

Rhetoric and Composition



Welcome, Dr. Tarez Samra Graban!



It is a pleasure to officially welcome Dr. Tarez Samra Graban! As Dr. Graban shared, "I love the people I am working with and I appreciate the energy and enthusiasm of the program." Teaching two sections of Rhetorical Theory and Practice, she has been able to teach some of the best students she's encountered. She is involved with the digital scholars reading group and finds our HoTT program to be particularly engaging!

Among her current research projects is her paper for the 2013 CCCC, which takes up student voices in an archived collection of materials written by and about Cecilia Hennel Hendricks, who was an Emeritus faculty member at Indiana University, served as the Composition program's Director, and founded the IU Writers' Conference. While Hendricks is not a figure easily identified with Rhetoric and Composition for a number of reasons, Dr. Graban will examine the ways she often took up student testimonials in her own administrative papers, and will argue for her disciplinary agency as both promising and problematic.

Dr. Graban has a special topics course in the spring: *Modern Rhetoric: Histories and Methodologies*. This course will focus on the chronological space between Vico and Burke, investigating this space of time both as a history and as the motivation for a number of historical methodologies that we inherit in rhetoric studies. The course will include readings by Vico, Ramus, Locke, Wollstonecraft, Ong, and Bain among others. The course will encourage students to think about the writing of histories of rhetoric.

We'll be seeing Dr. Graban at some of our favorite conferences, *Feminisms and Rhetorics* and *4C's*. And while you're walking the hall, give a hearty greeting to Dr. Graban. We are so glad that she is here.

Visiting Speakers!

Fall 2012: Sid Dobrin, addressing postcomposition.

Spring 2013: Danielle Devoss, addressing copyright/left and intellectual property.

Dr. Fleckenstein's Sabbatical Project



For my sabbatical, I'm working on a book project, tentatively *A Mighty Power: Nineteenth-Century Photography and the Visual Rhetoric of Racial Identity*, in which I examine a new form of visual technology--photography--within the context of the rhetorical struggle over African American and white identity. Introduced in the US in 1839, photography constituted what Frederick Douglass

called a "mighty power," one "subject to the wild scramble between contending interests and forces." So the people who controlled photography--what is deemed worthy of photographing, where that image is (or is not) circulated, and how it is circulated (in what venues, connected with what discourses)--possessed a new ability to influence people and advocate for certain actions in the scientific, social, and political debates about race. The project encompasses various photographic forms (from the daguerreotype to the carte-de-visite) and phenomena (from international expositions to the pathways of circulation), thus giving me license to explore a variety of archives and archival materials.

Student Spotlight: Joe Cirio

As a tutor in the Reading/Writing Center and the Digital Studio, first-year MA student Joe Cirio is excited about FSU. He was raised in the Philadelphia suburbs of PA and received his BA in English and BS in Psychology at Kutztown University. Within two months of graduating, Joe moved to Tallahassee; the initial culture shock hasn't completely gone away yet.

Joe wants to learn anything he can at this point: visual, community, multi-ethnic, digital rhetoric/composition--anything,

really. While Joe's interests reach pretty widely at this point, he is currently interested in children's picture books and how meaning is made through visual sequences in the use of visuals to create identities in public spaces, particularly social media; and all things FYC.

Outside academics, Joe religiously competes in trivia at Poor Paul's, where he contributes moral support for his team. Joe has enjoyed his time at FSU so far and is excited for the wonderful things to come--especially teaching in the spring.



Student Spotlight: Aimee Jones



I am a first-year PhD student in Rhetoric and Composition and a Teaching Assistant in the First Year Composition program. I did my Master's in English Literature, but after teaching composition classes and seeing the need for improvement in student writing, I decided I was more passionate about composition than literature. After my Master's, I spent a

few years traveling and teaching abroad. I traveled throughout Central America and got the opportunity to volunteer on a working farm in Guatemala. I also traveled throughout Southeast Asia and spent a year teaching English in Japan. I really enjoy working alongside and communicating with people from various cultures. It's really interesting to see how differently people think and live.

I am so happy to have the opportunity to work as a TA during my grad school career. The time I have spent tutoring in the Reading Writing Center and the Digital Studio have been very fulfilling. It's a great feeling to help students work through their writing issues and see them progress. Also, the Digital Studio has been a great learning experience for me. Every time I help a student with a project, I learn something new myself. I never thought computer programs could be so much fun!

As for research, I am interested in working with multi-lingual writers and researching ways to confront problems that arise when students must communicate in a language that is not their primary one. Many times their voices are silenced because their work is deemed illegible. I would like to examine the experiences these students go through and develop pedagogy that will help them find their voice in a second language.

When I'm not in school, I enjoy cycling down the St. Mark's Trail here in Tallahassee, swimming, and working out at the Leach Center. I also like telling my cat stories and taking him for walks on his leash.