

CATHERINE PRENDERGAST

239 English Building
Department of English
University of Illinois
Urbana, IL 61801

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Professor, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2008 –

Affiliate Faculty, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2005 –

Director, Undergraduate Rhetoric Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2009 – 2012

At the helm of the largest writing program on campus, I was responsible for supervising 100 instructors for nearly 4000 students annually. Significant innovations during my directorship: new curriculum with focus on writing from original research as well as collaborative writing; professional development initiatives and awards for all instructors (graduate students and specialized faculty); creation of flexible-use, fully digital classrooms; tutor support service for international students. Based on these developments, the program was awarded a 2012 Conference on College Composition and Communication Writing Program Certificate of Excellence.

Co-Director, Ethnography of the University Initiative, 2007– 2008 (with Nancy Abelmann)

Associate Professor, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2003 – 2006

Assistant Professor, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1997– 2003

Co-Director of English Department Graduate Student Placement, 2004 – 2006

Director of Graduate Assistant Training for Writing Across the Curriculum – Center for Writing Studies, 1998 – 1999; 2000

HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Liverpool University Press Award for Outstanding Journal Reviewer, 2019

Residency at Noëpe Literacy Arts Center, May 2016

Guggenheim Fellow 2014

Center for Advanced Studies Fellow, University of Illinois, 2014

CCCC's Certificate of Writing Program Excellence, 2012 (for innovations as Director of Undergraduate Rhetoric Program at the University of Illinois)

University Scholar (Three year appointment recognizing exceptional University of Illinois faculty, 2007-2010)

University Research Board, competitive internal grant, \$6,100 (Summer 2011)

University Research Board, competitive internal grant \$8,500 (Spring 2012)

Library/Instructional Technology Grant: \$338,000
(competitive internal award for building four flexible-use classrooms, recognized now as best practice for university classroom construction in current strategic plan)

David H. Russell Award, National Council of Teachers of English (for *Literacy and Racial Justice*)

CCCCs Outstanding Book Award (for *Literacy and Racial Justice*)

Mina P. Shaughnessy Award, Modern Language Association (for *Literacy and Racial Justice*)

W. Ross Winterowd Award, Association of Teachers of Advanced Composition (for *Literacy and Racial Justice*)

Fulbright Research Grant, Slovak Republic, 2003: \$14,000

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students (numerous semesters)

Brown v. Board of Education Jubilee Commemoration Grant, competitive internal grant, University of Illinois, 2003: \$18,000

Richard L. Braddock Award (for outstanding article in 1998 issue of *College Composition and Communication*)

Wisconsin Alumni Research Fellow (1990-91, 1992-93)

EDUCATION

PhD. University of Wisconsin, Madison. English with Rhetoric and Composition specialization, 1997

MA. University of Wisconsin, Madison. English and American Literature, 1991

B.A. Columbia University, cum laude, 1990

PUBLICATIONS

Books [Trade]

The Gilded Edge. Dutton Books – a Penguin imprint. Publication October 2021.

Books [Academic Peer Reviewed]

Buying into English: Language and Investment in the New Capitalist World. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2008.

Reviewed in *The Nation*; *Composition Studies*; *Multilingua*; *JAC*; *College English*; *Community Literacy Journal*

Literacy and Racial Justice: The Politics of Learning after Brown v. Board of Education. Southern Illinois University Press, 2003.

Winner: Modern Language Association Mina P. Shaughnessy Award; Conference on College Composition and Communication Outstanding Book Award; David Russell Award for Excellence in Research on the Teaching of English; Association of Teachers of Advanced Composition Outstanding Book Award.

Opening Dialogue: Understanding the Dynamics of Language and Learning in the English Classroom. Martin Nystrand with Adam Gamoran, Robert Kachur and Catherine Prendergast. Teachers College Press, 1997.

Textbooks

Can I Use I: Because I Hate Hate Hate College Writing. Urbana, IL: Out of Pocket Press, 2015. [Taught nationally. Adopted as required text for Northern Arizona University composition requirement]

Writing@The University of Illinois, 2nd edition. With Richard Nardi and Cory Holding. eText.illinois. (First edition published with Pearson). 2010.

Course text for Undergraduate Rhetoric Program: 36,000 words; 50 video clips of

interviews with U of Illinois professors; 14 chapters. Pilot text for eText.illinois campus initiative. Lowered student costs for textbooks by more than fifty percent. All proceeds donated to the writing program to fund instructor development and technological improvements.

Edited Collections

Representing Disability and Emotion (with Elizabeth Donaldson). Special Issue of the *Journal of Literary and Culture Disability Studies*, 5.2, July 2011.

Articles and Chapters [Peer Reviewed]

Before #BlackLivesMatter. In Tammie Kennedy, Joyce Middleton, and Krista Radcliffe (Eds.) *Rhetorics of Whiteness in a "Post-Racial" Era*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2016.

Winner, CCCC Outstanding Book Award in the Edited Collection Category, 2018

Mental Disability and Rhetoricity Retold: The Memoir on Drugs. In David Bolt (Ed.) *Changing Social Attitudes Toward Disability: Perspectives from Historical, Cultural, and Educational Studies*. New York: Routledge, 2015: 60-68.

[Or You Don't: Talents, Tendencies, and the Pooka of Literacy](#). *Enculturation*. 2013.

[Writing and Learning in View of the Lab: Why "They" Might be Right](#). *Journal of Literacy in Composition Studies*, 2013.

Reinventing the University: EUI as Writing Initiative. *Learning and Teaching* v. 6 n. 3, Winter 2013, pp. 79-88(10).

The Unexceptional Schizophrenic: A Post-postmodern Introduction. *Disability Studies Reader*, 4th edition. Ed. Lennard Davis. Routledge. 2013. [Reprint]

There's No Crying in Disability Studies (with Elizabeth Donaldson). In *Representing Disability and Emotion*. Special Issue of the *Journal of Literary and Culture Disability Studies*, v. 5 n. 2, July 2011.

In Praise of Incomprehension. In *Cross Language Relations in Composition Studies*. Eds. Bruce Horner, Min Zhan Lu, Paul Kei Matsuda. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2010.

The Ethos of Paper: Here and There. (With Roman Ličko). *JAC*, v. 29 n. 1-2, 2009.

Murderabilia Inc.: Where the First Amendment Fails Academic Freedom (With Samuel P. Nelson). *South Atlantic Quarterly* v. 108 n. 4, 2009: 667-688.

The Fighting Style: Reading the Unabomber's Strunk and White. *College English*, v. 72 n. 1, 2009: 10-28.

The Unexceptional Schizophrenic: A Post-postmodern Introduction. *Journal of Literary Disability*, v. 2 n. 1, 2008.

And Now, a Necessarily Pathetic Response. *American Literary History*, v. 20 n. 1-2, 2008: 238-244.

'We Live and Learn': English and Ambivalence in a New Capitalist State. *Globalisation, Societies and Education*, v.6 n.1, 2008: 89-100.

Alma Mater: College, Kinship, and the Pursuit of Diversity (Nancy Abelmann as second author) *Social Text*, v. 24 n. 1, 2006: 37-53.

When Whiteness is Visible: The Stories we Tell about Whiteness (co-author Ira Shor). *Rhetoric Review*, v. 24 n. 4, 2005: 377-385.

The Economy of Literacy: How the Supreme Court Stalled the Civil Rights Movement. [Reprint] in *Legacies of Brown: Multiracial Equity in American Education*. (Eds.) Dorinda J. Carter, Stella M. Flores, and Richard J. Reddick. Harvard Education Publishing Group, 2004.

On the Rhetorics of Mental Disability [Reprint] in *The Rhetoric of Everyday Life*. (Eds.) Martin Nystrand and John Duffy. University of Wisconsin Press, 2003.

The Economy of Literacy: How the Supreme Court Stalled the Civil Rights Movement. *Harvard Educational Review*, v. 72 n. 2, Summer, 2002: 206-229.

On the Rhetorics of Mental Disability. *Embodied Rhetorics*. (Eds.) Cynthia Lewiecki-Wilson and James Wilson. Southern Illinois University Press, 2001.

The Water in the Fishbowl: Historicizing *Ways with Words*. *Written Communication*, v. 17 n. 4, October, 2000: 452-490.

Race, the Absent Presence in Composition Studies. *College Composition and Communication*, v. 50 n. 1, September, 1998: 36-53.

Catching up to Professor Nate: The Problem with Sociolinguistics in Composition Research. *JAC*, v. 17 n. 1, January, 1997: 39-52.

Book Reviews and Shorter Pieces

Interrogating the University: One Archival Entry at a Time. Gina Hunter, Nancy Abelmann, Timothy Reese Cain, Tim McDonough, and Catherine Prendergast. *Change: The Magazine of Higher Education*. Sept-Oct, 2008.

Asians: The Present Absence in *Crash*. *College English*, v. 69 n. 4, 2007.

Rev. of James Patterson's *Brown v. Board of Education: A Civil Rights Milestone and its Troubled Legacy* Oxford. In *College Composition and Communication*, v. 53 n. 1, 2000: 170-173.

Journalism and Creative (selected)

[My Father's Lost and Found Corpse](#). Human Parts, Medium.com, 2019.

[How and Abortion in 1910 Changed the World](#). Gen, Medium.com, 2019

[Jack London: Plagiarist](#). Medium.com, February 2019.

[How to Survive Your First Writer's Residency](#). *McSweeneys.net*, June 27, 2017.

[Random Accomplishments](#). *McSweeneys.net*, March 18, 2016.

[Lecture from the Lectured](#). *ChronicleVitae.com*, January 4, 2016. Edited. Collaboratively written by students in 2015 Writing for Money course.

[Martina Navratilova: What Makes her Human](#). *Changeovertennis.com*, 2013

[The Last American Challenger: It's a Wide Open Field](#). *Changeovertennis.com*, 2013, linked to in 2018 *New York Times* article, [For Tennys Sandgren, Success brings Scrutiny of his Political Views](#).

Published Interviews

NPR "Laptops and Phones in the Classroom: Yay or Nay or a Third Way."
<https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2018/01/24/578437957/laptops-and-phones-in-the-classroom-yea-nay-or-a-third-way>

New York Magazine "Graduate Students are Terrified by the Republican Tax Plan."
<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2017/11/graduate-students-are-terrified-by-the-republican-tax-plan.html>

Brown and Its Impact on Schools and American Life: A Dialogue. *Focus on Law Studies*, American Bar Association Division for Public Education Vol. XIX, No. 2, 2004.

Televised Appearances

Interviewed on "Many Voices, Many Visions," WORK 13 Rochester, March 7, 2004.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited and International Talks

“Writing Our Way Home: Sustaining Ourselves in our Professional Labor.” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Kansas City, MO. March 2018

Ableism and Attendance: Making the Classroom Accessible to All Students. Northeast Modern Language Association, Hartford, CT, March 2016

You Should See the Other Guy: Rhetorical Adjacency and Disability. Conference on College Composition and Communication, Tampa, FL, March 2015

Writer Painter Banker Thief. Unit for Theory and Criticism Distinguished Lecture. University of Illinois. November, 2014.

[The Place of Writing Studies in MLA](#). Presidential invited session. Modern Language Association, Boston, MA, January 2013.

Writing Studies and the Digital Humanities: Composing New Partnerships. Modern Language Association, Seattle, WA, January 2012.

[What do we Think the Book is Now? 2000 Students Weigh In](#). Institute for Advanced Study, University of Minnesota, September 2011.

Student Learning in a Flexible World: Creating Opportunities with E-Books and Collaborative Learning Spaces. Educause Learning Initiative Conference. Washington DC. Feb 2011.

Ethos of Paper. Keynote, Thomas R. Watson Conference. University of Louisville. October 2010

Buying into English. Komenius University, Bratislava, Slovak Republic, April, 2008.

The Language of Capitalism in a Post-Communist State. *GlobEng International Conference*, Verona, Italy, February, 2008.

We Live and Learn. Annual Walker Gibson lecture. University of Massachusetts at Amherst, March, 2007.

A Response to Susan Schweik. *American Literary History Symposium*. University of Illinois, September 2007.

Twenty-Two Years and Counting: The Future of Affirmative Action. David H. Russell Award Address. NCTE, Nashville, 2006.

The Unabomber's Strunk and White. University of Pittsburgh, October, 2006.

One Tall Order: Trust Production in the Face of History. Keynote Speaker. Virginia Technical University, April, 2006.

Twenty-Three Years and Counting: The Future of Affirmative Action. Keynote Speaker. Allerton Articulation Conference, Monticello, IL, April, 2005.

Literacy and Social Justice: 50 Years after Brown v. Board of Education. Keynote Speaker. SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY, February, 2004.

Why Brown? Why Then? Saint John's Fischer College, Rochester, NY, February, 2004.

White Self Interest in the American Civil Rights Movement. Matej Bell University, Banská Bystrica, Slovak Republic, October, 2003.

On the Rhetorics of Mental Disability. Invited speaker to the Interdisciplinary Seminar Series in Disability Studies. University of Illinois at Chicago, April, 2001.

Additional Conference Participation (Selected)

Writer Painter Banker Thief: Center For Advanced Studies Symposium. University of Illinois, April, 2015.

You Should See the Other Guy: Rhetorical Adjacency and Disability. Conference on College Composition and Communication, Tampa, March 2015.

We are the World: Globalization and the Folksonomy of Composition. Conference on College Composition and Communication, Indianapolis, March 2014.

What Can 2000 Students Tell us about Why Publishers Matter. Conference on College Composition and Communication. St. Louis, MO, March 2012.

Ethos of Paper. Conference on College Composition and Communication. Louisville, KY. March 2010.

We Live and Learn: Language and Investment in the New Capitalist World. Conference on College Composition and Communication. New York, NY, March 2007.

A Story about the Loss of Story. Social Science History Association. Minneapolis, MN, November, 2006.

For Whites Only?: Audience and Autobiography in Whiteness Studies. Conference on College Composition and Communication. Chicago, IL, March, 2006.

Twenty-Three Years and Counting: The Future of Affirmative Action. Conference on College

Composition and Communication. San Francisco, CA, March, 2005.

News From the Void: The Civic Rhetorics of Mental Disability. Rhetoric Society of America. Austin, TX, May, 2004.

The Sun Never Sets on the English Language. Conference on College Composition and Communication. San Antonio, TX, March, 2004.

Unseen Sacrilege: The Myth of the Secular Theme. Conference on College Composition and Communication. New York, NY, March 2003.

Affirmative Actions: What the Researcher can do. Conference on College Composition and Communication. Denver, CO, March, 2001.

Too Vast: On Rights and Mental Disability. Modern Language Association. Washington DC, December, 2000.

Charting the New Paths of White Flight: Liberty, Equality, Property. Conference on College Composition and Communication. Minneapolis, MN, April, 2000.

Racial Categorization in Writing Research: 1968-1994. The Western States Conference. Tempe, AZ, October, 1999.

Theorizing Race in Writing Studies. Conference on College Composition and Communication. Atlanta, GA, March, 1999.

A Critical Race Theory of Literacy. 2nd Thomas R. Watson Conference. Louisville, KY, October, 1998.

Requiring Community--Within/Without Disciplinary Boundaries. American Educational Research Association. Chicago, IL, March, 1997.

Constructing Literacy Across Disciplines and Educational Settings. Discussant. American Educational Research Association. New York, NY, April, 1996.

The Cognitively Deficient Become the Discursively Deficient: 'Othering' Students by Imagining Discourse Communities. 47th Conference on College Composition and Communication, Milwaukee, WI, March, 1996.

Building Connections Through the Assignment: Possibilities for Faculty Development. 2nd International Writing Centers' Conference. St. Louis, MO, September, 1995.

Resisting the Accommodation/Resistance Dichotomy: A Look Beyond the Initiation Study. Penn State Conference on Rhetoric and Composition. University of Pennsylvania, State College, PA, July, 1995.

What Makes Instruction 'Dialogic'? (with Robert Kachur). American Educational Research Association. San Francisco, CA, April, 1995.

TEACHING

Courses

University of Illinois

Writing for Money (undergraduate writing intensive course on freelance writing, developed)
Theory and Practice of Written Composition (undergraduate pre-service course for teachers)
First Year Rhetoric (Ethnography of the University Initiative pilot course)
Advanced Rhetoric (comp II requirement course)
Introduction to Disability Studies (undergraduate and Campus Honors Program, developed)
Disability in Literature (undergraduate, developed)
Disability in Film (undergraduate, developed)
The University in Literature (Ethnography of the University Initiative course, developed)
Community-Based Learning (undergraduate)
Literature for the High School (undergraduate)

Rhetoric and Neurodiversity (graduate seminar)
Economies of Literacy (graduate seminar)
Disability Studies (graduate seminar)
Globalization and the English Language (graduate seminar)
Literacy (graduate seminar)
Qualitative Research in Writing Studies (graduate seminar)
Issues in Writing Program Administration (graduate seminar)
Foundations of Rhetoric and Composition (graduate seminar)
The Rhetoric of Race in Writing Studies (graduate seminar)

University of Wisconsin

First Year English for Underprepared Writers
Intermediate Composition
Introductory Literature (discussion sections)
Intermediate Literature (discussion sections)

Undergraduate Individualized Program of Study (Disability Studies)

Monica Milkint, 2016-2018
William Hrabe, 2013-2015

Dissertation Committees

Chair

Pamela Saunders (Suffolk University, Director First Year Writing) 2017
“Navigating ‘Normal’: The Writing Lives of Students on the Spectrum,”

Kaia Simon (UW-Eau Claire) 2017
“Rewriting Hmong Womanhood: Literacy Mediating Change”

Thomas McNamara (Lewis University) 2016
“Dreams and Disappointments; Chinese Undergraduates and Investment in the US writing Classroom.”

Eileen Lagman (University of Wisconsin at Madison) 2015
“Literacy Remains: Learning and Loss in the Brain Drain of Filipino Migrant Labor”

Ligia Mihut (Barry University) 2014
“‘Stories from Our People’: Immigrants, Brokers, and Literacy as Affinity”

Michael Burns (West Chester University) 2013
“The Rhetorics of Community Space: Critical Events in Champaign-Urbana’s Black Freedom Movement”

Vanessa Rouillon (James Madison University) 2013
“Reconfiguring Racial Uplift: Church-Sponsored African American Rhetorical Work in the Early Twentieth Century”

Nicole Walls (U of Arizona senior lecturer) 2010
“Where Language is Made: Language Planning at the Intersections of National and International Literacy and Language Work”

Steve Lamos (University of Colorado at Boulder), 2004
“Sponsoring Educational Opportunity: Race, Racism, and Writing Instruction at the University of Illinois”

Member

Patrick Berry (Syracuse University); Kimberley Hensley Owen (Northern Arizona University); John Hudson (University of Houston); Lance Massey (Bowling Green); Kevin Roozen (University of Central Florida); Derrick Van Ittersum (Kent State University); Amy Wan (Queens College, CUNY); Mary Sheridan (University of Louisville); Joyce Walker (Illinois State University); Elizabeth Baldrige (Illinois Central College); Faye Spencer Moar (UNC Greensborough); Sophie Dewanyi (from College of Ed: international placement); Martha Althea Webber (Cal State Fullerton), Jessica Bannon (Indiana University); Jill Hallett (Linguistics: Northeastern Illinois University); Scott Filkins (College of Ed: Central High School); Chelsea Catt, Lisa Chason, Dominique Clayton, Jenn Rakauskus (College of Ed: West Chester University)

Current Preliminary Exam Graduate Student Committees outside of English

Wendy Maa (EPOL: College of Ed)
Jacob Minniear (C & I; College of Ed)
Elizabeth Simpson (ICR)

External Dissertation Committee Member

McMaster University, PhD examiner for Department of English

Writing Across the Curriculum Workshops

Writing Across the Curriculum Graduate Assistant Workshops, 1999, 2000
Writing Across the Curriculum Faculty Workshops, 1999 – 2000

International Teaching

Lingua Škola, Bratislava, Slovakia, Summer terms 1992; 1994

PROFESSION

Programs Reviewed at

Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole
Appalachian State University
Elon University

Editorial

Editorial Board, *Literacy in Composition Studies Journal* 2019 –
Editorial Board, *Reading Research Quarterly*, 2006 –
Editorial Board, *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*, 2006 –
Assistant Editor, *Written Communication*, 1995 – 1997
Editorial Board, *Written Communication*, 1997 – 2003

Manuscripts Reviewed for

American Literary History
Bedford St. Martin's Press
Bioethics
College Composition and Communication
College English
Composition Forum

Composition Studies
Disability Studies Quarterly
Enculturation
Fordham University Press
JAC
Journal of Aesthetic Education
Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies
Literacy in Composition Studies Journal
Medical Humanities
National Council of Teachers of English Press
Oxford University Press
Pittsburgh University Press
PMLA
Reading Research Quarterly
Rhetoric Health and Medicine
Rhetoric Society Quarterly
Research in the Teaching of English
Science Education
Southern Illinois University Press
Stanford University Press
Teachers College Press, Columbia University
University of Pittsburgh Press
Yale University Press
Written Communication
Conference of the American Educational Research Association

Tenure and Promotion Cases

DePaul University
New York Institute of Technology
San Francisco State University (2)
SUNY Albany
St. John's University
University of Arizona (2)
University of Pittsburgh (2)
University of Maryland (2)
University of Michigan
University of North Florida

Professional Organization Committees

Conference on College Composition and Communication Diversity Committee, 2003 – 2007
Conference on College Composition and Communication Research Committee, 2005 – 2008
Modern Language Association, Mina Shaughnessy Award Committee 2012; 2014 (Chair)
Modern Language Association, Teaching of Writing Division Executive Committee 2013 – 2016; 2017 Chair

Service to the University of Illinois

Campus

Office of Undergraduate Research, Conference Judge, 2018
Interview Committee, National and International Scholarships Programs, 2017–
Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities NEH committee, 2015
Provost Search Committee, 2011 – 2012
University Scholar Selection Humanities Sub-Committee, 2010, 2011 (chair)
Campus Honors Program Admissions 2011
Ethnography of the University Advisory Board, 2006 –
Ethnography of the University Steering Committee, 2003 – 2004
Brown Law and Education Conference Planning Committee, 2003 – 2004

College

OVCR External Grants Strategy Session Panelist, 2019
Individual Program of Study Review Committee, 2014 - 15
General Education Committee, 2009-2010
Courses and Curricula Committee, Letters and Sciences 2006 – 2008
Center for Writing Studies Executive Committee 2015
Center for Writing Studies Coordinating Committee, 1997 – 2001
Center for Writing Studies Campus Advisory Committee, 1997 – 2000
Graduate Programs Committee for the Center for Writing Studies, 1997 –

English Department

Reviewer Teaching Award Nominee, Iryce Baron, 2017
Evaluation Committee for VAP, Writing Studies 2017
Promotion Review, Lindsay Russell, 2017
Self-Assessment, Writing Studies, 2016
Search Committee for Visiting Writing Studies Faculty, 2013
Rhetoric Advisory Committee, 1997 – 1998, 2009 - 2012
Search for Full Time Specialized Faculty, 2010, 2011
Graduate Admissions, 2007, 2008 (and review of applications in WS each year)
Teaching of English Major Assessment Committee 2007-2008
Advisory Committee to the Department Head, 2001 – 2002, 2005 – 2006
Search Committee for Writing Studies tenure stream positions, 1998 – 1999; 1999 – 2000; 2004 – 2005
Articulation Conference Planning Committee, 1997– 2001
Grade Review Committee, 2000
English Education Committee, 1999 – 2000; 2001 – 2002
Search Committee for Asian American literature tenure stream positions, 2002
Promotion, and Annual Reviews regularly of tenure stream faculty in Writing Studies