

# The Rhetorical Situation

**Quick Teaching Inspirations**  
check out these links recommended by your WP  
colleagues:

## THE SMALL CHANGES IN TEACHING SERIES

in *The Chronicle of Higher  
Education*

## "HOW TO GET YOUR MIND TO READ"

A *New York Times* piece  
that came up in College  
9's College 1 planning

## DESIGNING ASSIGNMENTS\*

\*Check with Jessie, Kim,  
Phil, Tonya, or Heather  
about the workshop they  
just led on this topic

**Faculty Profile:**  
Chelsea Bryan



WP CLASSES I'M  
TEACHING THIS YEAR:  
Writing About Genre,  
Writing About  
Language, TBD

BEFORE JOINING THE  
UCSC WRITING  
PROGRAM, I...  
worked as an aerospace  
journalist and got an  
M.A. in Creative Writing  
at UC Davis

WHEN I AM NOT  
TEACHING, I...  
am in school for an  
M.F.A. at the Institute of  
American Indian Arts

A RECENT BOOK I  
LOVED WAS...  
Louise Erdrich's *Future  
Home of the Living God*



## Upcoming Campus Events

**Wednesday, February 7 | 4 – 6 PM**

Digital Scholarship Commons, McHenry:  
New Visualization Spaces in the DSC (Opening  
Reception)

**Tuesday, February 20 | 12:00 – 1:30 PM**

Digital Scholarship Commons, McHenry:  
Immersive Interpretation: Exploring Data in Virtual Reality  
(Angus Forbes, UCSC, Computational Media)

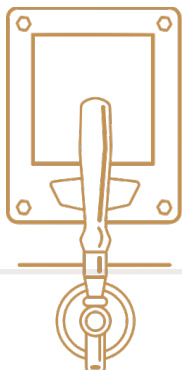
**Thursday, March 1 | 5 - 8 PM**

Bhojwani Room, University Center:  
Annual Convocation: The New Education (Cathy Davidson)  
Reception @ 5, public talk @ 5:30pm

**Tuesday, March 6 | 3:30 – 5 PM**

Digital Scholarship Commons, McHenry:  
"The Little Database: A Poetics of Media Formats" (Danny  
Snelson, UCLA)

Working on a writing  
project? Need some  
motivation? Join our weekly  
write-in for WP faculty:  
Saturday mornings at The  
Abbey, 10-12



**Join us for a Post-Portfolio-  
Read Happy Hour: February  
22, 6 p.m., West End Taproom**

## CONFERENCE CALENDAR: UPCOMING CFPS

(ACCESS THE COMPLETE CALENDAR [HERE](#))

### **February**

**2019 Modern Language Association Annual  
Convention** [\[link\]](#)

Chicago, IL, January 3-6, 2019

Abstracts due between Feb-March depending on  
panel

**CATESOL Northern Regional Conference** [\[link\]](#)

Santa Rosa, CA, May 12

Submission deadline: Feb. 15

### **March**

**Council of Writing Program Administrators  
Conference** [\[link\]](#)

Sacramento, CA, July 26-29

Submission deadline: March 1

**CCC Regional Summer Conference: Research(ing)  
Writing Cultures: Classroom, Program,  
Profession, Public** [\[link\]](#)

Denver, CO, July 20-21

Submission deadline: March 1

**KairosCamp! (Digital Humanities Project)** [\[link\]](#)

West Virginia University, June 4-15

Proposal deadline: March 1

**Young Rhetoricians' Conference** [\[link\]](#)

Monterey, CA, June 21-23

Proposal deadline: March 31

### **Faculty Profile: Michele Bigley**



WP CLASSES TAUGHT:  
So far, Writing 25 and 27

BEFORE JOINING THE UCSC WRITING PROGRAM... I taught Core in Rachel Carson College. I also currently teach Travel Writing at UCLA Writer's Program and academic writing at CSUMB. I've taught at U of San Francisco, Foothill College, City College SF, and Canada College. I am a travel journalist, and author of loads of guidebooks, [essays](#) and [articles](#) that focus on place & travel.

WHEN I AM NOT TEACHING...I explore the world with my kids and husband. I also dance. Also I am working on a narrative nonfiction collection and a novel.

AN UNUSUAL/QUIRKY FACT ABOUT ME IS...I used to work as an entertainer when I was in college in LA and NY. I danced at bar/bat mitzvahs, dressed up like a clown for birthday parties, and sometimes they even had me dress up as a Disney princess or superhero.

## Field Reports from Recent Conferences

### 2018 MLA Convention, Jan '18, NYC

(prepared by Phil Longo, who was too modest to link to [this](#))

Taking place during the "snow bomb cyclone," and amidst declining enrollments in literature courses and an increase in enrollment for writing, there was a palpable energy among the usually minoritized Rhetoric, Composition, and Writing Studies folks at the MLA this year. Several panels responding to the convention's theme #StatesofInsecurity examined how to teach writing after the 2016 election, bringing attention to issues of evidence sourcing, the role of arguments, and the place of digital discourse in our teaching (spoiler alert: whether we like it or not, this is the way discourse works right now). Of special interest was the first ever RCWS plenary at MLA called "Writing Matters" where nine big hitters in the field gave "lightning talks" about developments in the field ([short description of talks here](#)). It's difficult to synthesize the various threads and points of contention, but the general consensus was the need for all of us to recognize the dynamic nature of rhetoric in the current moment and the difficulties (and as a few pointed out, the joys) of teaching within this particularly moment.

### UC Writing Conference, Oct '17, Irvine

(prepared by Derede Arthur)

Theme: "Making Connections"

UCSC participants:

- >Lindsay Knisely, workshop discussion and poster presentation: "Using Writing to Encourage UC Students to Examine Their Digital Media Dependence"
- >Phil Longo, "Co-Writing with Artificial Intelligence: The Implications of Machine Learning for Teaching Composition," which noted that these days students write in collaboration with machines whose cognitive processes we only dimly understand. For example, algorithms like Grammarly not only collect data (which corporations come to own) but shape how users write.
- >Patrick McKercher and Derede Arthur, panel on "Creatively Connecting WP Faculty and Students." Patrick's portion was on his classroom use of the Knowledge Web and James Burke (Connections) to inspire student writing for real audiences.
- >Roxi Power, Jon Keeperman (UCI), and Derede Arthur, panel reporting on the Writing UC: Uniting Faculty Across Best Practices - the summer '16 writing conference that brought together lecturers from all the UC WPs to learn from each other's programs/practices.

**Of note:** Interestingly, the conference had an unofficial agenda: a number of the talks, and the Plenary Address by University of Michigan's Naomi Silver, discussed the AWPE as an assessment tool as well as Directed Self-Placement as an alternative to the AWPE. Professor Silver likes how Directed

Self-Placement (an online-questionnaire supplemented by advice from trained advisors) works at UMichigan, but she didn't have data to show how well (or not) students were doing longitudinally in their upper-div classes. Directed Self-Placement is now being floated for the UC system, and much controversy about this possibility buzzed in the hallways of the conference.

### Conference on College Composition, March '17, Portland

(prepared by Roxi Power)

Theme: "Cultivating Capacity, Creating Change"

UCSC participants:

- >Veronica Flanagan, "Teaching First-Year Composition in a College Core Course"
- >Tonya Ritola panel presentation: Cultivating Transfer with the Teaching-for-Transfer Writing Curriculum
- >Brij Lunine chaired a panel on Local Research Initiatives in Basic Writing
- >Roxi Power, panel entitled "Collaborating Across Statewide University Writing Programs: Sharing Best Practices," reframed the ambitious comparative data UCSC and UCI lecturers collected in 2016 across UC Writing Programs on curriculum, students, program structure/governance, and working conditions for a national audience, exploring whether increased sharing and collaboration across statewide WPs can help professionalize our field.
- >Phil Longo moderated talks presented by Farnaz Fatemi on another recent large data-collection project on Core

### Faculty Profile: Nirshan Perera



CURRENTLY TEACHING:  
Writing 27

BEFORE JOINING THE UCSC WRITING PROGRAM, I...worked for Oakes Core for the past 5 years--I'm still working concurrently for Oakes in the fall quarters. I previously worked for the WP while getting my grad degree in the literature department.

WHEN I AM NOT TEACHING, I...am hanging out with my two daughters, Zadie and Zoe, exercising, doing random household hobbies--learning how to bake good homemade sourdough bread is on my current to-do list.

AN UNUSUAL/QUIRKY FACT ABOUT ME IS...I am signed up to participate in a 24-hour readathon of Melville's Moby-Dick this summer. It will take place aboard the oldest surviving wooden whaling ship in America, the Charles W. Morgan in Mystic Seaport, CT.

courses: "Surveying the Field in First Year Experience Writing Courses"; Derede Arthur: "Can We Talk? Building Communication within and between Writing Programs"; and Roxi Power: "From Precarity to Necessity: UC Lecturers' Role in Building their Writing Programs."

>Lindsay Knisely, poster presentation: "Inspired to Unplug: How Writing about Their Digital Selves Motivates Students to Disconnect These Online Identities"  
>WP GSIs Kylie Kenner and Heather Schlaman, "Disciplinary Literacy for Language Minority Students in Community Colleges"

### San José State Regional CCCCs, June '17

(prepared by Tiffany Wong)

**Theme:** Making Spaces for Diverse Writing Practice

#### UCSC participants:

>Sarah Michals, "Writing Outside the Box: Genre-Based Instruction for International Students"  
>Veronica Flanagan, "Making Spaces for Tutoring: Threshold Concepts in Tutor Training"  
>Yolanda Santiago Venegas, Mark Baker, Robin King, & Sarah-Hope Parmeter, and Ellen Newberry: panel on "Teaching Writing at Hispanic-Serving Institutions: Naming What We Know"  
>Ray Daniels, Christopher Davis, and Maria Herrera Astua, panel on "Creative Writing in the Composition Classroom: Making a Space for the Student's 'Authentic' Voice"  
>Writing Retreat participants: Yolanda Santiago Venegas, Tiffany Wong, Denise Silva  
>Workshop participant: Tonya Ritola

**Of note:** The keynote speaker for the event was Asao Inoue, Ph.D. who presented research from this book *Antiracist Writing Assessment Ecologies: Teaching and Assessing for a Socially Just Future*.

## ARTICLE SPOTLIGHT

"Getting Under the Hood"  
How and for Whom Does  
Increasing Course Structure  
Work?"

## JOURNAL SPOTLIGHT

*Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy* has a special issue "Logging On" edited by multimodal specialist Cheryl Ball. The articles and praxis section have some good tips and examples for multimodal projects.



### Faculty Profile: Shannon Cummings

CURRENTLY TEACHING:  
Writ 26/Writ 86

BEFORE JOINING THE  
UCSC WRITING  
PROGRAM, I...  
was adjuncting at EVC,  
SJCC, WVC, MPC.

WHEN I AM NOT  
TEACHING, I...  
am doing Ashtanga  
yoga or practicing  
massage.

AN UNUSUAL/QUIRKY  
FACT ABOUT ME IS...my  
favorite movie is *Jaws*. I  
have lots of dreams  
about this movie.

## UPCOMING DEADLINES FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### February 19

**UCHRI Technohumanities: Exploratory Workshop on Experimentation** [\[link\]](#)

**UC Humanities Research Institute one-day workshop on experimentation and the humanities (open to lecturers).**

### April 6

**NSF Professional Development Grant Large Grant Deadline** [\[link\]](#)

UC-AFT has a professional development fund for lecturers with about \$40,000 each year to disburse. The funds can be used for conference travel and teaching-related projects.

This newsletter is brought to you by the Pedagogical Development Committee (a.k.a. Denise, Brenda, Phil, & Anthony). We'd love your suggestions/contributions for the spring edition. Please contact Denise at [dsilva@ucsc.edu](mailto:dsilva@ucsc.edu).