

# Cara Marta Messina

<https://caramartamessina.com>

Northeastern University

English Department

## EDUCATION

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### **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](http://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

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### **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

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### **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

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.

### 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

## Cara Marta Messina

Stipend Graduate Assistantship. *Northeastern University English Department*, 2016-2021  
2016-2021

Graduate Fellowship. *St. John's University English Department* 2014-2015

NEWCA Connors Memorial Scholarship Award. *Northeast Writing Center Association* 2013

### GRANTS

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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

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**Northeastern University**, English Department:

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

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

<b>Creator and Leader.</b> Introduction to GitHub Workshop, Northeastern University	2018 & 2019
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<b>Teaching Assistant.</b> Introduction to Python Workshop, Northeastern University.	2019
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<b>Co-Creator and Leader.</b> Women Writers' Vector Toolkit Workshop, Northeastern University. Co-led with Molly Nebiolo	2018
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### DIGITAL PROFICIENCY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

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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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## Cara Marta Messina

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.

### ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE & RESEARCH POSITIONS

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<b>Assistant Director.</b> Writing Program, Northeastern University	2020-Present
<b>Assistant Director.</b> Digital Integration Teaching Initiative, Northeastern University.	2019-2020
<b>Research Associate.</b> Writing Program Committee Reflection Study, Northeastern University.	2019-Present
<b>Coordinator.</b> NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks, Northeastern University.	2018-2019
<b>Pedagogy and Infrastructure Team Member.</b> Women Writers' Vector Toolkit, Northeastern University.	2018-2019
<b>Research Associate,</b> Design for Diversity, Northeastern University	2017-2018
<b>Director of Research,</b> Writing Center, Northeastern University	2016-2017
<b>Research Assistant,</b> The Meaningful Writing Project, Anne Ellen Geller, St. John's University	2015

### TALKS, PRESENTATIONS, & CONFERENCES

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#### Invited Talks

## **Cara Marta Messina**

"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.

### **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.

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“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.

### 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.

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“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

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#### Academic Service

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

#### Conference Organization

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

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### Extracurricular Work

**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

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- **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