Cara Marta Messina

Assistant Professor of English
English Department
Jacksonville State University, Alabama

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PHONE
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EDUCATION

Northeastern University, 2016–2021
Ph.D. in English, Writing and Rhetoric
Dissertation: "The Critical Fan Toolkit: Fanfiction Genres, Ideologies, and Pedagogies"
Received 2021 *Computers and Composition* Hugh Burns Distinguished Dissertation Honorable Mention
Committee: Mya Poe (Chair), Ellen Cushman, Neal Lerner, Laura Nelson
Graduate Certificate: Digital Humanities

St. John's University, 2010–2015
M.A. in English, 2015
B.A. with honors *summa cum* laude in English, Minor in Creative Writing, 2014
Honors: Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society
Summa Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society

RESEARCH & TEACHING EMPHASIS

Digital rhetoric; critical fan studies; antiracist & intersectional feminism; digital humanities; game studies; writing & rhetoric of coding and data; computational methods; technical communication.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of English, Professional Writing August 2021-May 2023
Jacksonville State University, Alabama

Adjunct Instructor for First Year Writing 2015-2016
St. John's University, Queens

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts

Writing Critical Fandoms: Tracing Representations of Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Fanfiction. University of Iowa Press, Fandom & Culture. Under contract.

Superdiversity and Multilingual Students in Higher Education. Qianqian Zhang-Wu, Mya Poe, Cherice Jones, & Cara Marta Messina. Routledge. Under contract.

Peer Reviewed Articles

"rm monika.chr: Coding Rhetorics and Ephemeral Code in *Doki Doki Literature Club*." *Computers and Composition Online*, "Making Games Matter" Special Issue. 2022. Open-access article here.

Cara Marta Messina, Cherice Jones, and Mya Poe. "Prompting Reflection: Using Corpus Linguistics Methods to Improve the Teaching and Assessment of Reflections." *Written Communication*. Forthcoming April 2023.

"Black Lives Matter Digital Activism: Writing for Social Media Course." *Spark: A 4C4Equality Journal*, 3, 2021. Open-access article here.

"Tracing Fan Uptakes: Tagging, Language, and Ideological Practices in The Legend of Korra Fanfictions." *The Journal of Writing Analytics*, 3, 2019. Open-access article here.

Special Issue Editor

Alanna Prince, **Cara Marta Messina,** and Izetta Autumn Mobley (Eds.). "Black Digital Humanities for the Rising Generation." *Digital Humanities Quarterly,* 16.3, 2022. Open-access special issue.

Edited Collection Chapters

Cara Marta Messina, Sarah Connell, Julia Flanders, Caroline Klibanoff, and Sarah Payne. "Social Knowledge Creation in the Digital Humanities: Case Studies." *Social Knowledge Creation in the Humanities, Volume* 2, Iter Press, 2022.

Cara Marta Messina, Nupoor Ranade, and Ashley Rea. "A Feminist Coding Heuristic." *Feminist Design Rhetorics*. Proposal accepted.

Cara Marta Messina and Neal Lerner. "Mixed Methods Research in Writing Centers". *Theories and Methods of Writing Center Studies*, 2019, 208–218.

Book Reviews

"These Violent Delights: A Review of Timothy J. Welsh's *Mixed Realism: Videogames and the Violence of Fiction.*" *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, 13.4, 2019.

Harry Denny, **Cara Messina,** and Michael Reich. "Embracing the Challenges of Conventional Practices, Program Inquiry, and New Media in Writing Center Theory and Research." *Composition Studies*, 43.2, 2015.

Other Publications

"Op-ed: Who is responsible for a COVID-19 outbreak at Northeastern?" *Huntington News*, August 30, 2020.

Mandy Olejnik and **Cara Marta Messina**. "On the Front Lines: Graduate Student Roles in Shaping Discourse in Digital Spaces." *Xchanges*. issue 15.1, 2020.

Members of the WPA-L Reimagining Working Group and nextGEN. "Where We Are: Dialogue and Disciplinary Space." *Composition Studies*, 47.2, 2019, 203–210.

Press

"JSU's new game studies minor." *The Chanticleer*. November 7, 2022.

Interviewed for "Jax State to get new Game Studies Minor." *Anniston Star*. February 16, 2022.

Cara Marta Messina, Dan Dissinger & Katie Robison. "76. Celebrating Critical Fan Studies w/ Cara Marta Messina." *Writing Remix Podcast*.. December 2021.

Cara Marta Messina & Charles Woods. "Episode 70: Dr. Cara Messina (Emerging Scholar Series)." *The Big Rhetorical Podcast*. April 27, 2021.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Computers and Composition Hugh Burns Distinguished Dissertation Award, Honorable Mention	2022
Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Humanics. *Northeastern University*	2021
College of Social Sciences and Humanities Teaching Award. *Northeastern University*	2021
Kairos Teaching Award. *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*	2019
College of Social Sciences and Humanities Teaching Award Finalist. *Northeastern University*	2019
Student Organization Leader of the Year Finalist. *Northeastern University Student Life Award*	2019
Graduate Essay Contest Winner for Writing and Rhetoric. *Northeastern University English Department*	2018 & 2019
College of Social Sciences and Humanities Scholar Fellowship. *CSSH at Northeastern University*	2016-2021
Stipend Graduate Assistantship. *Northeastern University English Department,* 2016-2021	2016-2021
Graduate Fellowship. *St. John's University English Department*	2014-2015
NEWCA Connors Memorial Scholarship Award. *Northeast Writing Center Association*	2013

GRANTS

Teaching Circle "Engaging Students Through Game-Based Learning." *Jacksonville State University*.	2021
CCCCs Research Grant. "Super-Diversity in Context: A Corpus-Based Study of Multilingual Writing Outcomes with Attention to Disparate Impact." *Conference on College Composition and Communication.*	2019-2020

NULab Seedling Grant. "The Critical Fan Toolkit." *NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks*, Northeastern University. 2020

Travel Grant. *NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks*, Northeastern University. 2019

Registration and Grub Grant. *International Writing Center Association and National Conference on Peer Tutoring Joint Conference*. 2014

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

Jacksonville State University, English Department (EH)

	My Student Eval Mean	University Eval Mean	
EH 252: Introduction to Game Studies	4.94	4.64	Fall 2022
EH 330: Writing for the Web	4.93	4.64	Spring 2022
EH 332: Writing for Podcasts	4.82	4.62	Fall 2021
EH 141: Speech & Oral Communication	4.86	4.64	Fall 2022
	4.90	4.64	Fall 2022
	4.92	4.74	Summer 2022
	4.69	4.64	Spring 2022
	4.79	4.62	Fall 2021
	4.84	4.62	Fall 2021
EH 322: Technical Writing (online)	4.96	4.64	Fall 2022
	4.79	4.64	Spring 2022
	4.84	4.62	Fall 2021

Northeastern University, English Department

WMNS 4992: Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Independent Study on Critical Fan Studies (final project by Emma Reed) Spring 2021

ENGL 2850: Writing in/for Social Media (online course) Summer 2020

ENGW 1111: First Year Writing 2017-2018

ENGW 3315: Advanced Writing in the Discipline Summer 2018

St. John's University, First Year Writing Program

ENG 1000: First Year Writing 2015-2016

SKILLS & PROFICIENCIES

Programming

Python (Pandas, NLTK, Plotly, NumPy, Gensim, NetworkX, Matplotlib, Flask); HTML; CSS; XML (RelaxNG, TEI, XSLT); Git.

Digital Software

GitHub, WordPress, Wix, Google Suite, Tableau, Microsoft Suite, Audacity (podcast editing software), Zotero, NVivo, Canva (open-source design software), Twine.

Research Methods

User experience research; qualitative coding; interviews; computational text analysis (word embedding models, natural language processing); network analysis; data analytics; writing analytics.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Assistant Director. Writing Program, Northeastern University	2020-2021
Assistant Director. Digital Integration Teaching Initiative, Northeastern University.	2019-2020
Research Associate. Writing Program Committee Reflection Study, Northeastern University.	2019-2021
Coordinator. NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks, Northeastern University.	2018-2019
Pedagogy and Infrastructure Team Member. Women Writers' Vector Toolkit, Northeastern University.	2018-2019
Research Associate. Design for Diversity, Northeastern University	2017-2018
Director of Research. Writing Center, Northeastern University	2016-2017
Research Assistant. The Meaningful Writing Project, Anne Ellen Geller, St. John's University	2015

PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS, & WORKSHOPS

Invited Presentations and Workshops

"Introduction to GitHub, GitHub Desktop, and Pages Workshop." *Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Postdoctoral Fellowship*. Received honorarium.

"Tracing Critical Fan Composing Practices." Speed Data-ing, *Northeastern University NULab*, 2020.

"Digital Humanities the Dissertation." *Digital Humanities Open Office Hours, Northeastern University,* 2020.

"Ways of Reading." Panel with Hillary Chute, Laura Green, and William Quinn. *Barrs Criticism Slam, Northeastern University English Department*, 2018.

"Queering Fanfiction: The Intersection of Imagination and Identity." Panel. *Gender and Sexuality Studies Club, Marymount Manhattan College*, 2017. Received honorarium.

"Reading as Writers: Marking up and Writing Fan Fiction in the Composition Classroom." Panel. *Barrs Criticism Slam*, Northeastern University, 2016.

Selected Conference Presentations

"'Missandei Deserves Better': Loving Blackness in Game of Thrones Fanfiction." *Popular Culture Association Conference*. San Antonio, TX. Upcoming April 2023.

"Code-Sharing and Documentation as Digital Feminist Praxis."*Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Chicago, IL. Upcoming February 2023.

"Excluding Crossovers: Loving Blackness in the *Black Panther* Fandom." *DH 2022 Tokyo*. Virtual. July 2022. Could not present due to contracting COVID.

"Fan Composing as Digital Activism: Representations of Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Fanfiction." *Computers and Writing*. Greenville, NC. May 2022.

"Designing a Justice-Centered Oral Communication Curriculum." *College English Association*. Birmingham, AL. April 2022.

"I Am Not Functional, I Am Not A Function: Enacting Feminist Coding Rhetorics Through Disruptions." *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Virtual. March 2022.

"Multilingual Students' Linguistic Identities and Languaging Practices: A Mixed Methods Exploration." With Qianqian Zhang-Wu, Cherice Jones, and Mya Poe. *TESOL International Convention & English Language Expo*. Virtual. March 2022.

"Centering Feminist and Queer Pleasures: Tracing Fan Community Writing Practices using Network Analysis" *Conference on Community Writing*. Virtual. October 2021.

"Making Multilingual Writers Matter in Program Assessment: What Do You Do When There Is No Institutional Data for Disaggregation?" Panel with Mya Poe, Qianqian Zhang-Wu, Cherice Jones, and Devon Regan. *Journal of Writing Analytics Conference*. Virtual. 2021.

"Critical Fan Pedagogy: Teaching Critical Digital Literacies with Fanfiction Data" *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Virtual. 2021.

"(mis)Representation in Large Corpus Analysis." *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Milwaukee, WI. 2020. Canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19.

"Tracing Fan Uptakes with Computational Text Analysis." *Computers and Writing*. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. 2019.

"Fans as Stakeholders: Legitimizing Fan Uptakes and Genres." *International Conference on Writing Analytics*. University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL. 2019.

"Incorporating XML in the First Year Writing Course: An Ongoing Case Study." *UConn Conference on the Teaching of Writing*. University of Connecticut. Storrs, CT. 2018.

"The Spaces of Possibilities: Fan Communities, Representation, and the Writing Classroom." *Conference on Community Writing*. Boulder, CO. 2017.

"Fan Fiction Ecologies and the Writing Classroom." *English Graduate Student Association Conference*. Northeastern University. Boston, MA. 2017.

Selected Roundtable Presentations

"Designing Inclusive Information Systems: From Theory to Change." Chair of roundtable discussion. *Association for Computers and Humanities*. Pittsburgh, PA. 2019.

"Continuing the Conversation: Navigating Inclusivity and Vulnerability in Online Listservs and Digital Spaces." Presented with Ashanka Kumari, Emily LaPadura, Katelyn Lusher, Mandy Olejnik, and Kyllikki Rytov. *Computers and Writing*. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. 2019.

"Theory on the Ground: Building Writing Center Research Groups." Presented with Abbie Levesque and Kyle Oddis. *Northeastern Writing Center Association*. College of Holy Cross. Worcester, MA. 2018.

"Process Over Product: Challenging Institutional Pressures and Discrimination Through Ongoing Consultant Training." Lead Presenter, presented with Abbie Levesque, Zachary Shaw, and Matthew Hitchcock. *Northeastern Writing Center Association*. Pace University. Pleasantville, NY. 2017

"Initial Impressions: How Heuristics Shape Writing Center Consultations." Co-presented with Alison Perry, Mairead Carr, and Jack Wells. *Northeast Writing Center Association*. Centenary College. Hackettstown, NJ. 2015.

"Creating a Freshman Writing Journal: A Collaboration Between a First-Year Writing Program and a Writing Center." Co-presented with Derek Owens, Tom Philipose, Alison Perry, Anna Sicari, Tara Roeder, and Bailey Robertson. *International Writing Center Association and National Conference on Peer Tutoring Joint Conference*. Orlando, FL. 2015.

"Consulting with Gendered Bodies: An Inquiry into Gender Performance in Sessions and Interactions at the Writing Center." Co-presented with Donya Nassar, Bailey Robertson, Alison Perry, and Anne Geller. *Northeast Writing Center Association*. Bryant University. Smithfield, RI. 2014.

"The Writing Fellows Program: Modeling Partners for Change." Lead Presenter, presented with Eleadah Clack, Alyssa-Rae Hug, Carolyn Wargula, and Anne Geller. *Northeast Writing Center Association*. University of New Hampshire. Durham, NH. 2013.

Teaching Workshops

"Introduction to GitHub." Workshop creator & leader. Northeastern University. 2018 & 2018.

"Introduction to Python." Teaching assistant. Northeastern University. 2019.

"Women Writers' Vector Toolkit Workshop." Co-creator & leader. Northeastern University, 2018.

Posters

"Critical Fan Toolkit: Building a Digital, Public Rhetoric and Composition Dissertation." *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Milwaukee, WI. 2020. Canceled due to COVID-19

"Reimagining Romance: *The Legend of Korra* Critical Fandom Practices." *Association for Computers and Humanities*. Pittsburgh, PA. July 2019.

"Positions and Power: How the Writing Center is Viewed in the Institution." *Northeastern Writing Center Association*. College of Holy Cross. Worcester, MA. March 2018.

"Information and System Design for Diversity: Can We Do Better?" Co-created with Amanda Rust and Julia Flanders. *Digital Humanities*. Montreal, Canada. August 2017.

Professional Service

Academic Service

Committee Member. Taskforce on Assessing Whiteness for Equity, Understanding, and Change, *College Composition and Communication*. 2022-Present

Editorial Board Member. *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*. 2021-Present

Committee Member. College of Arts and Humanities Strategic Plan Committee, Jacksonville State University. 2022-Present

Committee Member. English Department Reading series, Jacksonville State University. 2022-Present

Digital Lab Advisor. English Department, Jacksonville State University. 2021-Present

Communications Officer. Special Interest Group on the Writing and Rhetorics of Code, *College Composition and Communication*. 2021-Present

Member. Speech Redesign Committee, Jacksonville State University. 2021-Present

Editor-in-Chief. *NU Writing*, Northeastern University 2020-2021

Founder and Chair. Graduate Student Welfare Advocacy Group, Northeastern University 2019-2020

Member. Writing Program Administration Listserv Reimaging Working Group 2019-2020

Organizer. Feminist Coding Collective, Northeastern University 2016-2020

President. English Graduate Student Association, Northeastern University 2018-2019

Reviewer. *Digital Humanities Quarterly.* 2018-2019

Notetaker. "Shared Realities: A Workshop on Disability, Technology, and Inclusion." Microsoft Research New England. 2016

Co-Editor & Website Creator. *First Year Writing Journal*, St. John's University 2014

Editor-in-Chief. *Sequoya Literary and Arts Magazine,* St. John's University 2013-2014

Secretary. Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society, St. John's University 2013-2014

Co-Creator. Creative Writing Group, St. John's University 2011-2013

Conference and Panel Organization

Lead Organizer and Presenter. Game Studies Panel. English Department Reading Series Jacksonville State University, 2022. 2021

Lead Organizer. English Graduate Student Association Graduate Conference, "Centering the Margins," Northeastern University 2019

Co-Organizer. NULab Spring Conference, "Digital Storytelling," Northeastern University. 2018

Co-Organizer. Climate Change/Crisis/Creativity Conference. Northeastern University. 2018

Co-Organizer. Design for Diversity Opening & Closing Forum, Northeastern University. 2018

Writing Center Work

Writing Center Consultant. Columbia University School of Social Work Writing Center. 2015–2016

Writing Coach. SUNY Empire State College Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies Academic Support. 2014–2015

Tutor and Workshop Facilitator. Queensborough Community College Writing Center. 2014–2015

Writing Fellow. St. John's University Writing Across the Curriculum 2013–2014

Writing Consultant. St. John's University Writing Center 2011–2015