

Employment

University of Michigan , Ann Arbor, MI	
Professor of English and Linguistics	2025-present
Director, English Department Writing Program	2020-2025
Associate Professor of English	2020-2024
Wake Forest University , Winston Salem, NC	
Associate Professor of English and Linguistics	2017-2019
Director, Directed Self-Placement	2012-2019
Assistant Professor of English	2011-2016

Education

PhD, University of Michigan , Ann Arbor, MI	2006-2011
<i>Joint PhD Program in English and Education</i>	
MA English, University of Notre Dame , Notre Dame, IN	2005-2006
MEd, University of Notre Dame , Notre Dame, IN	2003-2005
BA English, Spanish, U of Notre Dame , Notre Dame, IN	1999-2003

Refereed Publications**Monographs**

- AI English: Humans, Machines, and the Future of Writing* (Under contract, Cambridge University Press)
- Grammar for Good: How Language Knowledge Makes Us Better People* (Under contract, Bloomsbury)
- You Can't Write That...8 Myths about Correct English* (Cambridge University Press, 2024)
- How Students Write: A Linguistic Analysis* (Modern Language Association, 2020)
- First-Year University Writing: A Corpus-Based Study with Implications for Pedagogy* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2015)

Textbook

- A Case-Based Approach to Argumentative Writing*. With lead author Sonja Launspach (Oxford University Press, 2020)

Articles

- "Walk it, Talk it: Accessible Language as Linguistic Justice in Writing Studies." With Shawna Shapiro. *Composition Studies* (forthcoming)
- "What's Grammar Got to Do with It? Judging Less and Learning More in Encounters with Written English Variation." *College English*, 88(1), 27-52. <https://doi.org/10.58680/ce202588127>
- "AI in Academic Writing." *Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics 2nd Edition*. Ed. C. Chapelle, Wiley Blackwell (2025)
- "A History and Continuum of Written English Registers, Fields, and Genres." *Across the Disciplines*, Special Issue: Confluences of Writing Studies and the History of the English Language (2024)
- "FAQs about Language and Linguistics in Writing." With Shawna Shapiro. *WAC Repository* (2023)
- "Attention to Language in Composition." *Composition Forum* (2023)
- "Student Interpretation and Use Arguments: Evidence-Based, Student-Led Grading." *Journal of Response to Writing* (2022)

- "What is 'Good Writing'? Analyzing Metadiscourse as Civil Discourse." *Journal of Teaching Writing* (2022)
- "Directed Self-Placement: Subconstructs and group differences at a U.S. university." *Assessing Writing* (2021)
- "Principles for Assessing Interpersonal Workplace Email Communication." *Journal of Writing Analytics* (2021). With lead author Bethany Aull.
- "From Cowpaths to Conversation: Rethinking the Argumentative Essay." With Valerie Ross. *Pedagogy* (2020)
- "Linguistic Markers of Stance and Genre in Upper-Level Student Writing." *Written Communication* (2019)
- "A Taxonomy for Writing Analytics." *Journal of Writing Analytics* (2019). With lead author Susan Lang, and Bill Marcellino.
- "Civil Assignments: Moving Beyond Argumentative Writing Tasks." With Maddie Moseley. *English Journal* (2019)
- "Corpus Analysis of Argumentative Versus Explanatory Discourse in Writing Task Genres." *Journal of Writing Analytics* (2017)
- "Generality in Student and Expert Epistemic Stance: A Corpus Analysis of First-year, Upper-level, and Published Academic Writing." With Dineth Bandarage and Meredith Miller. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes* (2017)
- "Elaborated Specificity vs. Emphatic Generality: A Corpus-Based Comparison of Higher and Lower Scoring Advanced Placement Exams in English." With lead author David West Brown. *Research in the Teaching of English* (2017)
- "Connecting Writing and Language in Assessment: Examining Style, Development, and Argument in the U.S. Common Core Standards and in Exemplary Student Writing." *Assessing Writing* (2015)
- "Linguistic Attention in Rhetorical Genre Studies and First-Year Writing." *Composition Forum* (2015)
- "Genre Analysis: Considering the Initial Reviews." With John Swales. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes* (2015)
- "Linguistic Markers of Stance in Early and Advanced Academic Writing: A Corpus-Based Comparison." With Zak Lancaster. *Written Communication* (2014)
- "Directed Self-Placement Questionnaire Design: Practices, Problems, Possibilities." With lead author Christie Toth. *Assessing Writing* (2014)
- "Local Assessment: Using Genre Analysis to Validate Directed Self-Placement." With lead author Anne Ruggles Gere, Zak Lancaster, Moises Perales-Escudero, and Elizabeth Vander Lei. *College Composition and Communication* (2013)
- "Fighting Words: A Corpus Analysis of Gender Representations in Sports Reportage." with David West Brown. *Corpora* (2013)
- "Students Creating Canons." *Pedagogy* (2013)
- "Assessing the Validity of Directed Self-Placement at a Large University." With lead author Anne Ruggles Gere, Tim Green and Anne Porter. *Assessing Writing* (2010)

Book Chapters

- "Language Knowledge and Linguistic Justice." *Sites of Writing*, Eds. James Beitler and Sarah Ruffing Robbins. WAC Clearinghouse / University Press of Colorado. (2025)
- "Implications of Automated Scoring of Writing." *Considering Students, Teachers, and Writing Assessment*, Eds. Diane Kelly-Riley, Ti Macklin, and Carl Whithaus. WAC Clearinghouse / University Press of Colorado. (2024)
- "Language Patterns in Secondary and Postsecondary Student Writing." *Corpora and Rhetorically Informed Text Analysis*. Eds. David West Brown and Danielle Zawodny Wetzel. John Benjamins. (2023)

- “Language Policing to Language Curiosity: Using Corpus Analysis to Foreground Linguistic Diversity.” *Methods and Methodologies for Research in Digital Writing and Rhetoric*, WAC Clearinghouse / University Press of Colorado. (2022)
- “Big Data as Mirror: Writing Analytics and Assessing Assignment Genres.” *Composition and Big Data*, University of Pittsburgh Press (2021)
- “Corpus analysis and its opportunities and limitations in composition studies.” *The Expanding Universe of Writing Studies*, Peter Lang (2021)
- “A Civil Style: Reexamining Discourse and Rhetorical Listening in Composition.” *Style and the Future of Composition Studies*, Utah State University Press (2020)
- “Stance as Style: Toward a Framework for Analyzing Academic Language,” with Zak Lancaster. *Style and the Future of Composition Studies*, Utah State University Press (2020)
- “Generality and Certainty in Undergraduate Writing Over Time: A Corpus Study of Epistemic Stance Across Levels, Disciplines, and Genres.” *Developing Writers*, University of Michigan Press (2019)

Editorial Contributions

- “How AI English and human English differ – and how to decide when to use artificial language.” *The Conversation*. Science and Technology section. 20 March 2026. <https://theconversation.com/how-ai-english-and-human-english-differ-and-how-to-decide-when-to-use-artificial-language-277455>.
- “Inclusion and consequence in AI writing assessment tools.” With lead author Kelly Hartwell. *Assessing Writing* (2025)
- “Navigating Innovation and Equity in Writing Assessment.” With lead author Kelly Hartwell. *Assessing Writing* (2024)
- “Plain language is key to DEI in academia.” With lead author Shawna Shapiro. *Inside Higher Education* (13 Oct 2023)
- “AI, corpora, and future directions for writing assessment.” With lead author Kelly Hartwell. *Assessing Writing* (2023)
- “Constructs of argumentative writing in assessment tools.” With lead author Kelly Hartwell. *Assessing Writing* (2022)
- “Some things shouldn’t be graded in AP exams.” *Inside Higher Education* (2021)
- “Automated text-matching and writing-assistance tools.” With lead author Kelly Hartwell. *Assessing Writing* (2021)
- “Student-centered assessment and online writing feedback.” *Assessing Writing* (2020)
- “Writing placement tools: Constructing and understanding students’ transition into college writing.” *Assessing Writing* (2019)
- “Corpus analytic tools: Constructing and understanding student writing assessment.” *Assessing Writing* (2018)
- “Assessment Tools and Tech: A New Forum.” *Assessing Writing* (2017)
- “The past and possible futures of genre analysis.” With lead author Zak Lancaster and Moisés Damián Perales Escudero. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes* (2015)

Invited Talks and Lectures

- Human and AI English. Keynote, European Association for the Teaching of Academic Writing. Tartu, Estonia. 2026.
- Writing analytics today and tomorrow. Keynote, Writing Analytics Conference. St. Petersburg, FL. 2026.
- Stance in human and AI writing. The Institute of Corpus Studies and Applications at Shanghai International Studies University. 2025.
- CLA, AI, and Writing Assessment. Keynote with Shawna Shapiro, CLADES Conference. Bratislava, Slovakia, 2025.

What is good writing? Exploring diverse written English from human texts to AI papers. Duke University Thompson Writing Program. March 2024.

The Continuum of Academic Written English. Keynote. The Latin American Association for Writing Studies in Higher Education and Professional Contexts (ALES). Concepción, Chile. November 2023.

Student-Led, Evidence-Based Self-Assessments. Language Centre. Hong Kong Baptist University. July 2022.

FAQs about language in writing studies. Critical Language Awareness Summer Salon. Facilitated by Shawna Shapiro, Middlebury University. July 2022.

Language Patterns in Secondary and Postsecondary Student Writing. DocuScope Symposium. Carnegie Mellon University. June 2022.

Language Patterns in Student Writing and Why They Matter. Invited Panel: What We Still Don't Know about Student Writing, and How We Can Know It. MLA Annual Conference. January 2021.

Linguistic Markers of Concision and Civility in First-Year and Upper-Level Student Writing. Carnegie Mellon University. March 2019.

Turning Corpus Linguistic Research into Practical Support for Student Writers. Writing Across the Curriculum Series. Brigham Young University. October 2018.

Stance and Genre in Upper-Level Student Writing. Goldtrap Lecture Series. Iowa State University. April 2018.

Student Writing and Civil Discourse. National Academy of Education, Washington, D.C. November 2017.

Corpus Linguistic Analysis of Student Writing. Guest Lecture for Graduate-Level Research Methods Course, University of South Florida (Professor Norbert Elliot). Fall 2017.

Corpus Linguistic Analysis of Argumentative vs. Explanatory Genres in Student Writing. Seminar for Educational Testing Service (ETS), Princeton, NJ. March 2017.

Metadiscourse in Academic Genres and Disciplines: Corpus Analysis and Implications for Writing Assignments. Plenary at Writing Analytics Conference, University of Southern Florida. January 2017.

A Discursive Context for the Essay Genre in U.S. English Studies. Dartmouth College. August 2016.

Corpus Linguistics Analysis in English Studies: Historical Disciplinary Divides and Contemporary Possibilities. Indiana University of Pennsylvania. 2016.

Intersections of Rhetoric, Technology, and Corpus Linguistics. Guest Lecture for Graduate-Level Rhetoric and Technology Course, University of South Florida (Professor Joe Moxley). Spring, 2016.

Linguistic Analysis of Written Genres. Guest Lecture for Graduate-Level Research Methods Class, University of Arkansas (Professor Brian Ray). Fall 2015.

Invited Leadership and Awards

- English Language Programme Reviewer, University of Ghent (Belgium) 2025
- Program Reviewer, University of Southern California, 2024
- Program Reviewer, Rice University Writing Program, 2024
- Editor for *Assessing Writing* Tools and Technology Forum, 2017-present
- Program Reviewer, Rutgers University Writing Program, 2022
- Chair, Language, Linguistics, and Writing Standing Group, College Composition and Communication, 2017-present
- Elected Delegate, History and Theory of Composition, Modern Language Association (elected 2022)
- Standard Setting Board Member, Advanced Placement English Language and Composition, 2021
- Executive Committee Member, Forum on Language Change, Modern Language Association (elected 2020-2023)

- Advisory board, Institute of Education Sciences (IES) project “Using a Linguistic Justice Framework to Explore Instructional Practices: Supporting the Development of the Workplace English Communication Skills of Historically Marginalized Learners,” 2020-2022
- Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship, National Academy of Education, 2016-2018
- National Science Foundation grant, “Collaborative Research: The Role of Instructor and Peer Feedback in Improving the Cognitive, Interpersonal, and Intrapersonal Competencies of Student Writers in STEM Courses” (NSF Award No. 1544239), 2015-2019
- Dunn-Riley Family Faculty Fellow, Wake Forest University, 2015-2018
- Award for Excellence in Mentored Scholarship, Wake Forest University, 2016
- Invited Guest Editor, 2015 Special Issue on Genre, *Journal of English for Academic Purposes* (JEAP)
- Humanities Institute College Collaboration fund, Spring 2015, for research with undergraduate students on corpus-based patterns of argumentative scope in undergraduate and advanced academic writing
- Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Center (URECA), URECA fellowships, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
- Gayle Morris Sweetland Center Research Fellow, the University of Michigan, 2013
- Wake Forest University Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) Faculty Fellow 2012-2013
- Humanities Institute Grant for Wake Forest Directed Self-Placement (DSP) research, 2013
- Wake Forest University TLC Teaching Innovation Award, 2012-2013
- University of Michigan Dean’s Scholar Graduate Fellowship recipient, 2006-2011
- University of Michigan David and Linda Moscow Prize for Excellence in Teaching Composition, 2010
- Susan Lipshutz Award for Socially-Responsible Dissertation Project, 2009

Recent and Upcoming Conference Presentations

- CLA analysis of Bad Grammar. CLADES 2026. University of Ghent, Belgium.
- Critical Language Awareness for Writing Teachers. *American Association of Applied Linguistics Annual Conference*. Chicago, IL. Spring 2026.
- Corpus Linguistic Methods. *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Cleveland, Ohio. Spring 2026.
- Critical Language Awareness and First-Year Writing. *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Cleveland, Ohio. Spring 2026.
- Remixing Grammar Instruction for Linguistic Diversity and Rhetorical Agency: Progressive Approaches to Language in Writing Pedagogy. *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Baltimore, Maryland. Spring 2025.
- Retrospective: Research in Writing Assessment and the Impact of the Journal of Writing Assessment. *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Baltimore, Maryland. Spring 2025.
- Language Knowledge and Linguistic Justice (Round Table Presentation). *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Spokane, Washington. Spring 2024.
- Revising Our Language (Mis)Understandings (Panel). *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Chicago. Spring 2023.
- Attention to language in alternative approaches to grading (Panel). *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Chicago. Spring 2023.
- Language Awareness as Language Justice: Critical Language Awareness in Writing Studies (Panel). *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Virtual Conference. Spring 2022.
- Introduction to Linguistics for Teachers and Students in support of CLA pedagogy (Workshop). *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Virtual Conference. Spring 2022.
- Move Analysis in Context: An example of undergraduate biology lab reports. *American Association of Applied Linguistics Annual Conference*. Pittsburgh, PA. Spring 2022.
- Understanding and Responding to Standardized English in Composition (Panel). *Conference on*

College Composition and Communication. Virtual Conference. Spring 2021.
Writing Development Before, During and After College (Panel). *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Pittsburgh, PA. Spring 2019.
Writing Analytics and the Writing Performance of Diverse Students: Is Opportunity Possible? Panel Respondent. *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Pittsburgh, PA. Spring 2019.
Using Corpus Analysis to Sharpen Awareness of Writing Expectations (Workshop). *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Pittsburgh, PA. Spring 2019.
Corpus Linguistic Approaches to Teaching and Studying Writing. Pre-Conference (Workshop). *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Kansas City. Spring 2018.

Recent Dissertation Mentorship

Jason Godfrey, University of Michigan, Joint PhD in English and Education. "Prompt and Circumstance: Investigating the Relationship between College Writing and Postsecondary Policy." **Winner of the Dimond Best Dissertation Award and finalist for the Proquest Distinguished Dissertation Award.** (Defense June 2024)
Kendon Smith, University of Michigan, Joint PhD in English and Education. "Systemic Functional Linguistics and Critical Language Awareness in Writing Courses." (Defense March 2023)
Andrew Moos, University of Michigan, Joint PhD in English and Education. "Pedagogical Participatory Research with White-Identifying Writing Instructors: Interrogating the White Supremacist Language Ideologies of the Composition Classroom." (Defense February 2023)
Amy Lombardi, University of California Davis, Linguistics. Dissertation: "Hidden in Plain Sight? The Effects of Content-Evaluative Stance Markers on Readers' Attitudes and Perception of Author's Stance in Persuasive Text." (Defense December 2022)

Courses Designed and Taught

English 292, Just What is Good Grammar?

Undergraduate course that proposes and tests 'good grammar' according to what is grammatically possible, meaningful, and in use in global English.

English 993, Pre-Teaching Writing Pedagogy, University of Michigan, 2023

New pre-teaching practicum course for new graduate student instructors of first-year writing. Course introduces writing metacognition, analysis, assessment, and instruction practices rooted in diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.

English 993, During-Teaching Writing Pedagogy, University of Michigan, 2020, 2021

Practicum and teaching observation course for new graduate student instructors of first-year writing. Course covers matters arising, teaching observations and feedback, and teaching philosophies rooted in diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.

English 305, Exploring the English Language, UM, 2020-present

Course introduces phonology, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, grammar and syntax, language variation and education, including language-related policies and litigation.

English 506, Structure of English, UM, 2022

Graduate course covers phonology, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, grammar and syntax, language variation and education, including language-related policies and litigation.

English 390/690, Structure of the English Language, Wake Forest University, 2012-2018

Study of English language as a complex, rule-governed system.

Writing 210, Academic Research and Writing, WFU, 2015-2018

Undergraduate writing and research seminar. Study of, and practice with, language patterns and moves as rhetorical strategies that are distinct across academic fields and genres.

Writing 111, First-Year Writing Seminar, WFU, 2012-2019

(Title: Slang to School books: Arguments about language and language in arguments.) Study of arguments about contemporary language today, discipline-specific language, and how advanced

and incoming writers make academic arguments, particularly vis-à-vis stance features.

Linguistics/ Anthropology 150, Introduction to Linguistics, WFU 2019

Study of foundational ideas in linguistics and linguistic anthropology, including theories of language acquisition and development, classifications of different kinds of languages, units of language meaning, trends and issues related to language change, and beliefs and policies related to language use.

Independent Study course, WFU Corpus linguistic analysis of academic discourse, 2013, 2015, 2017

English 306/ Linguistics 340: Language in American Essays, WFU, 2016

Historical study and corpus-based analysis of language related to U.S. creation of mass culture in general readership periodicals, 1920-Today.

Writing 399, Written Language in a Digital Era, WFU 2011-2013

Study of digitally-mediated written language, especially public arguments and academic research on use and implications of digitally-mediated language.

Recent service

To Profession

Editorial Board Member: *Assessing Writing* (2017-present); *Journal of Writing Analytics* (2017-present)

Reviewer for Corpus Linguistics strand of American Association of Applied Linguistics annual conference (2016-present)

Regular peer review: *Written Communication*, *Assessing Writing*, *Pedagogy*, *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, *Research in the Teaching of English*, *Journal of Writing Analytics*, *WPA: Writing Program Administration*, *Journal of English for Specific Purposes*

To University of Michigan

Technical Communication Program External Review, 2022-2023

Open Access Publishing TOME Committee, 2022-2023

English Department Executive Committee, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

Lecturer Faculty Review Committee, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

English Department Writing Program Hiring Committee, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

English Department Writing Program teaching prize committees, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

Joint PhD Program in English and Education Admissions Committee, 2020, 2021, 2023

LSA Teaching Innovation and Formats Committee, 2021

Sweetland Center for Writing lecturer faculty review committee, 2020-2021

English Department Writing Program lecturer faculty review committee, 2020-2021

Search Committee, tenured hire in YA literature, 2020-2021

To Wake Forest University

Undergraduate Research and Mentored Scholarship Committee, 2017-2019

Search Committee, T/T hire in Rhetoric of Science, 2018-2019

Linguistics Core Faculty, 2015-2019

Writing Minor Advisor, 2014-2019

QEP Assessment Committee for Global Programs and Studies, 2015-2016

Arts and Sciences Enhancement Research Committee, 2012

Lower Division Student Advisor, 2012-2013

Digital Humanities Faculty Seminar (Humanities Institute), 2012

Search Committee, T/T hire in English/ WAC/WID, 2011-2012

Digital Humanities Committee (Humanities Institute), 2011-2016

Professional organizations

- *College Composition and Communication/ National Council of Teachers of English*, 2006-present
- *Modern Language Association*, 2008-present
- *American Association of Applied Linguistics*, 2010-present