

Ben Wetherbee, PhD

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

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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

Assistant Professor, Departments of Interdisciplinary Studies and English. 2018 – present.
Coordinator of Writing. 2019 – 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.

EDUCATION

*PhD, Rhetoric &
Composition*

The University of Louisville (KY), 2015
Dissertation: *Places in the Polity of Rhetoric: Topoi, Evolution, and the Fragmentation of Discourse*; director: Karen Kopelson

*MA, Rhetoric &
Composition*

Miami University (Oxford, OH), 2011
Thesis: *Toward a Rhetoric of Film: Theory and Classroom Praxis*; director: Cynthia Lewiecki-Wilson

*BA, English Language
& Literature*

The University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), 2008

- Graduated with distinction.
- Transferred credits from Northwestern Michigan College (Traverse City).

PUBLICATIONS (SINGLE-AUTHORED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- “Redemption Follows Allocation?: Dan Harmon and the #MeToo Apology.” *Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric*, vol. 9, no. 3/4, 2019, pp. 112-25. | [\[link\]](#)
- “Dystopoi of Memory and Invention: The Rhetorical ‘Places’ of Postmodern Dystopian Film.” *Journal of Multimodal Rhetorics*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2018, pp. 116-34. | [\[link\]](#)
- “Literacy and Rhetoric as Complementary Keywords.” *Literacy in Composition Studies*, vol. 5, no. 2, 2017, pp. 103-12. | [\[link\]](#)
- “Jameson, Burke, and the Virus of Suggestion: Between Ideology and Rhetoric.” *Henry James Review*, vol. 36, no. 3, 2015, pp. 280-87. | [\[link\]](#)
- “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. | [\[link\]](#)
- “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. | [\[link\]](#)
- 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. | [\[link\]](#)
- “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. | [\[link\]](#)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- “The Other Toulmin Model: Concepts, Topoi, Evolution.” *Reinventing Rhetoric Scholarship: 50 Years of the Rhetoric Society of America*, edited by Roxanne Mountford, Dave Tell, and David Blakesley, Parlor, 2020, pp. 78-86. | [\[link to book\]](#)
- “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]. | [\[link to book\]](#)

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of *Cruel Auteursim: Affective Digital Mediations toward Film-Composition*, by bonnie lenore kyburz. *enculturation*, vol. 30, 2020. | [\[link\]](#)
- Review of *Mikhail Bakhtin: Rhetoric, Poetics, Dialogics, Rhetoricality*, by Don Bialostosky. *Composition Studies*, vol. 46, no. 1, 2018, pp. 174-77. | [\[link\]](#)
- “The Descent of Evolutionism.” Review of *Rhetorical Darwinism: Religion, Evolution, and the Scientific Identity*, by Thomas M. Lessl. *enculturation*, vol. 18, 2015. | [\[link\]](#)

IN PRODUCTION / UNDER REVIEW

- “Ominatio in Denim: *Twin Peaks*’ Bob as a Rhetorical Figure.” *The Twin Peaks Phenomenon: Essays on a Show Both Wonderful and Strange*, edited by Jenny Butler, book under contract with McFarland, 2020/21. Paper proposal accepted.
- “Toward a Secular-Rhetorical Criticism: Kenneth Burke and Edward Said.” In preparation. 49 ms. pp.

CREATIVE WRITING

- “From a Train to Uppsala” [poem]. *Dunes Review*, vol. 23, no. 2, 2019, p. 10.
- “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*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2004, pg. 5.

INTERVIEW

- “Don’t Fear the Blank Page: Ben Wetherbee on the Art of Writing.” By Christopher Wilson, *580 Monthly*, Dec. 2020, pp. 22-23. | [\[link\]](#)

MISCELLANY

- Editor’s Introductions, *The Drover Review*, vol. 3, 2020, pp. vii-xii; vol. 2, 2019, pp. vii-xii; vol. 1, 2018, pp. vii-xiii. | [\[links: vol. 1; vol. 2; vol. 3\]](#)
- “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., 2015, pp. 104-06.

PRESENTATIONS

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Redemption Follows Allocution?: Dan Harmon and the #MeToo Apology.” Rhetoric Society of America, May 2020, Portland, OR. Paper proposal accepted; undelivered due to conference cancellation.
- “Fragmenting Rhetorical Analysis: Commonplace as Text.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Mar. 2020. Paper proposal accepted; undelivered due to conference cancellation.
- “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.
- “Resuscitating Bakhtin in the Age of Trump: Dialogics as Counter-Rhetoric.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Mar. 2018. Paper proposal accepted; undelivered due to illness.
- “*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.
- “Epileixis 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 SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- “*Alien, Metroid*, and the Experience of Space.” Festival of Arts and Ideas, The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Feb. 2019, Chickasha, OK.
- “*Mulholland Dr.* and the Chronotopic Unconscious.” Sponsored by the Women’s and Gender Studies Dept., The University of Louisville, Mar. 2013, Louisville, KY.

AWARDS & HONORS

- Regents Superior Teaching Award (campus-wide, student-nominated annual award), The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, 2020.
- Gladys Emerson Anderson Research Fund, The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, 2019-20, 2018-19.
- 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-)

- 4000-Level* The Rhetoric of Science (capstone seminar; 2021)
Bad Space: Rhetorics of Place in Dystopian Fiction & Film (capstone seminar; 2019)
- 3000-Level* Rhetoric & Composition (survey of rhetorical theory & criticism; 2017, 2019)
World Literature I (survey of ancient literature; 2020)
- 2000-Level* Technical Writing (2020)
- First-Year* Writing II (writing about literature; 2017-20)
Writing II Online (accelerated online-only curriculum; 2020)
Writing I (persuasive and analytic writing; 2016-20)
Writing I Online (accelerated online-only curriculum; 2020)
Writing for International Students (2016)
Basic Composition Skills (2016)

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE (2012-16)

- 3000-Level* Writing about Literature (2013)
Introduction to English Studies (2015)
Business Writing (2015-16)
- First-Year* Honors Composition (accelerated writing curriculum; 2016)
Intermediate College Writing (rhetoric, analysis, and research; 2015)
Introduction to College Writing (persuasive and analytic writing; 2012-16)

MIAMI UNIVERSITY (2009-11)

- First-Year* Composition and Literature (2010-11)
College Composition (2009-10)

EDITORIAL WORK

- Editor & Founder* *The Drover Review* (annual web journal of essayistic and scholarly writing by USAO students), 2017-
- Review Board* *Journal of Multimodal Rhetorics*, 2019-

- Reviewer* *Res Rhetorica*, 2019
Double Helix: A Journal of Critical Thinking and Writing, 2018
- Editorial Assistant* *Henry James Review*, 2013-14
- Submission Scorer* *Oxford Magazine* (Oxford, OH), Summer 2010
- Misc.* Freelance academic editor, 2015-16
- Edited Education dissertation (160 pp.) and worked with author.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITY & SERVICE

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA

Secretary, Faculty Association, 2020-21.

Originating faculty sponsor for BA in English, Interdisciplinary Writing Emphasis, and revised Minor in Professional Writing.

- Drafted curriculum change paperwork and degree checklists, 2019.

Faculty adviser to students in English, Creative Writing, and Professional Writing, 2018-.

Faculty liaison to Student Success Center writing tutors.

- Conducted periodic professional development workshops with writing tutors, 2019-.

Assessment coordinator, first-year writing.

- Oversaw assessment of first-year writing classes, 2019-20.
- Drafted assessment rubric for Writing I and II, 2018.
- Drafted university-wide learning outcomes for Writing I and II, 2016.

Secretary, Division of Arts & Humanities, 2017-19.

Current Committee Assignments Gladys Emerson Anderson Research Fund Committee (chair), 2020-
Faculty Association Executive Committee, 2020-
Faculty Handbook Committee, 2019-
Culture and Recreation Committee, 2019-
Betty Baker Jernigan Endowed Scholarship Fund Committee, 2018-
Interdisciplinary Studies Committee, 2017-

Past Committee Assignments Distinguished Graduate Award Selection Committee, Fall 2020
Interdisciplinary Studies Assessment Committee, 2018-2020
Student Showcase Committee, 2018-19
HLC Assurance Argument Committee, 2018-19

- Drafted one section of assurance argument and edited others.

Discipline/Judicial Committee, 2018-19
New Faculty Welcoming Committee, 2017-19
HLC Steering Committee, 2017-18
Faculty and Staff Professional Development Committee, 2017-19
Superior Teaching and Research Awards Committee, 2016-17

- Hiring Committees* Assistant Professor of Economics, 2019
Instructor of Business, 2019
Adjunct Instructor of Creative Writing, 2018
- Wrote job advertisement.
- Adjunct Instructor of Composition, 2018
- Served as sole reviewer of applications.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

- Chair, Rhetoric Society of America Student Chapter at the University of Louisville, 2013-14.
Cofounder, primary coordinator, and discussion leader, Rhetoric Reading Group (affiliate of the RSA Student Chapter at Louisville), 2012-14.
Executive and faculty liaison, English Graduate Organization, 2013-15.
Mentor to prospective PhD students in Rhetoric & Composition, 2012, 2013.

LOCAL PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS LED

- Ben Wetherbee and Genevieve Gordon. “Writing Tutors: Who They Are, What They Do, and How Faculty Can Help.” Digital Professional Development Session, The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, August 2020. | [\[video link\]](#)
- “Using Wordpress to Build a Course Website.” Division of Arts & Humanities, The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Feb. 2018.
- “Presenting at Academic Conferences.” English Graduate Organization, The University of Louisville, Feb. 2015.
- Amy Lueck and Ben Wetherbee. “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

- Thomas R. Watson Conference, Oct. 2014, Louisville, KY.
Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, Apr. 2013, Louisville, KY.
Popular / American Culture Association in the South Conference, Sept. 2012, Nashville, TN.
Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, Feb. 2012, Louisville, KY.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Society for the History of Rhetoric
Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology, and Medicine
Conference on College Composition and Communication
International Society for the History of Rhetoric
National Council of Teachers of English
Rhetoric Society of America
Rhetoric Society of Europe

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

rhetorical theory & criticism	film theory
history of rhetoric	multimodal rhetoric
rhetoric & poetics	critical theory & cultural studies
writing pedagogy	rhetorics of science & religion

GRADUATE & POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK

Postgraduate Preparing Online Instructors (online course available to USAO faculty through
Midwestern State University), Spring 2018

<i>PhD, University of Louisville (2011-13)</i>	Rhetoric of Health & Medicine	Digital/New Media
	Composition Studies & Disciplinarity	Teaching Literature
	Critical Theory & Composition	Film, Gender, Sexualities
	Work in English	Gender in Science Fiction
	The Watson Conference Seminar	The Work of Ethnography
	Research Methods in Composition	Teaching College Composition
<i>MA, Miami University (2009-11)</i>	History of Rhetoric	Gender & Sexuality in British/Irish Modernism
	History of Composition	The Early Modern Body
	Style & Eloquence	Theory & Practice of Teaching Composition
	New Media Studies in Composition	Issues in the Profession
	The Rhetoric of Song	

References available up request.