

EDUCATION

PhD in Rhetoric, Writing, and Professional Communication: 2024 (*Expected*)

East Carolina University, Greenville NC

Dissertation Title: “Queer Rhetorics of Identity Definition and Strategic Exclusion: A Mixed-Methods Study of Collective and Individual Identity in the Furry Fandom”

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Matthew Cox

MA in English Studies: Spring 2018

East Carolina University, Greenville NC

Capstone Title: “Confidence-Boosting Pedagogy in the First-Year Writing Classroom: A Proposed Case Study”

Capstone Chair: Dr. Nicole Caswell

BA in English, Composition: Spring 2010

University of North Texas, Denton TX

Certificate in Technical Writing: Spring 2009

University of North Texas, Denton TX

WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching & Consulting Experience

Undergraduate Writing Instructor: Fall 2017 – Current

East Carolina University, Greenville NC

- Writing for Business & Industry (six semesters)
- Scientific Writing (five semesters)
- First-year Composition (three semesters)
- Second-year Composition (two semesters)
- Writing and Document Design (one semester)

Writing Center Consultant and Liaison: Fall 2016 – Summer 2018

East Carolina University, Greenville NC

Coursework in English Education: Spring 2015 – Spring 2016

East Carolina University, Greenville NC

Other Experience

Assistant Conference Organizer: Various

East Carolina University, Greenville NC

- Graduate assistant to Dr. Mark Johnson for the TALGS Conference
Fall 2016 – Spring 2017; Fall 2018 – Spring 2019
- Graduate assistant to Dr. Michelle Eble for Computers & Writing
Fall 2019 – Spring 2020; Fall 2021 – Spring 2022

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Bertie Fearing Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2019-2020

East Carolina University, Department of English

Honored Instructor Award, 2018

East Carolina University, Campus Living and Residence Hall Association

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Conference Presentation

UNC Asheville Virtual Queer Studies Conference 2021

“Strategic Exclusion: The Furry Community as an Example of Identity Maintenance in Stigmatized Communities.” University of North Carolina at Asheville, 2021. (Presented digitally.)

A discussion of my early research into what I named “Strategic Exclusion” (SE): the practice through which queer communities – defined as any marginalized, stigmatized, or non-normative groups – re-define themselves to rhetorically downplay their least normative traits and exclude their least normative members in order to mitigate stigma and pursue acceptance in heteronormative society. The research is focused on the practice as seen in the Furry Fandom, but other examples are also referenced, such as homonormativity.

Conference Presentation

Computers & Writing 2022

“Strategic Exclusion: The Furry Community as an Example of Identity Maintenance in Digital Spaces.” East Carolina University, 2022.

A conference presentation covering the same topic as the one above, but from the viewpoint of the Furry Fandom as not only a queer community, but as a primarily digital community.

Conference Presentation

Tenth Annual English Graduate Student Conference

“First Year PhD Experiences in the Rhetoric, Writing, and Professional Communication Program,” with Kelsey Burroughs, Emily Tucker, & Yvonne Kao. Panel Chair: Kelsey Burroughs. East Carolina University, 2019.

A panel presentation with my PhD cohort, where we discussed our experience as first-year PhD students, for the benefit of those who had just joined the program or who were interested in doing so.

OTHER RESEARCH

MA Capstone

“Confidence-Boosting Pedagogy in the First-Year Writing Classroom: A Proposed Case Study.” Department of English, East Carolina University

Proposed research focusing on student confidence in the writing classroom – feelings of self-efficacy, agency, autonomy, empowerment, and ownership – and possible pedagogical approaches and applications for building and promoting confidence.

Dissertation (*In Progress*)

“Queer Rhetorics of Identity Definition and Strategic Exclusion: A Mixed-Methods Study of Collective and Individual Identity in the Furry Fandom.” Department of English, East Carolina University

Investigating individual furry identity definition and analyzing the ways those definitions engage and interact with other definitions, such as those accepted by non-furries or presented as ‘official’ by fandom spokespeople and organizations.

Doctoral Work

Department of English, East Carolina University

Conducted and proposed queer theory research in rhetoric, literacy, discourse, and TPC, focusing on the furry community, including:

- Research on and introduction of the concept of “Strategic Exclusion.”
- Literacy analysis of furry literacy practices on Twitter.
- Discourse analysis of conversations between furries and non-furries.
- Rhetorical analysis of promotional material for furry conventions.
- (Proposed) Narrative analysis of furry convention TPC practices.