

EDUCATION

Northeastern University, 2016–2021

Ph.D. Candidate in English, Writing and Rhetoric, degree expected April 2021

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

Dissertation Website: www.criticalfantoolkit.org

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 & TEACHING EMPHASIS

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

DIGITAL SKILLS & PROFICIENCIES

Programming

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

Digital Software

GitHub, WordPress, Wix, Google Suite, Tableau, Microsoft Suite, Audacity (podcast editing software), Zotero, NVivo, Canva (open source design software), Openshot

Research Methods

Qualitative coding; interviews; computational text analysis; data analytics; writing analytics

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.

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

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

Special Issue Editor

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

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*, vol 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 Publications

Cara Marta Messina. “Op-ed: Who is responsible for a COVID-19 outbreak at Northeastern?” *Huntington News*, August 30, 2020.

Mandy Olejnik and Cara Marta Messina. “On the Front Lines: Graduate Student Roles in Shaping Discourse in Digital Spaces.” *Xchanges*. issue 15.1, 2020.

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.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

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|---|-------------|
| Kairos Teaching Award. <i>Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy</i> | 2019 |
| College of Social Sciences and Humanities Teaching Award Nominee. <i>Northeastern University</i> | 2019 |
| Student Organization Leader of the Year Nominee. <i>Northeastern University Student Life Award</i> | 2019 |
| Graduate Essay Contest Winner for Writing and Rhetoric. <i>Northeastern University English Department</i> | 2018 & 2019 |
| College of Social Sciences and Humanities Scholar Fellowship. <i>CSSH at Northeastern University</i> | 2016-2021 |
| Stipend Graduate Assistantship. <i>Northeastern University English Department</i> , 2016-2021 | 2016-2021 |
| Graduate Fellowship. <i>St. John’s University English Department</i> | 2014-2015 |
| NEWCA Connors Memorial Scholarship Award. <i>Northeast Writing Center Association</i> | 2013 |

GRANTS

Cara Marta Messina

- CCCCs Research 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. “The Critical Fan Toolkit.” *NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks*, Northeastern University. 2020
- Travel Grant. *NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks*, Northeastern University. 2019
- Registration and Grub Grant. *International Writing Center Association and National Conference on Peer Tutoring Joint Conference*. 2014

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

Northeastern University, English Department:

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| ENGL 2850: Writing in/for Social Media (online course) | Summer 2020 |
| ENGW 1111: First Year Writing | 2017-2018 |
| ENGW 3315: Advanced Writing in the Discipline | Summer 2018 |

St. John’s University, First Year Writing Program

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| ENG 1000: First Year Writing | 2015-2016 |
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Workshops

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| Creator and Leader. Introduction to GitHub Workshop, Northeastern University | 2018 & 2019 |
| Teaching Assistant. Introduction to Python Workshop, Northeastern University. | 2019 |
| Co-Creator and Leader. Women Writers’ Vector Toolkit Workshop, Northeastern University. Co-led with Molly Nebiolo | 2018 |

DIGITAL PROFICIENCY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The Digital Integration Teaching Initiative (DITI) is a new initiative from Northeastern University’s College of Social Sciences and Humanities. DITI collaborates with faculty across the disciplines and developed curriculum to better integrate digital proficiencies. Digital proficiency modules which I co-created & co-led:

| Digital Proficiency | Description of Proficiency |
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| 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. |

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| 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. |

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE & RESEARCH POSITIONS

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| Assistant Director. Writing Program, Northeastern University | 2020-Present |
| Assistant Director. Digital Integration Teaching Initiative, Northeastern University. | 2019-2020 |
| Research Associate. Writing Program Committee Reflection Study, Northeastern University. | 2019-Present |
| 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 |

TALKS, PRESENTATIONS, & CONFERENCES

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.

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

Selected Conference Presentations

“Critical Fan Pedagogy: Teaching Critical Digital Literacies with Fanfiction Data” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Spokane, WA. Forthcoming 2021.

“Fan Composing as Digital Activism: Transformative Representations of Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Fanfiction.” *Computers and Writing*. East Carolina University, Greenville, NC. Forthcoming 2020

“(mis)Representation in Large Corpus Analysis.” *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 Spaces of Possibilities: Fan Communities, Representation, and the Writing Classroom.” *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.

Selected 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.

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“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.

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.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Academic Service

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| Founder and Chair. Graduate Student Welfare Advocacy Group, Northeastern University | 2019-2020 |
| Member. Writing Program Administration Listserv Reimagining Working Group | 2019-2020 |

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| Organizer. Feminist Coding Collective, Northeastern University | 2016-2020 |
| President. English Graduate Student Association, Northeastern University | 2018-2019 |
| Reviewer. <i>Digital Humanities Quarterly</i> | 2018-2019 |
| Co-Editor & Website Creator. <i>First Year Writing Journal</i> , St. John's University | 2014 |
| Editor-in-Chief. <i>Sequoia Literary and Arts Magazine</i> , St. John's University | 2013-2014 |
| Secretary. Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society, St. John's University | 2013-2014 |
| Co-Creator. Creative Writing Group, St. John's University | 2011-2013 |

Conference Organization

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

Extracurricular Work

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| Notetaker. "Shared Realities: A Workshop on Disability, Technology, and Inclusion." Microsoft Research New England. | 2016 |
| Tutor. One Day One Goal, Northeastern University Writing Center | 2016 |

WRITING CENTER EXPERIENCE

- **Writing Center Consultant**, Northeastern University, 2016—2017
- **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