

Positions

Acting Associate Vice Chancellor for Teaching and Learning (Fall 2024)

Associate Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education (2022-present)

Teaching Professor, Writing Program, University of California at Santa Barbara (2013-present)

Writing Program Director (2015-2021)

Writing Program Associate Director (2010-2015)

Writing Program Acting Co-Director (2008-2010)

Writing Program Lecturer (1987-2013)

Co-Director, Professional Writing Minor (2006-present)

Fulbright Lecturer, Jozsef Attila University, Szeged, Hungary (1995-96)

Publications

Books

Common Culture: Reading and Writing About American Popular Culture, Seventh Edition. (with M. Petracca). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey; Prentice Hall, 1995, 1997, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012.

Reading Popular Culture. (with M. Petracca). New York; Penguin, 2011.

Articles/Chapters

"Using AI to Understand Students' Self-Assessments of their Writing." (with S. Erickson, S. Hirsch, and K. Smith). *Journal of Writing Research* (forthcoming Fall 2025).

"Collaborative Writing Placement: Partnering with Students in the Placement Process." (with S. Hirsch and K. Smith). *Journal of Writing Assessment* 17.2 (2024).

"Brand Style Guide Assignment," Writing Spaces Assignments & Activities Archive (2024): <https://parlormultimedia.com/writingspaces/tag/brand-style-guide/>.

"User Perceptions of Actionability in Data Dashboards." *Journal of Business and Technical Communication* 37.3 (2023).

"Anthropographics in COVID-19 Simulations." *Big Data & Society* 9.1 (2022).

"Data Narratives: Visualization & Interactivity in Representations of COVID-19." In *Routledge Companion to Narrative Theory*. Paul Dawson and Maria Makela, eds. (2022).

"Text, Image, Data, Interaction: Understanding Information Visualization." *Computers and Composition* 54 (2019).

"Teaching Dear Data." (with A. Fauni). *Kairos* 24.1 (2019):
<http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/25.1/praxis/sorapure-fauni/index.html>.

["Review of *Getting Personal*."](#) *Biography* 42.2 (2019): 404-406.

"Context, Strategy, Identity: A History of Change in the UC Santa Barbara Writing Program." (with L. Adler-Kassner). In *Weathering the Storm: Independent Writing Programs in the Age of Fiscal Austerity*. Richard N. Matzen Jr. & Matthew Abraham, eds. Utah State University Press, 2019.

"Autobiography Scholarship 2.0?: Understanding New Forms of Online Life Writing." Special Issue of *Biography* on "Online Lives 2.0" 38.2 (2015): 267-272.

(In Janice Walker et. al.) "Computers and Composition 20/20: A Conversation Piece, or What Some Very Smart People Have to Say about the Future." *Computers and Composition* 28.4 (2011): 337-339.

Review of CCCC 2010 Session D.24, "Scholarship, Remix, and the Database." (with J. Purdy). *Kairos* 15.1 (Fall 2011):
<http://35.9.119.214/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/CCCCReviews/2010D24PurdySorapure>.

"Information Visualization, Web 2.0, and the Teaching of Writing," *Computers and Composition* 27.1 (2010): 59-70.

"The Lifewriting of Dataselves: Autobiographical Acts in New Media." In *RAW: (Reading and Writing) New Media*, Cheryl Ball and Jim Kalmbach, Eds. Hampton Press, 2010: 147-156.

"Moving Writing: A Critical Approach to Animation in Composition." (2009). In *Digital Tools in Composition Studies*. Ed. Byron Hawk, Ollie Oviedo, and Joyce Walker. Cresskill, New Jersey: Hampton Press: 169-186.

"Introducing Inventio." (with Karl Stolley). *Kairos* 12.1 (Fall 2007):
<http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/12.1/binder.html?inventio/index.htm>.

"Text, Image, Code, Comment: Writing in Flash." *Computers and Composition* 23.4 (2006): 412-429.

"Between Modes: Assessing Student New Media Compositions," *Kairos* 10.2 (Winter 2005):
<http://english.ttu.edu/kairos/10.2/binder2.html?coverweb/sorapure/index.html>.

- Winner of the *Kairos* Best Webtext Award, 2005.
- Reprinted in *Multimodal Composition: A Critical Sourcebook*. Claire Lutkewitte, Ed. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2014: 381.

"Five Principles of New Media: Or, Playing Lev Manovich," *Kairos* 8.2 (Winter 2004):
<http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/8.2/binder2.html?coverweb/sorapure/index.htm>.

“Screening Moments, Scrolling Lives: Diary Writing on the Web,” *Biography* 26.1 (Winter 2003): 1-27.

- Reprinted in *The New Media and Cybercultures Reader*. Pramod K. Nayar, Ed. London: Blackwell, 2010.

“Web Writing and Community Service in Freshman Composition,” *Kairos* 7.3 (Winter 2003): <http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/7.3/binder2.html?coverweb/sorapure/index.html>.

“Computer Technology and Life Writing,” in *Encyclopedia of Life Writing*. Margaretta Jolly, Ed. London: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2000: 71-78.

“Paul Auster,” in *Postmodernism: Key Figures*. Joseph P. Natoli and Hans Bertens, Eds. London: Blackwell, 2000: 19-24.

“Web Literacy: Challenges and Opportunities for Research in a New Medium” (with P. Inglesby and G. Yatchisin), *Computers and Composition* 15.3 (December 1998): 409-424.

- Reprinted in *Computers in the Composition Classroom: A Critical Sourcebook*. Michelle Sidler et. al., Eds. Boston: Bedford / St. Martin’s, 2008: 201-216.

“The Detective and the Author: Paul Auster’s *City of Glass*,” in *Beyond the Red Notebook: Paul Auster and the Postmodern Novel*. Dennis Barone, Ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1995: 71-87.

“A Story in Love’s Default: Andre Brink’s *States of Emergency*,” *Modern Fiction Studies* 37.4 (Winter 1991): 659-75.

“Allegory and Symbol: Reading Ina Rousseau’s ‘Do You Remember Helena Lem?’” *Studies in Short Fiction* 28.4 (Fall 1991): 453-58.

“Being in the Midst: Italo Calvino’s *If on a winter’s night a traveler*,” *Modern Fiction Studies* 31.4 (Winter 1985): 702-709.

Conference Presentations

“Using AI in Qualitative Analysis,” AI Symposium (UCSB), April 2025

“Using AI to Facilitate Qualitative Analysis of Student Writing,” Qualitative Research Network at the College Composition and Communication Conference (Online), April 2025

“Teaching Writing in the Age of AI: Insights from Writing Program Faculty,” AI Community of Practice Spring Symposium (UCSB), May 2024

“Analyzing and Visualizing Student Writing in a Hybrid Approach to Placement,” Computers & Writing Conference (Davis, CA), June 2023.

“Writing in the Age of Large Language Models,” CITRAL AI Forum (UCSB), March 2023.

“From High School to College: How Students Assess Their Writing Preparation,” Writing Research Across Borders Conference (Online), February 2023

“Genres of COVID-19 Data Visualization.” Computers and Writing Conference (Online), May 2022.

“Collaborative Writing Placement as a Model for Empowering Students and Fostering Equity.” College Composition and Communication Conference (Online), March 2022.

“Visualizing COVID-19: Anthropographics and Rhetoric.” Twelfth International Conference on the Image (Online), September 2021.

“Reflective Writing in Local Placement Programs.” UC Council of Writing Programs Conference. (Online), January 2021.

“Fostering Student Collaboration in Digital Writing Spaces.” Engaging Teaching Symposium (Santa Barbara, CA), October 2020.

“Data Literacy and Academic Writing.” European Association of Teachers of Writing. (Gothenberg, Sweden), July 2019.

“Go Small: Cultivating Data Literacy in the Writing Classroom.” Computers and Writing Conference (East Lansing, MI), June 2019.

“Workshop on Text Visualization Tools.” Computers and Writing Conference (Washington, DC), May 2018.

“Designed to Explore.” College Composition and Communication Conference (Portland, OR), March 2017.

“Building and Sustaining a Writing Minor,” Council of Writing Program Administrators Conference (Boise, ID), July 2015.

(panel participant) “Sustaining Connections Beyond the Writing Program: An Exploration in Metaphors,” Council of Writing Program Administrators Conference (Boise, ID), July 2015.

“Watching Writing: Screencasting and Insight into the Writing Process,” College Composition and Communication Conference (Tampa, FL), March 2015.

“Threshold Concepts in Computers & Writing: The Example of Design,” Computers and Writing (Pullman, WA), June 2014.

“Visualizing and Analyzing Screencast Data,” Association for Teachers of Technical Writing Conference (Indianapolis, IN), March 2014.

“Composing in Time and Space,” Digital Pedagogy Poster at the College Composition and Communication Conference (Indianapolis, IN), March 2014.

“Using Reflection to Facilitate Transfer,” UC Council of Writing Programs Conference (Davis, CA), October 2013.

“Video Screen Capture and Reflection in the Study of Transfer,” Critical Transitions: Writing and the Question of Transfer Conference (Elon, NC), June 2013.

“Twelve Viewers Viewing: Establishing Models of Document Design Feedback in Composition and Professional Communication,” Panel Presentation and Featured Session, College Composition and Communication Conference (Las Vegas, NV), March 2013.

“Text to Video to Text: Remediating with an Eye on the Viral” (with Dan Wuebben), Computer Connection at the College Composition and Communication Conference (Las Vegas, NV), March 2013.

“Using Infographics to Represent the Work of Writing Programs,” Council of Writing Program Administrators Conference (Albuquerque, NM), July 2012.

“Infovisual Literacy: Understanding Rhetorical Tactics in Information Visualization,” College Composition and Communication Conference (St. Louis, MO), March 2012.

“Mini-workshop on Megazine,” Computers and Writing Conference (Ann Arbor, MI), May 2011.

“New Journalism Visualizations: How Do We See the News?” Writing Research Across Borders (Washington, DC), February 2011.

“Seeing Writing: Interactive Text Visualizations in Pedagogy and Research,” Computers and Writing Conference (West Lafayette, IN), June 2010.

“Web 2.0 Panel Discussion,” Computers and Writing Conference (West Lafayette, IN), June 2010.

“Visualizing Text,” Computer Connection at the College Composition and Communication Conference (Louisville, KY), March 2010.

“Playing with Data: Information Visualization and Composition Studies,” Computers and Writing Conference (Davis, CA), June 2009.

“Zooming In and Out: Alternative Views of the CCCC,” College Composition and Communication Conference (San Francisco, CA), March 2009.

“Web 2.0, Information Visualization, and Writing,” Writing Research Colloquium (Santa Barbara, CA), December 2008.

“Varieties of New,” College Composition and Communication Conference (New Orleans, LA), March 2008.

“Visualizing Information in Multimedia Compositions,” Penn State Conference on Rhetoric and Composition (State College, PA), July 2007.

“It’s MySpace, But It’s Their Template: Representing Identities in Blogs and Social Networking Systems,” College Composition and Communication Conference (New York, NY), March 2007.

“Self-Representation and Interactivity in New Media,” Computers and Writing Conference (Lubbock, TX), June 2006.

“Digital Self-Representations: New Selves in New Media,” Keynote Presentation at the Great Plains Alliance for Computers and Writing Conference (Fargo, North Dakota), April 2006.

“Accounting for Differences in Assessing Students’ New Media Compositions,” Computers and Writing Conference (Stanford, CA), June 2005.

“Using Weblogs for Collaborative Research,” Social Software in the Academy Workshop, Annenberg Center, University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA), May 2005.

“Remixing Rhetoric: Rethinking Invention,” College Composition and Communication Conference (San Francisco, CA), March 2005.

“gotoAndPlay(): New Media Composing in Flash,” Computers and Writing Conference (Honolulu, HA), July 2004.

“New Media Materials: The Matter of Software,” College Composition and Communication Conference featured panel (San Antonio, TX), March 2004.

“Teaching New Media: Visual and Verbal Transcoding,” Computers and Writing Conference (West Lafayette, IN), May 2003.

“The Database Self in New Media Autobiography,” Invited Presentation, Binghamton University (Binghamton, NY), March 2003.

“Student Projects in New Media,” part of the New Media Exhibit organized by Anne Frances Wysocki, College Composition and Communication Conference (New York, NY), March 2003.

“Using Computers in Writing-Intensive Classes,” Invited Lecture to South Coast Writing Project Technology Institute (Santa Barbara, CA), August 2002.

“Innovative Web Writing Assignments: Beyond the ‘Web Paper,’” Computers and Writing Conference (Bloomington, IN), May 2002.

“Autobiographical Writing on the Web: Hypertext and Self-Representation,” Electronic Literature Organization Conference (Los Angeles, CA), April 2002.

“Technoautobiography,” Digital Arts & Culture Conference (Providence, Rhode Island), April 2001.

“At the Limits of Autobiography: Self Representations in Cyberspace,” California American Studies Association Conference (Santa Barbara, CA), April 2000.

“Digital Bodies: Autobiographical Writing on the World Wide Web,” Wyoming Conference on English (Laramie, Wyoming), June 1999.

“Representing Shame in Contemporary American Autobiography,” Netherlands American Studies Association Conference (Middelburg, Holland), June 1996.

“Voices from the Borderlands: Sandra Cisneros, Gloria Anzaldua and a ‘New’ Multiculturalism,” Fulbright-sponsored lecture at Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic), December 1995.

“Pedagogy and the Electronic Environment: E-Mail, Computer Graphics, Hypertext,” University of California Council of Writing Programs Conference (Riverside, CA), November 1994.

“Popular Culture, Pedagogy and Writing,” Popular Culture Association Conference (Chicago, IL), April 1994.

“Hypercard Technology and Underrepresented Students,” College Composition and Communication Conference (San Diego, CA), April 1993.

Awards & Grants

UCSB Distinguished Teaching Award (2021).

UCSB Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, Faculty Research Assistance Program Grant (2019, 2018, 2016, 2015, 2011), Funding to purchase software for undergraduate research assistant.

UCSB Instructional Improvement Grant (2002), Principal Investigator (with L. Kryder): “Engineering Technical Communication Curriculum Assessment and Enhancement”.

UCSB Instructional Improvement Grant (2002), Principal Investigator: “Mini-Grant Funding Partial Tuition for CIWIC Summer Institute”.

UCSB Instructional Improvement Grant (1994), Principal Investigator: “Writing for Engineers: Designing the Freshman Sequence”.

Travel & Research Grants:

UC Santa Barbara Academic Senate Research Grant; University of California Professional Development Fund; UCSB Writing Program Professional Development Grant; Fulbright Association; Anne Coffin Johnstone Memorial Fund.

Institutes & Seminars

Elon University Research Seminar on *Critical Transitions: Writing and the Question of Transfer*: Invited Participant and Member of the College to Workplace Research Cohort, (2011-2013).

BETHA Institute for New Media and Writing Studies (2004): Invited Participant, The Ohio State University.

Computers in Writing Intensive Classrooms (2002): New Media Seminar, directed by Anne Frances Wysocki, Michigan Technological University.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar (1998): “Literature in Transition: The Impact of Information Technologies,” directed by N. Katherine Hayles, University of California at Los Angeles.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar (1994): “Life-Writing, Memory and Narrative,” directed by James Olney, Louisiana State University.

Selected Service & Administration

Editor, *Inventio* section of *Kairos* (2006-2023)

Reviewer for Parlor Press, *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication*, *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication*

Reviewer, Stage 1 submission of manuscripts to Conference on College Composition and Communication (2007-2009, 2015)

University of California

Co-Chair, Smarter Balanced Study Group, 2021-2022.

Vice-Chair (2019-21) and **Chair** (2021-22) of BOARS (Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools).

BOARS Representative, UCOPE (University Committee on Preparatory Education), 2018-2023.

UC Santa Barbara

Member, Instructional Designer Search Committee, 2025

Chair, National Scholarship Selection Committee, 2023-present

Member, Professional and Continuing Education Dean Search Committee, 2024.

Member, Humanities and Fine Arts Dean Search Committee, 2021.

Faculty Representative, Student Fee Advisory Committee, 2021-2023.

Member, Faculty Advisory Committee for CITRAL (Center for Innovative Teaching, Research, and Learning), 2019-present.

Member, Certificate in College and University Teaching Faculty Advisory Board, 2016-2024

Member, Committee on Admissions, Enrollment, and Relations with Schools, 2015-2019.

- UCSB Representative to BOARS, 2017-2019.
- BOARS Representative to UCOPE (University Committee on Preparatory Education), 2018-2019.

Chair, Committee on Courses and General Education, 2013-2015.

At-Large Member, College of Creative Studies Faculty Executive Committee, 2015-2020.

Member, CCS Writing & Literature Program Committee, 2016-2018.

Member, ILTI Coordinating Committee, 2014-2018.

Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Online Course Evaluation, 2012-2013, 2018-2019.

UCSB Writing Program

Chair, Assistant Teaching Professor Search Committee, 2022-23

Chair, Member, Lecturer Search Committee, 1998-2006, 2008-09; 2010-11; 2012-15: coordinate national search for candidates for Lecturer position in the Writing Program.

Executive and Personnel Committee, 1991-present: participate in formulation of program policy and curriculum; participate in review of Writing Program personnel.

Engineering Writing Committee, 1993-2009 (**Chair**, 1993-95, 1999-2004): design and coordinate development of writing courses for students in the College of Engineering.

Teaching Assistant Supervisor, 1992-1997, 2000-2009: train and supervise Writing Program Teaching Assistants.

E d u c a t i o n

Ph.D. English, Binghamton University (1990)

M.A. English, Binghamton University (1984)

B.A. English, University of Notre Dame (1982)

M e m b e r s h i p s

National Council of Teachers of English, College Composition and Communication