

Ben Wetherbee, PhD

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

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updated 1/31/22

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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

Assistant Professor, Departments of Interdisciplinary Studies & English. 2018 – present.
Coordinator of Writing. 2019 – present.
Instructor, Departments of Interdisciplinary Studies & 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 Auteurism: 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

- Genevieve Gordon and Ben Wetherbee. “Masked Meanings: COVID-19 and the Subversion of Stasis Hierarchy.” Under review at *Rhetoric Review*. ~7,500 words.
- “Toward a Secular-Rhetorical Criticism: Kenneth Burke and Edward Said.” In preparation. ~12,000 words.

SELECTED 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.

MISCELLANY

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

Editor’s Introductions, *The Drover Review*, vol. 4, 2021, pp. vii-xi; vol. 3, 2020, pp. vii-xii; vol. 2, 2019, pp. vii-xii; vol. 1, 2018, pp. vii-xiii. | [\[links: vol. 1; vol. 2; vol. 3; vol. 4\]](#)

“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

“The Epideictic Gravity of the Middle Stases: Metonymy, Essence, and COVID-19.” Paper proposal accepted to Rhetoric Society of America National Conference, May 2022, Baltimore, MD.

“Showing as Troping as Moving amid COVID-19: An Epideictic Turn.” Paper proposal accepted to American Society for the History of Rhetoric Symposium, May 2022, Baltimore, MD.

“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.

“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 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.

SELECTED AWARDS & HONORS

- Regents Award for Faculty Service (campus-wide annual award), The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, 2021.
- Regents Award for Superior Teaching (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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

- Capstone Seminars* English 4203: The Rhetoric of Science (2021)
English 4103: Bad Space: Rhetorics of Place in Dystopian Fiction & Film (2019)
- 3000-Level* English 3503: Rhetoric & Composition (survey of rhetorical theory & criticism; 2017, 2019, 2021)
English 3113: World Literature I (survey of ancient literature; 2020)
Interdisciplinary Studies 3313: World Thought & Culture I (team-taught survey of ancient philosophy, literature, & culture; 2021)
- 2000-Level* English 2143: Technical Writing (2020)
- First-Year* Interdisciplinary Studies 1213: Writing II (writing about literature; 2017-21)
Interdisciplinary Studies 1213: Writing II Online (accelerated, asynchronous curriculum; 2020)
Interdisciplinary Studies 1113: Writing I (persuasive & analytic writing; 2016-21)
Interdisciplinary Studies 1113: Writing I Online (accelerated, asynchronous curriculum; 2020)
English 1013: Writing for International Students (2016)
English 0123: Basic Composition Skills (2016)

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE (2012-16)

- 300-Level* English 310: Writing about Literature (2013)
English 306: Business Writing (2015-16)
English 300: Introduction to English Studies (2015)
- First-Year* English 105: Honors Composition (accelerated writing curriculum; 2016)
English 102: Intermediate College Writing (rhetoric, analysis, and research; 2015)
English 101: Introduction to College Writing (persuasive & analytic writing; 2012-16)

MIAMI UNIVERSITY (2009-11)

- First-Year* English 112: Composition and Literature (2010-11)
English 111: 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-

<i>Reviewer</i>	<i>Res Rhetorica</i> , 2019 <i>Double Helix: A Journal of Critical Thinking and Writing</i> , 2018
<i>Editorial Assistant</i>	<i>Henry James Review</i> , 2013-14
<i>Submission Scorer</i>	Rhetoric Society of America National Conference, 2021 American Society for the History of Rhetoric Symposium, 2021 <i>Oxford Magazine</i> (Oxford, OH), 2010
<i>Misc.</i>	Freelance academic editor, 2015-16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Edited Education dissertation (160 pp.) and worked with author

SELECTED ACADEMIC ACTIVITY & SERVICE

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA

<i>Administrative Roles</i>	Secretary, Faculty Association, 2020-21.
	Secretary, Division of Arts & Humanities, 2017-19.
	Assessment coordinator, first-year writing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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.
<i>Advising & Mentoring</i>	Enrollment Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Studies core, 2021-. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Faculty adviser to incoming undecided first-year and transfer students, 2021-.
	Honors research adviser (Interdisciplinary Studies 4462 & 4522) to Genevieve Gordon, “Masked Meanings: Examining the Rhetorical Functions of the Face Covering in Anti-Mask Discourse,” 2020-21. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Winner, Gladys Emerson Anderson Award for Undergraduate Research, USAO. ▪ Presenter, Research Day at the Capitol (March 2020, Oklahoma City)
	Practicum in English (English 4773) mentor for English with Teacher Certification students, 2020, 2021.
	Faculty liaison and mentor to Student Success Center Writing Tutors, 2019-. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develops instructional materials and leads periodic workshops with tutors.
	Faculty adviser to majors and minors in English, Creative Writing, Interdisciplinary Writing, & Professional Writing, 2018-.
	Faculty adviser to Cooking Club (2021-) and Gardening Club (2021-).
<i>Curriculum Work</i>	Faculty sponsor for BA in English, Interdisciplinary Writing Emphasis, and revised Minor in Professional Writing, 2019. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drafted curriculum change paperwork and degree checklists.

- Current Committee Assignments*
- Gladys Emerson Anderson Research Fund Committee, 2020-22 (chair)
 - Superior Teaching and Research Awards Committee, 2021-22 (chair), 2016-17 (committee member)
 - Betty Baker Jernigan Endowed Scholarship Fund Committee, 2021- (chair), 2018-21 (committee member)
 - Advising Committee, 2021-
 - Academic Regulations Committee, 2021-
 - Culture and Recreation Committee, 2019-
 - Interdisciplinary Studies Committee, 2017-
- Past Committee Assignments*
- Faculty Association Executive Committee, 2020-21
 - Faculty Handbook Committee, 2019-21
 - 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
- 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.

SELECTED 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.

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

REFERENCES available up request.