive and analytic writing)

MIAMI UNIVERSITY (2009-11)

Composition and Literature
College Composition

EDITING

The Drover Review (annual web journal of essayistic and scholarly writing by USAO students), editor and founder, 2017-.

Henry James Review, editorial assistant, 2013-14.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITY & SERVICE

GENERAL

Reviewer, *Double Helix: A Journal of Critical Thinking and Writing*, Aug. 2018.

Freelance academic editor, 2015-16.

Submission reader and scorer, *Oxford Magazine* (Oxford, OH), Summer 2010.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA

Jernigan Scholarship Committee, 2018-.

Interdisciplinary Studies Assessment Committee, 2018-.

Student Showcase Committee, 2018-.

Discipline/Judicial Committee, 2018-.

Interdisciplinary Studies Committee, 2017-.

New Faculty Welcoming Committee, 2017-.

Faculty and Staff Professional Development Committee, 2017-.

HLC Steering Committee, 2017-18.

Superior Teaching and Research Awards Committee, 2016-17.

Writing Outcomes Committee, 2016.

- Drafted university-wide outcomes for Writing I and Writing II.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Chair of the Rhetoric Society of America Student Chapter at the University of Louisville, 2013-14.

Rhetoric Reading Group (affiliate of the RSA Student Chapter at Louisville)

- Cofounder (Mar. 2012) and primary coordinator (2012-14).
- Discussions lead: Mar. 2012, Kenneth Burke's *A Rhetoric of Motives*; Mar. 2012, *ibid*; Apr. 2012, *ibid*; Oct. 2012, Mikhail Bakhtin's "The Problem of Speech Genres"; Nov. 2012, selections by Wayne Booth; Sept. 2013, selections by Stanley Fish; June 2014, Aristotle's *Rhetoric*; July, 2013, *ibid*; Sept. 2014, *ibid*.

English Graduate Organization (EGO) executive and faculty liaison, 2013-15.

Mentor to prospective PhD students in Rhetoric and Composition, 2012, 2013.

LOCAL WORKSHOPS LED

"Presenting at Academic Conferences." English Graduate Organization, The University of Louisville, Feb. 2015.

"Branding Yourself." School of Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies PLAN Workshop, The University of Louisville, Nov. 2012. (Presentation on using online social media to cultivate professional web presence.)

"Digital Pedagogy in English 112." Digital Writing Cooperative, Miami University, Nov. 2010. (Presentation on using digital media to teach rhetorical and literary analysis.)

CONFERENCE PANELS CHAIRED

"Body and Identity in Digital Spaces." Thomas R. Waston Conference, Oct. 2014, Louisville, KY.

"Apocalyptic Complexities" (2 consecutive panels). Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, Apr. 2013, Louisville, KY.

"Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Shirley Jackson, Kurt Vonnegut." Popular / American Culture Association in the South Conference, Sept. 2012, Nashville, TN.

"The Blues and Literary Form." Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, Feb. 2012, Louisville, KY.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Rhetoric Society of America (2011 – present)

National Council of Teachers of English (2011 – present)

- Conference on College Composition and Communication (2011 – present)

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

rhetorical theory & criticism
history of rhetoric
rhetoric & poetics
writing pedagogy

film theory
multimodal rhetoric
critical theory & cultural studies
rhetorics of science & religion