

MATTHEW OVERSTREET

University of Pittsburgh
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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) – Anticipated, 2018

Areas of Interest: Writing Pedagogy, Cognition, Digital Media,
Pragmatist Philosophy, ESL

Dissertation: Writing the Fragments: William James & Composition in an Age of (Dis)Connection

This project argues that the rise of digital media technology has sparked rampant social fragmentation, and that composition must respond. Inspired by the thought of American philosopher William James (1842-1910), it recenters composition theory on the thinking-feeling human body, and that body's relationship to objects and others. It then presents a writing pedagogy designed to help individuals more productively engage these alien entities. Drawing on my own teaching experience, this project suggests that understanding writing pedagogy as the restructuring of sensory perception can help revitalize both classroom practice, and composition as an enterprise.

Committee: David Bartholomae (chair), Paul Kameen, Nancy Glazener, John Lyne

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Chicago, Illinois

Masters of English Studies (MA) – May 2012

GPA: 4.00/4.00

- Thesis / Critical Composition: Using Critical Thinking to Bridge Theory and Practice in Writing Instruction

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF LAW

Lawrence, Kansas

Juris Doctor (JD) – May 2005

GPA: 3.36/4.00

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Lawrence, Kansas

Bachelor's (BGS), Political Science – May 2002

GPA: 3.82/4.00; graduated with distinction

GRANTS / AWARDS

2014 – CHINESE NATIONALITY ROOM SCHOLARSHIP

University of Pittsburgh

- \$4000 scholarship for international research
- Completed research project on Chinese political rhetoric

2013-2018 – PITT ENGLISH R&D FUNDING

University of Pittsburgh

- Awarded over \$5000 in competitive departmental grants for travel and research expenses

DIGITAL MEDIA PROJECTS

Ambient Propaganda: A Study in Chinese Rhetorical Ecology. *Proceedings of the Rhetorical Society of America, Biennial Conference, 2016.* Ed. Jenny Rice. Parlor Press (Forthcoming, 2017).

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JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Response to Casey Boyle's "Writing and Rhetoric and/as Posthuman Practice." *College English*, 79.6 (Sept. 2017): 86-88.

The Global Inevitable. Review of Suresh Carnagarajah's *Translingual Practice: Global Englishes and Cosmopolitan Relations*. *Enculturation*. (June 2016). Web.

Speaking (of) The University. *CEA Critic*, the Journal of the College English Association, 77.3 (Nov. 2015): 339-343.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Text, Theory, and Things: Toward A Pedagogy of Vital Being. *Theory Lessons: Theorizing the Classroom*. Ed. Becky McLaughlin. Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2016).

Principled/Digital: Composition's 'Ethics of Attunement' and the Writing MOOC. *Writing and Composing in the Age of MOOCs*. Eds. Elizabeth Monske & Kristine Blair. IGI Global (2016).

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

Feeding The Troll: Online Hate Speech as Communal Act. Computers and Writing Conference, Findley, Ohio. June 2, 2017.

Mind-Body-Self-Object-Other: Composition's Ethics of Attunement. College Composition & Communication Conference, Portland, Oregon. April 15, 2017.

Writing the Flux: William James and the Teaching of Writing. Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Baltimore, Maryland. March 23, 2017.

Ambient Propaganda: Attunement, Affect and the Chinese Dream. Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. May 27, 2016.

Sensation, Ethics and Writing the Other. College Composition & Communication Conference, Houston, Texas. April 8, 2016.

Paper vs. Screen: Evolving Reading Practices and Composition Pedagogy. New York College English Association Conference, Hamburg, New York. October 8, 2015.

The Writing Classroom as Scene of Affective Disruption. Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Toronto, Ontario. April 29, 2015.

Speaking (of) The University: Kant and the Adjunct Labor Crisis. College English Association Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana. March 27, 2015.

Affect, Ethics and the Will to Believe. Impression & Object Conference, City University of New York (CUNY). March 28, 2014.

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WORK EXPERIENCE

NEW ECONOMIC SCHOOL

Moscow, Russia

Writing Fellow, August 2017 – Present

- Instruct elite Russian economics students (both BA and MA) in advanced academic and professional writing
- Help manage writing center with over 700 consultations annually
- Train student writing center tutors and Russian English teachers in composition theory and pedagogy

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Graduate Instructor, August 2013 – Present

- Courses taught:
 - Seminar in Composition (first-year writing course)
 - Workshop in Composition (basic writing course for ESL students)
 - Written Professional Communication (advanced writing course)
 - The Rhetoric of the Islamic State (research methods seminar)
- For administrative and service work, see below

PRINCE MOHAMMAD BIN FAHD UNIVERSITY

Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia

Instructor, August 2012 – May 2013

- Instructed Arab college students in oral and written English
- Designed and taught an elective course in digital media production

AL-IMAM MOHAMMAD IBN SAUD ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Lecturer & Program Coordinator, August 2010 – May 2011

- Instructed Arab college students in English composition
- Created schedules, approved syllabi and curriculum, and evaluated teacher performance for an English program of 180 students and 8 teachers

CHINA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Beijing, China

Lecturer, September 2009 – July 2010

- Instructed Chinese college students in oral and written English
- Taught academic writing and TOFEL / IELTS preparation

SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

Shanghai, China

Lecturer, September 2008 – July 2009

- Instructed Chinese college students in English, business and law
- Taught legal English and business English (ESP)

FULCHER & BROOKS, LLC

Kansas City, Missouri

Attorney, May 2005 – June 2008

- Attorney at mid-sized, urban law firm
- Conducted bench trials and acted as co-counsel in multiple jury trials
- Regularly maintained a docket of over 30 pending cases

KANSAS LEGISLATURE

Topeka, Kansas

Legislative Intern, January - May 2004

- Researched legal, social and economic topics for Rep. David McKinney

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ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

MEMBER, University of Pittsburgh English Department, Writing Program Assessment Committee, 2015, 2016 & 2017.

- Participated in three broad assessments of student writer performance
- Read and discussed dozens of student essays in multiple day-long sessions

ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

ESL PROGRAM COORDINATOR, Al-Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2010-2011.

- Managed ESL teaching activities for the engineering department of a large university
- Scheduled classes; assigned teachers to specific courses; evaluated curriculum, syllabi and teacher performance; and acted as liaison between teachers and university administration

ORGANIZER, Pitt English Rhetoric and Composition Reading Group, 2016-2017.

- Arranged and selected the readings for a bi-monthly reading group composed of Pitt professors and graduate students
- Helped promote departmental collegiality and awareness of important topics in rhetoric and composition

VICE PRESIDENT, University of Pittsburgh Chapter of the Rhetoric Society of America, 2015-2016.

- Arranged funding and logistics for workshop and presentation by Prof. Debra Hawhee of Penn State University

MEMBER, University of Pittsburgh English Department, Composition Curriculum Committee, 2013 & 2014.

- Assisted in setting and evaluating the curriculum for the University of Pittsburgh's writing program

PARTICIPANT, University of Pittsburgh English Department, Composition Faculty Interview and Hiring Process, 2013 & 2014.

- Participated in the hiring process for two tenure-track composition faculty
- Reviewed CVs and writing samples, participated in candidate interviews

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

ORGANIZER & CHAIR, "Teaching the Fragments: English Education, Democracy and Digital Media," a roundtable at the Modern Language Association Annual Convention, New York, New York. January 4, 2018.

ORGANIZER, "Experience and Education: Pragmatism in the English Studies Classroom," a panel at the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Baltimore, Maryland. March 23, 2017.

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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (Cont.)

ORGANIZER, “Reading, Writing, Listening, Feeling: Experiential Engagement and the Fluid Classroom,” a panel at the College Composition & Communication Conference, Houston, Texas, April 8, 2016.

ORGANIZER & RESPONDENT, “International Students in English Tell Their Stories,” University of Pittsburgh, January 15, 2016.

- Arranged presentation by international students at the University of Pittsburgh in order to promote best teaching practices in ESL.

FEATURED SPEAKER, Pittsburgh Chinese American Committee, Annual Scholarship Dinner, October 8, 2014.

- Spoke to local Chinese community group about the status of political expression in contemporary China

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

CO-EDITOR, *Best of the Independent Journals in Rhetoric and Composition 2014*, Parlor Press

CO-EDITOR, *Midwestern Doom*, a journal of Kansas arts and culture, 2003-2008

LANGUAGE SKILLS

MODERN STANDARD CHINESE (普通话)

- Intermediate fluency gained through long-term immersion in and engagement with Chinese culture

RUSSIAN (русский)

- Basic fluency; currently studying

REFERENCES

David Bartholomae
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Jennifer Lee
starla@pitt.edu

Paul Kameen
pkameen@pitt.edu

Nancy Glazener
glazener@pitt.edu