Visiting Speaker Series

JAMES PORTER

Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 2:30 in the Common Room (WMS 013)

James Porter is a Professor at Miami University, with a joint appointment in English and the Armstrong Institute for Interactive Media Studies. He is also Director of the American Culture & English program at Miami. Professor Porter has published five books: Audience and Rhetoric (1992), Opening Spaces: Writing Technologies and Critical Research Practices with Patricia Sullivan (1997), Rhetorical Ethics and Internetworked Writing (1998), Professional Writing Online with Patricia Sullivan and Johndan Johnson-Eilola (3rd ed, 2008), and The Ethics of Internet Research with Heidi McKee (2009). His 2009 article on "Recovering Delivery for Digital Rhetoric" won the Ellen Nold Award for best article in Computers & Composition.

Reframing Rhetorical Delivery (Again): Access, Circulation, Economics

In the era of social media and global, internetworked communication, writing has changed dramatically—research in rhetoric/composition has certainly acknowledged this for quite some time. But have our dominant frames for conceptualizing writing and rhetoric caught up with changing media venues and modes of writing production? Or: Are we still Aristotelian in an era that calls for us to be Sophistic? Still mostly text and print-b(i)ased in a realm that calls for multimodality and performance? Still mostly focused on arrangement and style when digital writing demands renewed attention to invention, audience, and, especially, delivery? This presentation will focus on the need for rhetoric and writing to shift from its historical focus on text and situation to a frame based more on delivery and system—and, consonant with this, to attend more fully to the topoi of access, circulation, and economics.