

## Cara Marta Messina

Northeastern University  
English Department, Lake Hall

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<https://caramartamessina.com>

### 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

Graduate Certificate: Digital Humanities

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; fan studies; data, algorithm, & coding rhetorics; rhetorical genre studies; digital critical pedagogy; digital humanities; writing analytics; writing program administration.

### 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

“Black Lives Matter Digital Activism: Critical Digital Pedagogy in a Writing for Social Media Course.” *Spark: A 4C4Equality Journal*. Under review.

“rm monika.chr: Coding Rhetorics and Ephemeral Code in *Doki Doki Literature Club*.” *Computers and Composition Online*, “Making Games Matter” Special Issue. Webtext Proposal Accepted.

“Tracing Fan Uptakes: Tagging, Language, and Ideological 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.

### Special Issue Editor

Alanna Prince, **Cara Marta Messina**, and Izetta Autumn Mobley. "Black Studies In/For the Rising DH Generation." Co-editor with Alanna Prince and Izetta Autumn Mobley. *Digital Humanities Quarterly*. In progress.

### Book Reviews

"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

"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.

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

### 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 Finalist. <i>Northeastern University</i>	2019 & 2020
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. <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

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CCCCs Research Grant. "Super-Diversity in Context: A Corpus-Based Study of Multilingual Writing Outcomes with Attention to Disparate Impact." <i>Conference on College Composition and Communication</i> .	2019-2020
NULab Seedling Grant. "The Critical Fan Toolkit." <i>NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks</i> , Northeastern University.	2020
Travel Grant. <i>NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks</i> , Northeastern University.	2019
Registration and Grub Grant. <i>International Writing Center Association and National Conference on Peer Tutoring Joint Conference</i> .	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

### 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
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.

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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, and how to use Audacity.

### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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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
<b>Writing Center Consultant.</b> Columbia University School of Social Work Writing Center.	2015–2016
<b>Writing Coach.</b> SUNY Empire State College Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies Academic Support.	2015–2016
<b>Tutor and Workshop Facilitator.</b> Queensborough Community College Writing Center.	2014–2015
<b>Writing Fellow.</b> St. John's University Writing Across the Curriculum	2013–2014
<b>Writing Consultant.</b> St. John's University Writing Center	2011–2015

### PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS, & WORKSHOPS

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#### Invited Presentations

## Cara Marta Messina

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

“Tracing Critical Fan Composing Practices.” *Speed Data-ing*, Northeastern University NULab, 2020.

“Digital Humanities the Dissertation.” Digital Humanities Open Office Hours, Northeastern University, 2020.

“Ways of Reading.” Panel 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.” Panel. *Barrs Criticism Slam*, Northeastern University, 2016.

### 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. Cancelled due to COVID-19.

“(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. 2019.

“Fans as Stakeholders: Legitimizing Fan Uptakes and Genres.” *International Conference on Writing Analytics*. University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL. 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. 2018.

“The Spaces of Possibilities: Fan Communities, Representation, and the Writing Classroom.” *Conference on Community Writing*. Boulder, CO. 2017.

“Fan Fiction Ecologies and the Writing Classroom.” *English Graduate Student Association Conference*. Northeastern University. Boston, MA. 2017.

### Selected Roundtable Presentations

“Designing Inclusive Information Systems: From Theory to Change.” Chair of roundtable discussion. *Association for Computers and Humanities*. Pittsburgh, PA. 2019.

## **Cara Marta Messina**

“Continuing the Conversation: Navigating Inclusivity and Vulnerability in Online Listservs and Digital Spaces.” Presented with Ashanka Kumari, Emily LaPadura, Katelyn Lusher, Mandy Olejnik, and Kyllikki Rytov. *Computers and Writing*. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. 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. 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. 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. 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. 2015.

“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. 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. 2013.

### **Workshops**

“Introduction to GitHub.” Workshop creator & leader. Northeastern University. 2018 & 2018.

“Introduction to Python.” Teaching assistant. Northeastern University. 2019.

“Women Writers’ Vector Toolkit Workshop.” Co-creator & leader. Northeastern University, 2018.

### **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.

## Cara Marta Messina

“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

**Secondary Instructor for Directed Study.** First Instructor, Suzanna Walters. 2021  
Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Northeastern University.

**Editor-in-Chief.** *NU Writing*, Northeastern University 2020-Present

**Founder and Chair.** Graduate Student Welfare Advocacy Group, Northeastern University 2019-2020

**Member.** Writing Program Administration Listserv Reimaging Working Group 2019-2020

**Organizer.** Feminist Coding Collective, Northeastern University 2016-2020

**President.** English Graduate Student Association, Northeastern University 2018-2019

**Reviewer.** *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 2018-2019

**Notetaker.** “Shared Realities: A Workshop on Disability, Technology, and Inclusion.” Microsoft Research New England. 2016

**Co-Editor & Website Creator.** *First Year Writing Journal*, St. John’s University 2014

**Editor-in-Chief.** *Sequoia Literary and Arts Magazine*, 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

**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

## **Cara Marta Messina**

**Co-Organizer.** Design for Diversity Opening Forum, Northeastern University

2017



## REFERENCES

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**Mya Poe**

Associate Professor of English

Writing Program Director

Northeastern University

Relationship: Dissertation advisor and current supervisor at the Writing Program

**Ellen Cushman**

Associate Professor of English

Dean's Professor of Civic Sustainability

Northeastern University

Relationship: Dissertation committee member and former advisor

**Neal Lerner**

Associate Professor of English

Chair of the English Department

Northeastern University

Relationship: Dissertation committee member and co-writer for book chapter

**Laura Nelson**

Assistant Professor of Sociology

Digital Integration Teaching Initiative Coordinator

Northeastern University

Relationship: Dissertation reader and former supervisor at the Digital Integration Teaching Initiative