

Northeastern University
English Department, Lake Hall

EDUCATION

Northeastern University, 2016–Present

Ph.D. Candidate in English, Writing and Rhetoric

Dissertation: “The Critical Fan Toolkit: Fanfiction Genres, Ideologies, and Pedagogies”

Committee: Mya Poe (Chair), Ellen Cushman, Neal Lerner, Laura Nelson

St. John’s University, 2010–2015

M.A. in English, 2015

B.A. with honors *summa cum laude* in English, Minor in Creative Writing, 2014

Honors: Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society, Summa Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FOCUSES

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| • Digital Rhetoric | • Digital Pedagogy |
| • Fan Studies | • Digital Humanities |
| • Rhetorical Genre Studies | • Writing Analytics |
| • Coding and Data Rhetoric | • New Media |

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

Cara Marta Messina. “Tracing Fan: Exploring Relationship Tagging Practices in *The Legend of Korra* Fanfictions.” *The Journal of Writing Analytics*, vol 3., 2019.

Abbie Levesque, Alison Y.L. Stephens, Quisqueya Witbeck, **Cara Marta Messina**, Siddharth Pannir, and Belinda Walzer. “Aligning Expectations: A Quantitative Study Investigating Tutor Responses to Requests for Grammar Help.” *Praxis*. Under review.

Special Issue Editor

Prince, Alanna, Cara Marta Messina, and Izetta Autumn Mobley. “Black Studies In/For the Rising DH Generation” *Digital Humanities Quarterly*. Currently accepting proposals.

Book Chapters

Cara Marta Messina, Sarah Connell, Julia Flanders, Caroline Klibanoff, and Sarah Payne. “Social Knowledge Creation in the Digital Humanities: Case Studies.” *Social Knowledge Creation*, Vol 2. In press.

Cara Marta Messina and Neal Lerner “Mixed Methods Research in Writing Centers”. *Theories and Methods of Writing Center Studies*, 2019, 208–218.

Book Reviews

Cara Marta Messina. “‘These Violent Delights’: A Review of Timothy J. Welsh’s *Mixed Realism: Videogames and the Violence of Fiction*”. *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, 13.4, 2019.

Harry Denny, **Cara Messina**, and Michael Reich. “Embracing the Challenges of Conventional Practices, Program Inquiry, and New Media in Writing Center Theory and Research.” *Composition Studies*. Vol 43.2, 2015.

Other

Members of the WPA-L Reimagining Working Group and nextGEN. “Where We Are: Dialogue and Disciplinary Space.” *Composition Studies*, Vol 47.2., 2019, 203–210.

Mandy Olejnik and **Cara Marta Messina**. “On the Front Lines: Graduate Student Roles in Shaping Discourse in Digital Spaces.” *Xchanges*. In press.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Kairos Graduate Teaching Award. *Kairos Journal*, 2019.
- College of Social Sciences and Humanities Teaching Award Nominee. *Northeastern University*, 2019.
- Student Organization Leader of the Year Nominee. *Northeastern University Student Life Awards*, 2019
- Graduate Essay Contest Winner for Writing and Rhetoric. *Northeastern University English Department*, 2018 and 2017.
- College of Social Sciences and Humanities Scholar Fellowship. *CSSH at Northeastern University*, 2016-2021
- Stipend Graduate Assistantship. *Northeastern University English Department*, 2016-2021
- Graduate Fellowship. *St. John’s University English Department*, 2014-2015

GRANTS

- CCCC’s Research Initiative Grant. “Super-Diversity in Context: A Corpus-Based Study of Multilingual Writing Outcomes with Attention to Disparate Impact.” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. 2019-2020.
- NULab Seedling Grant for “The Critical Fan Toolkit.” *NULab at Northeastern University*, 2020.
- NULab Travel Grant. *NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks at Northeastern University*, 2019.
- Registration and Grub Grant 2014. *International Writing Center Association and National Conference on Peer Tutoring Joint Conference*, 2014.
- NEWCA Connors Memorial Scholarship Award. *Northeast Writing Center Association*, 2013

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

Northeastern University, English Department:

- ENGL 2850: Writing in/for Social Media *online course*, forthcoming Summer 2020
- ENGW 1111: First Year Writing
- ENGW 3315: Advanced Writing in the Disciplines

St. John’s University, First Year Writing Program

ENG 1000: First Year Writing

Workshops

- Introduction to GitHub Workshop, Workshop Creator and Leader, NULab, Northeastern University, 2018 and 2019.
- Introduction to Python Workshop, Teaching Assistant, Criminology Department, Northeastern University, 2019.

- Women Writers Vector Toolkit Workshop, co-led with Molly Nebiolo. Women Writers Project and NULab, Northeastern University, 2018.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Assistant Director**, Digital Integration Teaching Initiative, Northeastern University, 2019–Present
- **Research Associate**, Writing Program Committee Reflection Study, Northeastern University, 2019
- **Coordinator**, NULab for Texts, Maps and Networks; Northeastern University, 2018–2019
- **Pedagogy and Infrastructure Team Member**, Women Writers Vector Toolkit, Northeastern University, 2018–2019
- **Research Associate**, Design for Diversity, Northeastern University, 2017–2018
- **Director of Research**, Writing Center, Northeastern University, 2016–2017
- **Research Assistant**, The Meaningful Writing Project, Anne Ellen Geller, St. John’s University, 2015

DIGITAL INTEGRATION TEACHING INITIATIVE WORKSHOPS

The Digital Teaching Integration is a new initiative from Northeastern University’s College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH) that adjusts curriculum to better integrate digital proficiencies across the disciplines.

Digital Proficiency	Description
Data and Digital Ethics	○ Introduces concepts of big data, surveillance, algorithmic bias, and algorithmic justice through hands-on activities
Website Creation	○ Shares best practices and steps for building a website with content management systems such as WordPress.
Citation Management	○ Demonstrates the affordances and constraints of citation management tools and how these tools can be useful for research.
Data Collection, Analysis and Organization	○ Provides best practices for data analysis and organization with introductory tools such as Google Sheets and Excel as well as more advanced tools such as Python.
Text Analysis (Computational Text Analysis)	○ Demonstrates how to build a corpus (collection of texts) and analyze that corpus with introductory web-browser computational text analysis tools as well as more advanced tools such as Python.
Text Analysis (Qualitative Coding)	○ Introduce qualitative coding as a research method for both empirical data, primary, and secondary sources; usually teaches NVivo, a software for text analysis and research projects.
Podcast Creation	○ Provides guide to creating a podcast: genre awareness, rhetorical choices, script creation, best practices for recording, media excerpts, and how to use Audacity.

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- “Ways of Reading.” Presented with Hillary Chute, Laura Green, and William Quinn. *Barrs Criticism Slam*, Northeastern University English Department, 2018.
- “Reading as Writers: Marking up and Writing Fan Fiction in the Composition Classroom.” Presented with Matthew Hitchcock and Gary Goshgarian. *Barrs Criticism Slam*, Northeastern University, 2016.

- “Queering Fanfiction: The Intersection of Imagination and Identity.” Gender and Sexuality Studies Club, Marymount Manhattan College, 2017. Received honorarium.

Select Conference Presentations

- “Fan Composing as Digital Activism: Transformative Representations of Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Fanfiction.” *Computers and Writing*. East Carolina University, Greenville, NC. Forthcoming 2020
- “Reexamining Data Commonplaces in Writing Research: What Are We Doing in a World of Data Scraping, Demographic Change, and Discordant Methodologies?” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Milwaukee, WI. 2020. Cancelled due to COVID-19
- “Tracing Fan Uptakes with Computational Text Analysis.” *Computers and Writing*. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. June 2019.
- “Fans as Stakeholders: Legitimizing Fan Uptakes and Genres.” *International Conference on Writing Analytics*. University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL. January 2019.
- “Incorporating XML in the First Year Writing Course: An Ongoing Case Study.” *UConn Conference on the Teaching of Writing*. University of Connecticut. Storrs, CT. April 2018.
- “The Potentials and Limitations of Identity Expression in Digital Communities: Exploring Performance and Representation in Facebook, Fanfiction, and Avatars.” Presented with Avey Nelson and Matthew Hitchcock; facilitated by Ellen Cushman. *Conference on Community Writing*. Boulder, CO. October 2017.
- “Fan Fiction Ecologies and the Writing Classroom.” *English Graduate Student Association Conference*. Northeastern University. Boston, MA. February 2017.

Posters

- “Critical Fan Toolkit: Building a Digital, Public Rhetoric and Composition Dissertation.” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Milwaukee, WI. 2020. Cancelled due to COVID-19
- “Reimagining Romance: *The Legend of Korra* Critical Fandom Practices.” *Association for Computers and Humanities*. Pittsburgh, PA. July 2019.
- “Positions and Power: How the Writing Center is Viewed in the Institution.” Co-created with Abbie Levesque, Siddharth Pannir, and Quisqueya Witbeck. *Northeastern Writing Center Association*. College of Holy Cross. Worcester, MA. March 2018.
- “Information and System Design for Diversity: Can We Do Better?” Co-created with Amanda Rust and Julia Flanders. *Digital Humanities*. Montreal, Canada. August 2017.

Selected Conference Roundtable Presentations

- “Designing Inclusive Information Systems: From Theory to Change.” Chair of roundtable discussion. *Association for Computers and Humanities*. Pittsburgh, PA. July 2019.
- “Continuing the Conversation: Navigating Inclusivity and Vulnerability in Online Listservs and Digital Spaces.” Presenting with Ashanka Kumari, Emily LaPadura, Katelyn Lusher, Mandy Olejnik, and Kyllikki Rytov. *Computers and Writing*. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. June 2019.
- “Theory on the Ground: Building Writing Center Research Groups.” Presented with Abbie Levesque and Kyle Oddis. *Northeastern Writing Center Association*. College of Holy Cross. Worcester, MA. March 2018.

- “Process Over Product: Challenging Institutional Pressures and Discrimination Through Ongoing Consultant Training.” Lead Presenter, presented with Abbie Levesque, Zachary Shaw, and Matthew Hitchcock. *Northeastern Writing Center Association*. Pace University. Pleasantville, NY. April 2017
- “Initial Impressions: How Heuristics Shape Writing Center Consultations.” Co-presented with Alison Perry, Mairead Carr, and Jack Wells. *Northeast Writing Center Association*. Centenary College. Hackettstown, NJ. April 2015.
- “Creating a Freshman Writing Journal: A Collaboration Between a First-Year Writing Program and a Writing Center.” Co-presented with Derek Owens, Tom Philipose, Alison Perry, Anna Sicari, Tara Roeder, and Bailey Robertson. *International Writing Center Association and National Conference on Peer Tutoring Joint Conference*. Orlando, FL. October 2014.
- “Consulting with Gendered Bodies: An Inquiry into Gender Performance in Sessions and Interactions at the Writing Center.” Co-presented with Donya Nassar, Bailey Robertson, Alison Perry, and Anne Geller. *Northeast Writing Center Association*. Bryant University. Smithfield, RI. March 2014.
- “The Writing Fellows Program: Modeling Partners for Change.” Lead Presenter, presented with Eleadah Clack, Alyssa-Rae Hug, Carolyn Wargula, and Anne Geller. *Northeast Writing Center Association*. University of New Hampshire. Durham, NH. April 2013.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Conference Organization

- English Graduate Student Association Graduate Conference, “Centering the Margins,” Lead Organizer, Northeastern University, 2019.
- NULab Spring Conference, “Digital Storytelling,” Co-Organizer, Northeastern University, 2018.
- Climate Change/Crisis/Creativity Conference, Co-Organizer, Northeastern University, 2018.
- Design for Diversity Closing Forum, Co-Organizer, Northeastern University, 2018.
- Design for Diversity Opening Forum, Co-Organizer, Northeastern University, 2017.

Academic Service

- **Founder and Chair.** Graduate Student Welfare Advocacy Group, Northeastern University, 2019.
- **Member.** Writing Program Administration Listserv (WPA-L) Reimaging Working Group, 2019.
- **Organizer.** Feminist Coding Collective, Northeastern University, 2016–Present.
- **President.** English Graduate Student Association, Northeastern University, 2018–2019.
- **Reviewer.** [Digital Humanities Quarterly](#), 2018–2019.

DIGITAL PROFICIENCIES

Coding: Python (Pandas, NLTK, Plotly, Gensim, Matplotlib, Flask); HTML; CSS; XML; RelaxNG; TEI; MySQL; Git

Digital tools: GitHub, WordPress, Wix, Google Suite, Tableau, Excel, Audacity, Zotero, NVivo

WRITING CENTER EXPERIENCE

- **Writing Center Consultant**, Columbia University School of Social Work Writing Center, 2016
- **Writing Coach**, SUNY Empire State College Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies Academic Support, 2015–2016
- **Tutor and Facilitator**, Queensborough Community College Writing Center, 2014–2015

- **Writing Fellow**, St. John's University Writing Across the Curriculum, 2013–2014
- **Writing Consultant**, St. John's University Writing Center, 2011–2015

EXTRACURRICULAR WORK

- Shared Realities: A Workshop on Disability, Technology, and Inclusion,” Notetaker, Microsoft Research New England, 2016.
- One Day One Goal, Writing Center Tutor, Northeastern University Writing Center, 2016.
- First Year Writing Journal, Co-Editor and Website Creator, St. John's University, 2013–2014.
- Sequoya Literary and Arts Magazine, Editor-in-Chief, St. John's University, 2013–2014.
- Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society, Secretary, St. John's University, 2013–2014.
- Creative Writing Group, Co-Creator, St. John's University, 2011–2012.

REFERENCES

Mya Poe

Associate Professor
Writing Program Director
Northeastern University
m.poe@northeastern.edu

Neal Lerner

Associate Professor
Chair of the English Department
Northeastern University
n.lerner@northeastern.edu

Ellen Cushman

Associate Professor
Dean's Professor of Civic Sustainability
Northeastern University
e.cushman@northeastern.edu

Laura Nelson

Assistant Professor of Sociology
Digital Integration Teaching Initiative Coordinator
Northeastern University
la.nelson@northeastern.edu