

Lydia McDermott, PhD

Whitman College
Associate Professor of Rhetoric, Writing, and Public Discourse
Olin 184
mcdermilm@whitman.edu
509-527-5699

Academic Appointments

- 2019-present *Whitman College*
Department Chair and Associate Professor of Rhetoric, Writing, and Public Discourse
Director of the Center for Writing and Speaking (COWS)
First Year Seminars Writing Coordinator
- 2018-2019 Associate Professor of Composition and Director of the Center for Writing and Speaking, *Whitman College*
- 2013-2018 Assistant Professor of Composition and Director of Center for Writing and Speaking, *Whitman College*
- 2012-2013 Assistant Coordinator, *Ohio University Graduate Research and Writing Center*
- 2012-2013 Instructor and Non-Native English Specialist, *Ohio University*, College of Business, Center for Professional Communication
- 2011-2013 Visiting Assistant Professor, *Ohio University*, Women's and Gender Studies Program
- 2011-2012 Assistant Director of Composition, *Ohio University*, English Department
- 2010-2013 Instructor, *Ohio University*, English Department
- 2008-2011 Instructor, *Ohio University*, Women's and Gender Studies Program

Education

- PhD *Ohio University*, Athens, Ohio (2012)
Rhetoric and Composition
Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies (2008)
Dissertation: ***Sonogram: A Rhetoric of Echo-Location*** (Defended March 5, 2012)
Committee: Dr. Sherrie Gradin (director), Dr. Mara Holt, Dr. Albert Rouzie, and Dr. Susan Burgess (Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies)
- MA *Ohio University*, Athens, Ohio (2007)
Creative Writing/Poetry
Creative Thesis: ***It's Different with Puppets*** (book-length collection of poetry with critical introduction: "Cleaving the Body To/From/In my Poems")
Director: Sharmila Voorakkara

McDermott 2

BA Ohio University, Athens, Ohio (2000) *cum laude*
English Literature, Minor in Theater, Phi Beta Kappa (2000)

Publications

Book

Liminal Bodies, Reproductive Health, and Feminist Rhetoric: Searching the Negative Spaces in Histories of Rhetoric. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2016.

Published Articles

With Lana Oweidat. "Neither Safe nor Brave: Empathetic Interventions in Tutor Training." *Writing Centers as Brave/r Spaces*, special issue of *The Peer Review* 1.2 (2017).
<http://thepeerreview-iwca.org/issues/braver-spaces/>

"Birthing Rhetorical Monsters: How Mary Shelley Infuses *Mêtis* with the Maternal in her 1831 Introduction to *Frankenstein*." *Rhetoric Review* 34.1 (2015): 1-18.

"A Womb of One's Own: A Wandering Rhetoric." *MP: An Online Feminist Journal*. 3.5 (2012): 23-40.

"Creativity and Dissidence According to Nawal El Sadaawi: an Interview" *QAE* 14 (2007): 131-133.

"Transcending the Human Monster in Claire Bateman's Poetry." *Twenty-First Annual Spring Literary Festival* tabloid, Ohio University. (2006)

Articles under Review

"Developing Midwives and Delivering Development" Under review.

Chapters

"The Crik is Crooked: Appalachia as Movable Queer Space." *Storytelling in Queer Appalachia*. Eds. Sherrie Gradin, Hillery Glasby, and Rachael Ryerson. West Virginia University Press, July 2020.

"Echo as Ventriloquist: Disembodied Vocal Performance and Feminist Rhetorical Agency." *Feminist Challenges, Feminist Rhetorics: Locations, Scholarship, and Discourse*. Ed. Kirsti Cole. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2014.

Reviews

Review of *Monsters in the Classroom: Essays on Teaching What Scares Us*, Edited by Adam Golub and Heather Richardson Hayton. *The Comparatist*, 2019.

Review of *Rhetorical Touch: Disability, Identification, Haptics* by Shannon Walters. *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*, Winter, 2018.

Review of *Bucolics* by Maurice Manning. *Rattle Online*. (2007)

Poetry

How to Make a Glass Wolf, book-length collection currently under consideration at various presses.

How to Make a Glass Wolf, chapbook, runner up in the Ruth Lily prize 2019.

“Thinking of Another While Making Tea,” *Red Flag Press*, October 2019 postcard.

“Tiny,” “Over,” and “Sleepover,” *Red Earth Review*, July 2019.

“Dear M___,” “52 Shoe Lane,” and “Possession,” *Raw Art Review*, Summer 2019.

“What We Lose,” *From Whispers to Roars*, April, 2019.

“Captain of the Ship,” *Prometheus Dreaming*, chosen for Thus Spake Prometheus feature to be recorded by a voice actor, Spring 2019.

“Navel Song,” “Biblio-Love Songs,” and “Mahler over Marietta,” *Cathexis NW Press*, March 2019.

“Cleave,” *Fragile*, a collection by Medusa’s Laugh Press, 2019.

“How to Make a Glass Wolf,” *Kalliope: A Journal of Women's Literature and Art*, 2008.

“A Big Blank,” *Iowa Review*, 2005.

“Chamomile,” “I Am the Woman,” and “In No Time,” *Shemom*, 2005.

Works in Progress

Crack, Deconstructing the White Lady. [essay collection in progress]

There’s No Place Like the Womb: Transnational Reproductive Health Rhetoric at “Home.” [book project in progress]

With collaborator, Lana Oweidat, “Training Generalist Writing Tutors to Work with English Language Learners.” We are currently reviewing data from our previous study as well as secondary research to write an article with concrete recommendations for training.

“Inventing Rhetoric Otherwise: Imagining and Enacting Alloiostrongic Rhetoric.” An edited collection in progress initiated by a Rhetoric Society of America panel. Eds. Jane Sutton, Mari Lee Mifsud.

“English Writing Pedagogy in China.” I have begun collection of interviews for a study funded by my Graves Award in the Humanities. My travel to China has been postponed due to the Covid pandemic.

Honors and Awards

NWCCU Beacon Award 2019.

Graves Award in the Humanities, 2018, “English Writing Pedagogy in China.”

ITL grant, 2016, on Innovative Pedagogy.

CDTLI grant, 2016, participant, “Blurring the Boundaries of Academic Writing”

CDTLI grant, 2016, “Thinking Digitally,” developed team taught course for spring 2017.

Dublin Award, 2016, advisor for student Emma Dulaney

Perry grant, Summer 2016, with student-researcher, Allie Donahue

CIEE scholarship, Summer 2016, to attend International Faculty Development Seminar in Shanghai, China

ITL grant, 2015, Writing in the Life Sciences

NW5C grant, 2014, for Conference on Peer Tutoring

ITL grant, Spring 2014, adding and oral component to the writing center.

ITL grant, Spring 2014, working with archivists to create a digital archival component of COMP 320.

CDTLI grant, Fall 2013, participant, "Writing the Self: Incorporating Autoethnography across Disciplines"

Nominee, Outstanding TA, Ohio University, English Department, 2011

Second Place, *Jack Matthews Fiction Award*, 2007, "Doing Something"

Nominee for AWP Award in Poetry, Ohio University, 2007

Courses Taught

Whitman College

Rhetoric, Writing, and Public Discourse (RWPD), Senior Seminar

The Theory and Practice of Tutoring Writing

Language and Writing

Writing for Diverse Purposes

Advanced Composition

RWPD Honors Thesis and Thesis

Rhetorical Bodies

Rhetorical Theory

Introduction to Gender Studies

Gender, Sex, and Desire in Writing Rhetoric

Second Language Acquisition Education in China and the USA

Encounters/FYS

Gender Studies Thesis/Honors Thesis

Monstrosity across Cultures

Independent Studies: Queer Disability Intersections, Crips and Critters, Writing Gender, Writing Desire, Writing Visual Analysis, Writing for the Sciences, Writing in Art

Co-Facilitator of the Whitman Winter Writing Workshop, with Dana Burgess, 2014-2019.

Ohio University, Women's and Gender Studies Program

Senior Capstone: Writing Feminist Research

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

Issues in Women's and Gender Studies (*Body Politics Theme*)

Ohio University, College of Business

Introduction to Business Problems (*a course for international business students mastering their English oral and written skills*)

Ohio University, English Department

Freshman Composition and Rhetoric (*Summer STP program for provisionally accepted students*) (2010, 2011, 2012)

Junior Composition: Women and Writing

Teaching Associate [Instructor of record], Ohio University, English Department (2005-2011)

Junior Composition: Women and Writing (*multiple themes and sections, including Barbie, Vampires, and Women Mystery Authors*)

Writing and Rhetoric I (*multiple themes and sections, including American Education and Contemporary Poetry*)

Critical Approaches to Poetry

Writing and Rhetoric II: Histories and Ethnographies

Rhetoric and Writing in the Professions

Writing about Culture: Telling Stories: Ethnographic Inquiry

Teaching Assistant, Ohio University, English Department

TA leader of recitation sessions for American Literature survey, ENG 253 (fall 2007)

TA leader of recitation sessions for English Literature before 1688 survey, ENG 251 (fall 2008)

Substitute, History of the English Language ENG 351 (winter 2007), covered the Great Vowel Shift

Administrative Positions

Director of the Center for Writing and Speaking (COWS), *2013-present*

Current Chair of Rhetoric, Writing, and Public Discourse Department, *2019-present*

Current First Year Seminars Writing Coordinator, *2019-present*, responsible for professional development for faculty teaching in our new first year program, working in conjunction with the First Year Seminars Director

Previous Chair of Composition, *2013-2019*, including coordinating evaluation of first-year writing samples and distribution of "Language and Writing" course.

Assistant Coordinator *Ohio University Graduate Research and Writing Center, 2012-2013*, I helped to found this branch location of the Writing Center and worked under the Director of the Writing Center to run this center.

Assistant Director of Composition, *Ohio University, 2011-2012*, coordinating sections of first year writing and junior year writing courses and training TAs.

Assistant to the Director of Special Programs, *Ohio University, 2007-2010*, helped to coordinate visiting writer events and workshops with graduate students as well as the annual Spring Literary Festival.

Recent Conferences and Presentations

Co-Chair with Bo Wang of the Rhetoric Special Interest Group Conference on College Composition and Communication, 2020-present.

Chair of the Pre-Conference Feminist Workshop, “Building Coalition across Commonplaces.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Originally planned for 2020 in Milwaukee, WI, but cancelled due to COVID. Reinstated in the upcoming 2021 conference in Spokane, WA.

Chair of the Pre-Conference Feminist Workshop, “Living Feminist Lives: Materialities, Methodologies, and Practices.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Pittsburgh, PA. Apr. 2019.

With collaborator, Lana Oweidat, “Tutors as Social Change Agents: Interventions in Critical Empathy.” Annual International Writing Centers Association Conference. Atlanta, GA. Oct, 2018.

“Inventing Rhetoric Otherwise: Imagining and Enacting Alloioisotrophic Rhetoric.” Invited special panel of senior and junior scholars in dialogue with Jane Sutton, Mari Lee Mifsud, Andrew Boge, Sara McKinnon, Johanna Hartelius, Hillary Palmer, and Bo Wang. 18th Biennial Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America. Minneapolis, MN. May, 2018.

Chair of the Pre-Conference Feminist Workshop, “Feminist Rhetorics of Resistance and Transformation.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Kansas City, MO. Mar. 2018.

“It’s the Small Pieces that Make the Big Picture: The Rhetorical Work of Rendering Visible Women’s Labors.” Interactive Panel at 11th Biennial Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference. Dayton, OH. Oct. 2017.

“Is Access to Midwifery a Basic Human Right? The Rhetorical Ecology of Global Midwifery.” Paper delivered as part of panel, “Cultivating Transnational Feminist Critique: The Rhetoric of Human Rights under Scrutiny.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Portland, OR. Mar. 2017.

Facilitator, “Cultivating Balance in Caregiving: A Cross-Generational Conversation.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Portland, OR. Mar. 2017.

Co-Chair of the Pre-Conference Feminist Workshop, “Intersectionality within Writing Programs and Practices.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Portland, OR. Mar. 2017.

Panel Chair, “Tutoring in the Hyphen: Personas as a Tool in Multilingual Writing,” with student tutors, Jesse Moneyhun, Faith Nyakundi, and Esther Ra. National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing. Tacoma, WA. Nov. 2016.

Faculty sponsor of student presentation by Ari Appel at National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing. Tacoma, WA. Nov. 2016.

Co-Chair of the Pre-Conference Feminist Workshop, “Action through Care.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Houston, TX. Apr. 2016.

Mentor at the Coalition of Women Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition annual event, “Performing Feminist Action.” Houston, TX. Apr. 2016.

“Midwives’ Ways of Making *Mêtic* Rhetoric.” Paper delivered at the 10th Biennial Feminisms & Rhetorics Conference. Tempe, AZ. Oct. 2015.

Council of Writing Program Administrators Workshop and Institute on Language Diversity. Boise, ID. Jul. 2015.

Rhetoric Society of America 6th Biennial Summer Institute. Selected participant in the Transnational Rhetorical Research Seminar and the Workshop on Grant Development Opportunities in Interdisciplinary Rhetorical Studies. Madison, WI. Jun. 2015.

Co-Chair of Pre-Conference Feminist Workshop, “Teaching, Service, and the Material Conditions of Labor.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Tampa, FL. Mar. 2015.

Professional Development

Awarded Participant in the CIEE International Faculty Development Seminar, “Chinese Students in Context: Strategies for a Globalized Campus,” Shanghai, China (summer 2016).

Accepted Participant in the Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) Summer Workshop, Boise, ID (2015).

Accepted Participant in CWPA Summer Institute on Language Diversity, Boise, ID (2015).

Accepted Participant in the Rhetoric Society of America’s (RSA) Biennial Summer Institute: Transnational Rhetorics Seminar, led by Sara McKinnon and Rebecca Dingo, Madison, WI (2015).

Accepted Participant in RSA’s Biennial Summer Institute: Grant-Writing Workshop, Madison, WI (2015).

Certified Diversity Educator: Summer Institute for Diversity Education (2012)

Attended Annual International Lilly Conference on College Teaching (Nov. 2012)

Studied in the TEFL program at Ohio University (2007-2008), including a General Linguistics course and Theories of Language Learning.

Invited Workshops and Presentations

Ongoing professional development workshops in writing pedagogy for instructors in the First Year Seminars Program. 2019-present.

Panel Presenter at the Whitman College Gender Studies Roundtable, 2019 and 2020.

Presentation on tutoring ESL community members for *Blue Mountain Action Council’s* literacy project. May 2017.

Co-facilitator for Diversity Education Workshop, Ohio University. Oct. 2012.

Workshop on writing in college for international student learning-community, Ohio University. Oct. 2012.

Professional and Community Service

Current co-chair of the Rhetoric SIG at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, three-year term (2020-2023)

Current chair of the Feminist Workshop at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, in a three-year term. (2018-2021).

Past member (2017-2019) of the ad-hoc working group to revise our General Education Curriculum.

Mentor for manuscripts in progress at *Feminisms and Rhetorics* 2017 conference. Dayton, OH (Oct 2017).

Guest teacher for WISE program, bringing high school students to campus, Summers 2016, 2017

Part of Resource Rotation for Whitman Summer Fly-Ins (support for WCFG students entering Whitman), Summers 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020.

Reviewer for journals, *Peitho*, *Rhetorics of Health and Medicine*, *Concentric*, and *Symploke*.

Committee member on the following committees at Whitman College: General Studies (2016-2017; 2019-current), Encounters Self-Study Committee (2016-2017), Aid to Faculty Scholarship and Instructional Development (spring 2015), Committee of Writing Faculty (2013-2019), Gender Studies Steering Committee (2014-present), Rhetoric Studies Steering Committee (2013-2019).

Reviewer for submissions to Conference on College Composition and Communication (2015).

Reviewer for Princeton University Press publication, Frank Cioffi, *One Day in the Life of the English Language: A Microcosmic Usage Handbook*. (2014).

Youth soccer coach, Walla Walla Parks and Recreation, fall seasons (2015, 2016, 2017)

Board member of the Blue Mountain Soccer Club (2014-2016).

Reviewer for submissions to NWSA annual conference (2012, 2013, 2014).