

# Andrew Pilsch

## Assistant Professor of English

Department of English

Texas A&M University

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## Professional Experience

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Assistant Professor	Texas A&M University	2015-Present
Assistant Professor	Arizona State University	2012-2015
Fixed-Term Lecturer	Pennsylvania State University	2011-2012
Graduate Teaching Fellow	Pennsylvania State University	2005-2011

## Education

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PhD, English	Pennsylvania State University	May 2011
Dissertation: <i>Transhumanism: Evolutionary Logic, Rhetoric, and the Future</i>		
Committee: Richard Doyle (Director), Jeffrey Nealon, Mark Morrisson, Robert Yarber.		
MA, English	Pennsylvania State University	May 2007
BS, Computer Science	Georgia Institute of Technology	May 2005
BS, Science Technology & Culture	Georgia Institute of Technology	May 2005

## Current Book Project

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### ***Transhumanism: The Rhetoric of Evolutionary Futurism.***

**Six Chapter Manuscript, Under Contract with University of Minnesota Press** – Book explores the rhetorical history of “evolutionary futurism,” a 20th century Utopian rhetorical mode associating emerging telecommunications technologies with biological evolution to suggest near-future radical shifts in human existence and cognition. Tracing this rhetoric of transhumanism, chapters explore the evolutionary futurism of theosophy, 1940s science fiction, Raymond Kurzweil, and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. In addition to a theoretical introduction, the book also contains an extended discussion of contemporary digital aesthetics as transhuman vectors of evolutionary overcoming.

## Publications

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“Fan Utopias and Self-Help Supermen: Political Utopianism in WWII-era SF.” *Science Fiction Studies* 41.3 (2014): 524-542.

“Review of *MP3: The Meaning of a Format* by Jonathan Sterne.” *Information Society* 29.5 (2013): 316-317.

**“Review of *Slime Dynamics* by Ben Woodard.”** *Itineration* (2013). Online at: <http://atp1.us/slime-dynamics-review>. (Experimental Hypertext)

**“A Review of *The Breakup 2.0* by Illana Gershon.”** *Information Society* 28.2 (2012): 126-127.

**“Contagious Narratives: Towards a Global Epidemiology in Priscilla Wald’s *Contagious*.”** Review Of *Contagious: Cultures, Carriers, and the Outbreak Narrative* by Priscilla Wald. *BioSocieties* 4.2-3 (2009): 326-328.

## Online Editions & Open Source Software

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### Online Editions

***Mina Loy Online***. A collection of poems and manifestoes by avant-garde modernist Mina Loy, posted online in an open-access, typographically correct format. <http://oncomouse.github.io/loy>.

### Open Source Software

**jquery-inline-footnotes**, Lead Developer. Open source plugin for the industry-standard Javascript framework, jQuery that converts footnotes generated by Markdown into responsive, elegant side notes. Available at <http://atp1.us/jquery-inline-footnotes>

**The Goldilocks Approach SASS**, Lead Developer. Open source port of The Goldilocks Approach (a CSS responsive design framework) to SASS (a CSS preprocessor used throughout the web development industry). Available at <http://atp1.us/goldilocks-sass>.

## Grants & Awards

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### Grants

**Co-author. “Toward a Digital Henry James.”** With Shawna Ross, College of Letters & Science at ASU. ASU Institute for Humanities Research Seed Grant, Fall 2014. *Awarded*.

**Co-author. “Toward a Digital Henry James.”** With Shawna Ross, College of Letters & Science at ASU. ASU Institute for Humanities Research Seed Grant, Spring 2013. *Revise and Resubmit*.

### Awards

SLS Faculty Summer Research Initiative, 2013 & 2014. (Arizona State)

Wilma Ebbitt Graduate Award in Rhetorical Studies, 2010. (Penn State)

Philip Young Memorial Endowment in American Literature, 2006. (Penn State)

## Invited Talks & Conference Presentations

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### Invited Talks

**“The What, Why, and How of Net Neutrality”**. *New York Times Café*. ASU Downtown Phoenix Campus. 2014.

### Conference Presentations

Chair and Organizer, **Critical Informatics and the Digital Humanities**. *131st MLA Annual Convention*, Austin, TX, 2016 (accepted).

**“Worlds Without Us: The Horror of Indifference in *The Southern Reach Trilogy*”** *The Society For Literature, Science, and the Arts 2015 Conference*, Houston, TX, 2015 (accepted).

**“Interpretation Comes Alive”** *The Conference on College Composition and Communication*, Tampa, FL, 2015.

Roundtable Participant, **“Approaching *The Peripheral*: First Responses to William Gibson’s New Novel”** *130th MLA Annual Convention*, Vancouver, BC, 2015.

**“Sex and the Singularity: On The Reproduction of Software Objects”** *130th MLA Annual Convention*, Vancouver, BC, 2015.

**“Coffee Futurism”** *The Society For Literature, Science, and the Arts 2014 Conference*, Dallas, TX, 2014.

**“Posthuman, Nonhuman, Inhuman: Toward An Eldritch Rhetoric”** *16th Biennial RSA Conference*, San Antonio, TX, 2014.

**“Polynesian Paralysis”** *Cocktail Culture: A Conference*, Louisville, KY, 2014.

**“How Did I Get Here?: GPS, Surveillance Culture, and Personal Narrative”** *The Conference on College Composition and Communication*, Indianapolis, IN, 2014.

**“Proposal for Shooting at Agency”** *Western States Rhetoric and Literacy Conference 2013*, Salt Lake City, UT, 2013.

**“I am afraid of a draught of cool air”: Lovecraft, Air Conditioning, and Autophagic Modernity”** *The Society For Literature, Science, and the Arts 2013 Conference*, South Bend, IN, 2013.

**“When Writing Is No Longer Writing: Institutions, Objects, Disciplines”** *Computers & Writing*, Frostberg, MD, 2013.

**“Thinking Different: Primitive Accumulation, Cognitive Economies, and the Quest for a More Perfect Mind”** *15th Biennial RSA Conference*, Philadelphia, PA, 2012.

**“Becoming Object: Facebook, Life Writing, and Tool-Being”** *The Conference on College Composition and Communication*, St. Louis, MA, 2012.

**“As Study or As Paradigm?: Humanities and the Uptake of Emerging Technologies,”**

*127th MLA Annual Convention, Seattle, WA, 2012.*

**“Remixing ‘Technical Communication’: Design, Techné, and the Production of Documents,”** *The Conference on College Composition and Communication*, Louisville, KY, 2010.

**“He Called It ‘Utopia’: Jameson’s Social and Vedic Transhumanism,”** *The Society For Literature, Science, and the Arts 2009 Conference*, Atlanta, GA, 2009.

**“Utopia.com: Fredric Jameson and Piracy Online,”** *The Society For Literature, Science, and the Arts 2007 Conference*, Portland, ME, 2007.

**“Revising Tomorrow: the Historical Present, Telecommunications, and Capitalism in *Nova* and *Neuromancer*,”** *Samuel Delany: A Critical Symposium*, University at Buffalo (State University of New York), 2006.

## Teaching Experience (27 Sections; 12 Courses; 949 Students)

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### Texas A&M University (1 Section; 1 Course; 25 Students)

**Modern Rhetorical Theory** (1 Section; 25 Students) – Course focuses on the developments of rhetorical theory in the 20th century. Course emphasizes mutations in media and globality as preconditions for the flowering of rhetorical thought that mark our world.

### Arizona State University (10 Sections; 6 Courses; 280 Students; 7 Online Sections)

**Writing for the Web (for TWC)** (1 Section; 24 Students) – Designed course for the Technical Writing and Communication major as part of their curriculum overhaul.

**Freshman Composition** (1 Section; 24 Students) – First-year writing for ASU students. Used the online blogging platform Medium in place of a course reader.

**American Literature From 1860** (1 Section; 24 Students) – In this born-digital approach to the literary survey, students learn the history of American literature since 1860 while exploring digital methods of textual analysis.

**Frankenstein and His World** (1 Section; 30 Students; Online Course) – In this course, students will read Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* in conversation with the texts that both influenced it and were influenced by the novel. Students also complete projects and papers on this cultural legacy.

**Major American Novels** (2 Section; 46 Students) – Course covering major works of the American novel. Additionally, students will complete assignments deploying thematic, stylometric, and mapping-based approaches to the study of literature in a project-oriented exploration American literary history.

**H.P. Lovecraft: Style, Science, Myth** (2 Section; 60 Students; Online Course) – In this course on the horror fiction of H.P. Lovecraft, students use digital humanities methods to complete projects dealing with Lovecraft’s unique style, interest in science, and contemporary mythology.

**Introduction to Contemporary Fiction** (3 Sections; 90 Students; Online Course) – Course

introduces students to the current state of American fiction by focusing on novels published by living authors within the last three years.

**Popular Cultural Issues: Apocalypse Now?** (1 Section; 30 Students; Online Course) – Course asks students to think critically about the continuing popularity of post-apocalyptic and end-of-the-world narratives in contemporary literature, film, and television.

## **Pennsylvania State University (16 Sections; 5 Courses; 644 Students)**

**Rhetoric & Composition** (6 Sections; 144 Students) – This first-year composition option at Penn State introduces students to college writing, critical thinking, and basic rhetorical theory.

**Effective Writing: Technical Writing** (7 Sections; 168 Students) – Advanced composition class for students in science and engineering fields. Focus on document design, readability, and technologies of communication.

**Effective Writing: Business Writing** (2 Sections; 48 Students) – Advanced composition class for students in business fields. Focus on effective and ethical communication, document design, and branding.

**Science Fiction** (2 Sections; 200 Students) – Course focusing on the history of science fiction in the 20th and 21st centuries. This large lecture class, composed mostly of non-majors, highlights the ongoing relationships between science, literature, and imagined futures.

**Introduction to Critical Reading** (1 Section; 24 Students) – Introductory class focusing on research methods and critical approaches within the English major. Specifically, instruction focused on media theory and critical appraisal of cultural texts.

## **Professional Service**

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### **For National Organizations**

**Program Committee Member**, *Society For Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference*, 2013.

### **For Texas A&M University**

**First Year Review Committee Member**, 2015

### **For Arizona State University**

**IHC English Education Search Committee Member**, 2014 – Successful hire for tenure-track assistant professor in English Education.

**Noösphere Reading Group Organizer**, 2014 – Ongoing, informal reading group of SLS faculty reading works related to the topics of global consciousness and global awareness.

**Nexus Lab Advisory Group Member**, *Institute for Humanities Research*, 2013-Present – The Nexus Lab, resulting from the work of the DH Initiative at ASU, serves as a focal point and incubator for collaborative, digital research across the humanities at ASU.

**Nexus Lab Data Visualization Working Group Member**, 2014.

**Digital Humanities Initiative Working Group Member**, *Institute for Humanities Research*, 2013 – Created purpose document inaugurating an interdisciplinary research and pedagogy initiative for digital humanities.

**Peer Promotion Committee Chair**, *Interdisciplinary Humanities and Communications*, 2012

## Relevant Skills

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**Computer Programming** – Thorough knowledge of multiple computer programming languages such as C, Java, Ruby, PERL, and LISP. Significant experience in building websites using advanced technologies such as PHP, MySQL, Ruby on Rails, and Apache.

## Professional Affiliations

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**The Modern Language Association**

**The Rhetorical Society of America**

**The Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts**

## References

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**Richard Doyle**

Professor of English  
The Pennsylvania State University  
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**Jeffrey Nealon**

Liberal Arts Research Professor of English  
The Pennsylvania State University  
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**Joni Adamson**

Professor of English and Environmental Humanities  
Arizona State University  
Joni.Adamson@asu.edu

Dossier available upon request.

