



Welcoming Domínguez Barajas: FSU's New CCP Director

Dr. Domínguez Barajas did not always aspire to be a writing program administrator (WPA). For him, as for many other WPAs, this work “came as an added responsibility once we entered the field and realized that this was increasingly common, for people in [Rhetoric and Composition] to be asked to manage writing programs.”

When Domínguez Barajas accepted the position as Director of the College Composition Program (CCP) at FSU, he cited many appealing factors in taking the job: “Coming into a program like this one, with seven faculty members in the area and having those areas complement each other—everything from feminist rhetorics to contemporary multicultural rhetorics to discourse studies to linguistics and of course the traditional areas of classical rhetoric to contemporary and composition studies, literacy studies, convergence studies, the digital focus hallmark of the program—I think all of that speaks to just how diverse, creative the field is.” Just as appealing was the program’s positive reputation, especially seeing the professional success of the Rhetoric and Composition graduates. Although he wasn’t aware of this until he started to apply for the position, FSU is on the verge of becoming a Hispanic-serving institution (HSI) “in conjunction with its meteoric rise in university rankings,” which appeals to Dr. Domínguez Barajas as a Latino scholar, especially in a discipline in which Latinx scholars are not highly represented. “I think that it’s phenomenal that a top 20 public institution of higher learning is also on the verge of becoming an HSI.”

As he adjusts to the various demands of the CCP here at FSU, Domínguez Barajas feels grateful for his seven years of WPA experience. “It has been challenging, but at the same time I now feel that I have a handle on it and with people getting to know me a little bit and with me getting to know the particular context I am in, I don’t feel overwhelmed.” Some of the changes he hopes to bring to the CCP include a summer training with a balance of practical and theoretical content,



piloting a new curriculum for ENC1101 in the spring, and more regular instructional resources for continuing TAs and CCP instructors.

Domínguez Barajas sees his background in sociolinguistics playing an important role in the way he teaches Research Methods, Composition Theory, and electives for the program. “[M]y research is very much interested in ethnolinguistics by virtue of focusing on verbal art. So, it’s not just literacy studies, it’s not just rhetoric, or general theories of communication and discourse, but in particular how verbal art has functions within

particular communities.” He hopes that, as he teaches more courses and graduate students get to know him and his work more, those interested in ethno/sociolinguistic discourse-based approaches to studying verbal art will see him fill that niche in the program.

Yancey Wins NCTE's James R. Squire Award

At the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention held this November, Dr. Kathleen Blake Yancey received the James R. Squire special award, one of the most prestigious awards in the field given to someone who has had a “transforming influence and has made a lasting intellectual contribution to the profession.”

Yancey has served as the president of NCTE, the Conference on College Composition and Communication, the Council of Writing Program Administrators, and the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. She co-founded the journal *Writing Assessment* and was the editor of the field’s flagship journal, *College Composition and Communication*. Yancey has authored or edited sixteen scholarly books, two textbooks, and over 100 articles and book chapters. Certainly, Yancey has contributed greatly to the field, and from all of us in the program, we want to congratulate her on this well-deserved award!

Dr. Morris Young Visits FSU's Rhetoric and Composition Program



Dr. Morris Young, in his talk entitled “The Rhetorical Legacies of Chinese Exclusion: Appeals, Protests, and Becoming Chinese American,” explained that when the US began to restrict Chinese immigration in the late 19th century (1882-1900), it was the first time the country restricted immigration based on race, national origin, and social class and “set the foundation for the racialization of US immigration policy,” which he argues continues today.

Young analyzed rhetorical activity of US citizen Wong Chin Foo in *Appeal of the Chinese Equal Rights League to the People of the United States for Equality of Manhood* to both denounce discrimination against the Chinese and to “create a dialogue” about Chinese culture’s relations to the US. Driven by an exigency of exclusion and working for rhetorical inclusion, Wong’s work enacted a “rhetoric of becoming” for Asian Americans as theorized by Young and LuMing Mao. Once the US recognized Wong, it forced them to start thinking about “the Chinese body as part of the US national body.” This imagining is central to the idea of a rhetoric of becoming which leads to the formation of an Asian American identity. However, the formation of this identity, while apparently challenging dominant power structures—specifically White Supremacy—still reinforced those dominant ideologies. The legacies of the exigency of Chinese exclusion then, Dr. Young soberingly concluded, can still be seen in the US legislative and judicial systems today, as walls are still invoked, people remain detained, and becoming still comes at the cost of reinforcing power systems and privilege.

In addition to this timely and engaging talk, Young also facilitated an interactive conversation on the evolution and current state of literacy studies in the field during his visit.

Student Spotlights



“The thing that stood out to me about FSU’s program was the community-oriented nature of the program,” says **Amanda Ayers**, a new R/C master’s student. Ayers learned about the program through Dr. Molly Daniel, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Composition at the University of North Georgia and FSU R/C program alum. Ayers recently attended the

Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference, presenting “Responding to #Movements and Evangelical Christianity,” which analyzes digital discourse around the #churchtoo and #thingschristianwomenhear movements. The presentation was based off work she began in Daniel’s class and “was the first project that I did where I realized that I could have a home in Rhet-Comp,” Amanda recalls. “Before, I struggled with feeling like all of my interests were really disjointed...it all kind of clicked with that project.” I think we can all agree that we are glad that Amanda Ayers has found a home both in the field and in the program.



What “sealed the deal” for new PhD student **Ashleah Wimberly** in deciding to come to FSU-- in addition to her deep interest in working with the faculty here --was meeting so many people from the program at CCCC in Pittsburgh last March. “They were all so friendly: they answered any questions that I had, and were really helpful; and then I went to

the [FSU CCCC’s] party and saw how close everyone was and how they were really willing to help each other and I thought, “This is the kind of program that I want to be in. I want to be in a program that’s full of people who are there to help me.” Right now, Wimberly is most looking forward to, as she puts it, “just being a student” and being able to focus on her studies after playing so many roles in her former institution. For our part, we welcome Ashleah and hope to ensure that this remains a deeply supportive and engaging academic community.