

# MATTHEW OVERSTREET

Khalifa University  
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## EDUCATION

### UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) – 2018

Areas of Interest: Writing Pedagogy, Cognition  
New Materialism, Embodiment  
Digital Media, ESL

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

This project argues that recent economic and technological trends have 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 as a process of (re)orientation towards difference can revitalize both composition theory and classroom practice.

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
- ➔ Committee: Todd DeStigter, Gerald Graff

### 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

## JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

**Networked Reading: How Digital Experts Use Their Tools.** *College English*, 83:5 (2021)

**Writing at the Interface: A Research and Teaching Program for Everyday Digital Media Literacy.** *Literacy in Composition Studies* (2020)

**First-Year Writing as the Critical Thinking Course: An Interactionist Approach.** *Double Helix: A Journal of Critical Thinking and Writing*, Vol. 7 (2019).

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

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

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

## BOOK CHAPTERS

**Critical Thinking, Writing & Language Learning: A Report From Northwest China.** *English Across the Curriculum: Voices From Around the World*, The WAC Clearinghouse (2021).

**Feeding The Troll: Online Hate Speech as Communal Act.** *The Proceedings of the Annual Computers and Writing Conference: Volume 1, 2016-2017*. Eds. Cheryl Ball, et. al. The WAC Clearinghouse (2018).

**Text, Theory & Things: Toward a Pedagogy of Vital Being.** *Theory Lessons: Putting Theory into Practice in the Contemporary Classroom*. Ed. Becky McLaughlin. Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2017).

**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).

## DIGITAL MEDIA PROJECTS

**Ambient Propaganda: A Study in Chinese Rhetorical Ecology.** *Rhetorics Change/Rhetoric's Change*. Eds. Jenny Rice, Chelsea Graham and Eric Detweiler. Parlor Press & Intermezzo (2018). Web.

## SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

**Remediation as Revision: Composition Beyond the Text / Multimodal Binary**, CCCC, Spokane, WA. Apr 2021 (accepted, session cancelled).

**Making Students Really Think: Freewriting Task Design and Content Learning**, International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference, Ft. Collins, CO. June 2020 (accepted, conference cancelled).

**Teach Critical Thinking as (an Intersubjective, Metacognitive, Context-Dependent) Process**, CCCC, Milwaukee, WI. March 2020 (accepted, conference cancelled).

**Teaching the Fragments: English Education, Democracy and Digital Media.** MLA, New York, NY. Jan 2018.

**Writing Instruction in US English Departments: Some Basic Principles.** 4th Annual MISiS ESL/ESP Conference, Moscow, Russia. Nov 2017.

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**Mind-Body-Self-Object-Other: Composition's Ethics of Attunement.** CCCC, Portland, OR. April 2017.

**Writing the Flux: William James and the Teaching of Writing.** NeMLA, Baltimore, MD. March 2017.

**Ambient Propaganda: Attunement, Affect and the Chinese Dream.** Rhetoric Society of America (RSA) Biennial Conference, Atlanta, GA. May 2016.

**Sensation, Ethics & Writing the Other.** CCCC, Houston, TX. April 2016.

**Paper vs. Screen: Evolving Reading Practices & Composition Pedagogy.** New York College English Association (NYCEA) Conference, Hamburg, NY. Oct. 2015.

**The Writing Classroom as Scene of Affective Disruption.** NeMLA, Toronto, April 2015.

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

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **KHALIFA UNIVERSITY**

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Assistant Professor, August 2019 – Present

### **NEW ECONOMIC SCHOOL**

Moscow, Russia

Assistant Professor, August 2017 – May 2019

- Instructed elite Russian economics students (BA and MA) in academic and professional writing, and multimedia composition
- Helped manage writing center with over 700 consultations annually
- Trained Russian writing teachers and student writing center tutors
- Mentored and advised students and graduate faculty

### **UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Graduate Instructor, August 2013 – January 2018

- 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
- Trained faculty and staff in digital literacy / pedagogy

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**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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## ADMINISTRATION

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

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

**COORDINATOR**, University of Pittsburgh Rhet-Comp Reading Group, 2016-2017.

- Scheduled, promoted and selected the readings for a bi-monthly reading group composed of Pitt faculty and graduate students

**VICE PRESIDENT**, Pitt 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**, Pitt English Department, Composition Curriculum Committee, 2013 & 2014.

- Assisted in setting and evaluating the curriculum for Pitt's writing program

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## TEACHER TRAINING

**GROUP LEADER,** Higher School of Economics Summer Writing Retreat (Moscow, Russia), August 2018.

- Worked with Russian university faculty in small-group setting to promote productive academic writing practices

**ORGANIZER & INSTRUCTOR,** “Writing Instruction in the American University: An Interactive Teaching Workshop,” Lanzhou University (Lanzhou, China), May-June 2018.

- Designed & led intensive three week (18 hour) course for university faculty on best practices in ESL writing instruction

**INSTRUCTOR,** “Teaching Multimedia Composing in PowerPoint,” National University of Science & Technology (Moscow, Russia), Nov 2017.

- Conducted workshop on the use of digital media tools in the writing classroom

**ORGANIZER & RESPONDENT,** “International Students Tell Their Stories,” University of Pittsburgh, Jan 2016.

- Organized event in which international students shared their English-learning experiences with faculty

## ASSESSMENT

**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

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

**ORGANIZER & CHAIR,** “Teaching the Fragments: English Education, Democracy and Digital Media,” a roundtable at MLA, New York, NY. Jan 2018.

- Organized & chaired an 8-person roundtable under the auspices of the College English Association (CEA)
- Arranged for a response by noted critical pedagogue Ira Shor

**ORGANIZER,** “Experience and Education: Pragmatism in the English Studies Classroom,” a panel at NeMLA, Baltimore, MD. March 2017.

**ORGANIZER,** “Reading, Writing, Listening, Feeling: Experiential Engagement and the Fluid Classroom,” a panel at CCCC, Houston, TX. April 2016.

**FEATURED SPEAKER,** Pittsburgh Chinese-American Committee, Annual Scholarship Dinner, Oct 2014.

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

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## EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**, WAC Clearinghouse / University Press of Colorado, *International Exchanges on the Study of Writing* (book series), 2018 to present.

- Help identify contributors & subject matter for an international book series published by an open-access scholarly press
- Promote the series through digital media & attendance at international conferences

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**, *Best of the Independent Journals in Rhetoric & Composition 2014*, Parlor Press.

## GRANTS / AWARDS

**CHINESE NATIONALITY ROOM SCHOLARSHIP**, University of Pittsburgh, 2014.

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

**PITT ENGLISH R&D FUNDING**, University of Pittsburgh, 2013-2018.

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

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

**MODERN STANDARD CHINESE (普通话)**

- Intermediate fluency

## REFERENCES

**David Bartholomae**  
[barth@pitt.edu](mailto:barth@pitt.edu)

**L. Ashley Squires**  
[asquires@nes.ru](mailto:asquires@nes.ru)

**Nancy Glazener**  
[glazener@pitt.edu](mailto:glazener@pitt.edu)

**Paul Kameen**  
[pkameen@pitt.edu](mailto:pkameen@pitt.edu)