

# Christopher A. Lindgren

Department of English  
Shanks Hall, #207  
Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
lindgren@vt.edu  
[clndgrn.com](http://clndgrn.com)

## Education

University of  
Minnesota  
Writing Studies

**Ph.D.** in Rhetoric and Scientific and Technical Communication, 2017

**Dissertation:** Ways with data: Understanding coding as writing

**Committee:** Christina Haas (Advisor), Richard Graff, Patrick Bruch, and Sashank Varma  
(Outside member, Educational Psychology)

North Dakota  
State University  
English

**M.A.** in Composition Studies, 2012

**B.A.** in English Studies, 2004

## Appointments

Virginia Tech,  
Department of  
English

Assistant Professor of Technical Communication and Data Visualization  
2017 – present

## Publications

refereed  
articles

Lindgren, Chris. (Pre-production for Jan. 2021). Facts upon delivery: What is rhetorical about visualized models? *Journal of Business and Technical Communication*, 35(1).  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1050651920958499> \*\*Special issue in response to  
COVID-19

chapters

Brooks, Kevin & Chris Lindgren. (2015). Responding to the coding crisis: From 'Code Year' to computational literacy. In L. C. Lewis, (Ed.), *Strategic Discourse: The Politics of (New) Literacy Crises*. Salt Lake City, UT: Computers and Composition Digital Press. Available at <http://ccdigitalpress.org/strategic/index.html>.

Brooks, Kevin, Chris Lindgren, & Matthew Warner. (2015). Tackling a fundamental problem: Using digital labs to build a smarter computing culture. In B. Hart-Davidson & J. Ridolfo, (Eds.), *Rhetoric and the Digital Humanities*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Hawk, Byron, Chris Lindgren, & Andrew Mara. (2015). Utopian Laptop Initiatives: From technological deism to object-oriented rhetoric. In Sidney Dobrin, (Ed.). *Writing Posthumanism, Posthuman Writing*. Anderson, SC: Parlor Press.

proceedings

Baniya, Sweta G., Hutchinson, Les, Kumari, Ashanka, Larson, Kyle, and Chris Lindgren. (2019). Representing diversity in digital research: Digital feminist ethics and resisting dominant normatives. In C. Chen, K. Purzycki, & L. Wilkes (Eds.), *The*

Proceedings of the Annual Computers and Writing Conference. Fort Collins, CO: WAC Clearinghouse. Available at <https://wac.colostate.edu/resources/wac/proceedings/cw2018/>.

digital  
humanities

Lindgren, Chris & Jim Ridolfo. (2020). Rhetmap.org: Composing data for future re-use and visualization. *Kairos*, 28(1). Available at <http://praxis.technorhetoric.net/tiki-index.php?page=PraxisWiki: :rhetmap> **\*\*Special issue on "Data Visualization in Composition Studies"**

Lindgren, Chris. (2020). Name That Twitter Community!: A Python module for humanities researchers. *Reviews in DH*, 1(2). Available at [doi: 10.21428/3e88f64f.1302b7aa](https://doi.org/10.21428/3e88f64f.1302b7aa). **\*\*Module writeup and code archived by the journal and reviewed by Dr. Melanie Walsh, Cornell University**

in-press  
articles

(Pre-production for Jan. 2021). Lindgren, Chris. Writing with data: A case of coding on a data-journalism team. *Written Communication*, 38(1). **\*\*First article defining code as writing in this flagship international journal for Writing Studies.**

in-progress  
articles

(Submitting by Summer 2020). Lindgren, Chris. The rhetorics of data analysis: How indices provide aggregate perspectives. *Technical Communication Quarterly*.

(Submitting by March 2021). Lindgren, Chris, Fernandes, Margaret, & Les Hutchinson. Far from organized: How white, liberal #FamiliesBelongTogether content formations miss the mark and maintain white supremacy. *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication*. Special Issue on Enacting Social Justice in Technical and Professional Communication

(Submitting by Summer 2021). Ethical tactics for coding literacy. Revising conference paper for submission to *Literacy in Composition Studies*.

books

*Coding surfaces, surfacing code: On writing with data*. Book manuscript that puts historical arcs of computer coding into direct attention with an ethnographic case-study of a web developer, "Ray," and his coding activity on a data journalism team. The book is divided into two main parts and develops a theory about how digital computers have always been a surface dedicated to the programmatic writing with and of data. Part one historicizes the science and engineering that made the computer a surface for writing with data at greater scale and speed. It connects past coding practices with punch cards, prior to programming languages, with Ray's contemporary practice. Part two provides a thick description of Ray's accrued sense of data and how to transform data across multiple modes with code. Overall, it will provide empirical weight to past studies of coding that have argued how code does not merely mean or do "what it says" by describing the rhetorical depth of coding as a situated writing activity.

book reviews

(2013). BASIC coding cultures. [Review of the book *10 PRINT CHR\$(205.5+RND(1)); : GOTO 10*, by N. Montfort, P. Baudoin, J. Bell, I. Bogost, J. Douglass, M. C. Marino, M. Mateas, C. Raes, M. Sample, & N. Vawter. *Enculturation*, 16. Available at <http://enculturation.net/10-print>.

non-refereed

(22 Aug. 2016). Exploring #RSA16 Twitter data. *The Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition*. Available at <http://cwsrhrc.org/blog/2016/08/22/inventing-new-ways-with-twitter-data>.  
\*\*Invited guest blog post

(30 Jun. 2015). Interview with digital rhetorician Estee Beck on algorithmic surveillance. *Institute of Advanced Study: CodeWork Collaborative*. University of Minnesota. Available at [http://umncodework.github.io/past\\_events/codework-interview-beck-digrhet-surveillance/](http://umncodework.github.io/past_events/codework-interview-beck-digrhet-surveillance/).

(15 Jun. 2015). Interview with new media artist Daniel Temkin on esolangs. *Institute of Advanced Study: CodeWork Collaborative*. University of Minnesota. Available at [http://umncodework.github.io/past\\_events/codework-interview-temkin-esolangs/](http://umncodework.github.io/past_events/codework-interview-temkin-esolangs/).

## Presentations

invited

Guest lecture. (2018 Feb. 6). Discussing rhetoric, code and software studies. Undergraduate rhetoric and writing course on rhetoric and internet studies, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

(Nov. 2018). Writing with data: A case of a coder's data sense on a data-journalism team. *STS Seminar*. Department of Science, Technology, and Society, Virginia Tech.

(Jan. 2016). Code literacy. *Critical Code Studies Working Group* (Online, dialogic conference). The Humanities and Critical Code Studies Lab, University of Southern California.

(Oct. 2014). The dynamic materialities of computer programming practices. ACM SIGDOC. Colorado Springs, CO.

(Mar. 2014). Critical code studies roundtable. *Digital Arts, Sciences, and Humanities*. University of Minnesota: Digital Library Services.

conferences

Lindgren, Chris, and Margaret Fernandes. (Mar. 2020). Proximities of white supremacy online: Towards measuring racist discourse to engage content moderation problems. *ATTW*. Milwaukee, WI. [Conference Cancelled]

(Mar. 2019). Ethical tactics for coding literacy. *NCTE CCCC*. Pittsburgh, PA.

(May 2018). Invention and quantification: Finding stories with digital data. *Rhetoric Society of America*. Minneapolis, MN.

Baniya, Sweta G., Hutchinson, Les, Kumari, Ashanka, Larson, Kyle, and Chris Lindgren. (May 2018). Roundtable on Representing diversity in digital research: Digital feminist ethics and resisting dominant normatives. *Computers & Writing*. Fairfax, VA.

(Feb. 2018). Finding stories with data through computer coding. *Symposium on Communicating Complex Information*. East Carolina University, Greenville, NC.

(Sep. 2016). Understanding big data processing as designing provisional texts. *ACM SIGDOC: Student Research Competition*. Silver Springs, MD.

- (May 2016). How do you know what they are doing? Researching the rhetorics of action and procedure with an embodied and distributed methodology. *Rhetoric Society of America*. Atlanta, GA.
- (Oct. 2015). Writing practices anchored by links. *WIDE-EMU*. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
- (May 2014). Swapping gender and negotiating differences through data structures. *Rhetoric Society of America*. San Antonio, TX.
- (Feb.-Mar. 2014). 'Genderswapping' or 'misgendering'? A question of 'Jailbreaking the Patriarchy'. *Critical Code Studies Working Group (discussion thread leader)*. The Humanities and Critical Code Studies Lab, University of Southern California.
- Haas, Christina & Chris Lindgren. (February 2014). Panel co-respondent. The material turn in Writing Studies. *Writing Across Borders III*. Paris, France.
- (Oct. 2013). The rhetorical influence of Google's ecosystem of APIs on web developer practices. *Western States Rhetoric & Literacies*. Salt Lake City, UT.
- (Apr. 2013). The performative stylistics of glitching video codecs. *Doing Rhetoric at the U*. Minneapolis, MN.
- (Mar. 2013). Building a smarter computing culture with proceduracy. *NCTE CCCC*. Las Vegas, NV.
- (Dec. 2012). De-boxing Pandora: Tinkering with glitch art methodologies. *GLI.TC/H*. Chicago, IL.
- Brooks, Kevin, Chris Lindgren, Emily Bartz, and Jade Sandbulte. (Nov. 2012). The techno-social politics of the Sugar OS: An afterschool computer program case study." *Great Plains Alliance for Computers and Writing*. Mankato, MN.
- Brooks, Kevin and Chris Lindgren. (May 2011). Participating in OLPC: Visions for Computers and Writing. *Computers and Writing*. University of Michigan.
- Lindgren, Chris, Abigail Bakke, Sreerupa Sengupta, & Karen Sorenson. (October 2010). Second Life and Writing in the Design Professions. *Great Plains Alliance for Computers and Writing*. North Dakota State University.
- workshops & symposiums (May 2019). Project management: On scaffolding investment & accountability during team projects. *Professional & Technical Writing Summer Workshop*. Virginia Tech, Department of English
- (Nov. 2018). Analytical coding workshop. Virginia Tech, Center for Rhetoric in Society. Co-designed with guest scholar Dr. Cheryl Geisler.
- (Oct. 2018). Mock job interview workshop. Virginia Tech, Department of English.
- (Oct. 2017). Resume workshop. Virginia Tech, Department of English.

(May 2016). DITA and writing with content reuse in mind. *Advanced Writing Symposium*. University of Minnesota-Twin-Cities, Department of Writing Studies.

(Dec. 2014). Setting up your online portfolio website & basic HTML and CSS. *Professional Development Workshop Series*. University of Minnesota-Twin-Cities, Department of Writing Studies.

(Oct. 2014). Constructing your professional web presence. *Professional Development Workshop Series*. University of Minnesota-Twin-Cities, Department of Writing Studies.

(Feb.-Mar. 2012). *Critical Code Studies Working Group (participant)*. The Humanities and Critical Code Studies Lab, University of Southern California.

Lindgren, Chris & Rebecca Hayes. (Oct. 2011). Seeing and constructing visual arguments in online spaces. *Innovation in the Composition Classroom: Ways to Incorporate Digital Tools*. North Dakota State University.

(Aug. 2011). The GeoProfile Project: Stories cutting across maps. *English Department Teachers Orientation Workshop*. North Dakota State University.

(Aug. 2010). Online writing spaces with Weebly.com. *English Department Technologies Workshop*, North Dakota State University.

## Teaching

Virginia Tech

Fall 2020	ENGL 3814 Creating User Documentation ENGL 4814 Rhetoric and Content Strategy
Spring 2020	ENGL 6344 Rhetoric in Digital Environments ENGL 4814 Rhetoric and Content Strategy
Spring 2019	ENGL 4874 Feminisms and Interaction Design ENGL 4814 Rhetoric and Content Strategy
Fall 2018	ENGL 4814 Rhetoric and Content Strategy ENGL 3844 Writing and Digital Media
Spring 2018	ENGL 5674 Rhetoric of Science and Technology ENGL 3844 Writing and Digital Media
Fall 2017	ENGL 3844 Writing and Digital Media (x2)

University of  
Minnesota

Spring 2017	WRIT 3562W Technical and Professional Writing
Fall 2016	WRIT 3577W Rhetoric, Technology, and the Internet
Spring 2016	WRIT 3562W Technical and Professional Writing
Fall 2015	WRIT 4662W Writing with Digital Technologies
Spring 2015	WRIT 3577W Rhetoric, Technology, and the Internet

	Fall 2014	WRIT 3577W Rhetoric, Technology, and the Internet
	Fall 2012	WRIT 1301 University Writing
North Dakota State University	Fall 2009 – Spring 2012	ENGL 110 Composition I (2 sections per semester)

## Pertinent Experiences

*Linger Ink*

Freelance Writer and Editor, 2005 – 2012

- Collaborated with marketing teams on branding campaigns by developing ideas and copy for web, brochures, media kits and radio scripts;
- Developed websites and content for small businesses; and
- Wrote and edited professional documents, such as grants, proposals, and press releases.

## Awards & Fellowships

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place. Student Research Competition. (Sep. 2016). Understanding big data as designing provisional texts: A case of how an aggregate narrative was made. Poster and presentation judged at *Special Interest Group on the Design of Communication*.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Summer Research Fellow. (Summer 2016). Department of Writing Studies and Graduate School, University of Minnesota.
- Graduate Research Partnership Program Fellow. (Summer 2015). Department of Writing Studies and Graduate School, University of Minnesota.
- RSA Social Media Fellow. (May 2014). Rhetoric Society of America.
- James I. Brown Fellow. (Summer 2014). Department of Writing Studies, University of Minnesota.
- Medtronic/Industrial Affiliates Program Fellow. (Spring 2014). Department of Writing Studies, University of Minnesota and Medtronic.
- James I. Brown Fellow. (Spring 2013). Department of Writing Studies, University of Minnesota.

## Grants

- Center for Humanities Summer Stipend. (Summer 2020). Proximities of white supremacy online: Towards measuring racist discourse to engage content moderation problems. [Funded: \$4,000]
- Center for Humanities Summer Stipend. (Summer 2019). What are programming languages? [Not Funded: \$4,000]
- Niles Grant. (Summer 2019). Virginia Tech, CLAHS Faculty Grants. [Not Funded \$4,000]
- Faculty Mentoring Grant. (Fall 2018). *Virginia Tech*. [Funded \$1,500]
- Niles Grant. (Fall 2017). Virginia Tech, CLAHS Faculty Grants. [Not Funded \$4,000]
- Schell, Justin, Lindgren, Chris, Link, Alison, & Jeffrey Kerzner. (2014-15). CodeWork: Exploring Digital Studies through code. *Institute for Advanced Study: Research and Creative Collaborative*, University of Minnesota. [Funded: \$10,000]

- Brooks, Kevin, Slator, Brian, & Chris Lindgren. (2011-12). Sugar on a Stick: Establishing a Smart Computing Culture in Fargo. *Community Projects Award: NDSU Office of the President*. [Funded: \$20,000]

## Advising & Mentoring

### faculty

- Faculty mentor. Dr. Brian Gaines, Visiting Assistant Professor of English

### ph.d.

- Committee Reader. Kat Gray. (title TBD).
- Committee Reader. Margaret Fernandes. (title TBD).
- Committee Reader. Matthew Homer. (title TBD).
- Committee Reader. Kelly Scarff. *Citizen advocacy: A rhetorical study of the relationship between citizens and science* (tentative title).
- Committee Reader. Andrew Kulak. *Internet ontology and the future of digital rhetoric*. (Graduated Spring 2019).

### m.a.

- Committee Reader. Rhys Whittemore. "A Transmedial Approach to the Adaptation of Role-Playing Games"
- Committee Reader. Zach Thomas. *Embodied rhetorics*. (Graduated Spring 2019).
- Advisor. Jonathan Harding. *Student perceptions of screencasted feedback*. (Graduated Spring 2018).

## Service

### international

- Reviewer for *International Journal of SocioTechnology and Knowledge Development*.

### national

- Founder and Co-Chair. Special Interest Group on the Writing and Rhetorics of Code. *Conference on College Composition & Communication*.
- Reviewer for
  - *Written Communication*
  - *Present Tense*
  - *Prompt*
  - *Itineration*
- Data designer. Rhetmap.org: Market comparison. Produce and maintain data visualizations for discipline's job market website.

### university

- Member, Communities of Practice for Writing-Intensive Courses (Summer 2020)

### departmental

- Member, Professional and Technical Writing Committee (2020-current)
- Member, Addressing Anti-Blackness in Professional and Technical Writing Working Group (2020-current)
- Member, Caregivers Working Group (2020-current)
- Member, Executive Committee (2019-current)
- Member, Rhetoric & Writing PhD Program Committee (2017-current)
- Member, Professional and Technical Writing Sub-Committee (2018-19)
- Member, Recruitment Committee (2017-19)
- General Education (Pathways) Course Redesign: Writing and Digital Media (ENGL 3844, Approved Fall 2019)
- Co-planned redesign of department's Digital Studio classroom (Spring 2018)
- Organized Guest Scholar Visit: Dr. Annette Vee (Fall 2018)

- PhD Application Review Committee (Spring 2018)

## Affiliations

- ACM - Special Interest Group on the Design of Communication
- Association of Teachers of Technical Writing
- NCTE
- Rhetoric Society of America

## Languages

*human*

- Mandarin (2 years of coursework)

*human/machine*

- HTML5/CSS3 (Advanced)
- DITA (Intermediate)
- Javascript (Intermediate)
- Node.js (Novice)
- Python (Intermediate)
- PHP (Novice)
- R (Novice)
- Java (Novice)

## Proficiencies

computational	Gephi, Jupyter notebooks, RStudio
video	Adobe Premiere, Kdenlive, iMovie
graphic/image	Adobe Suite, Kira, Inkscape, FFMPEG/Imagick
audio	Ableton Live, Adobe Audition, Audacity
course management	Blackboard, Canvas, Moodle
version control	git/Github, FTP