

Jean Bessette
Curriculum Vitae

Specialties: Feminist rhetorics, historiographies, and pedagogies; Queer theory and rhetorics; Digital rhetorics and multimodal composition; Composition pedagogy

Academic Appointments

Associate Professor of English 2019-present
University of Vermont

Visiting Scholar, the Stevanovich Institute for the Formation of Knowledge 2019-2020
University of Chicago

Assistant Professor of English 2013-2019
University of Vermont

Education

Ph.D, English 2013
University of Pittsburgh

Dissertation (*Winner of 2014 Rhetoric Society of America “Outstanding Dissertation Award”):
“Composing Historical Activism: Anecdotes, Archives, and Multimodality in Rhetorics of Lesbian History”

Committee: Jessica Enoch, Annette Vee, David Bartholomae, Jean Ferguson Carr, and Lester C. Olson

Certificates: Composition Studies; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Comprehensive Exams: Passed with Distinction, 2010

B.A., English, with Departmental Honors 2006
Seattle University
Summa Cum Laude

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Monograph:

Bessette, Jean. *Retroactivism in the Lesbian Archives: Composing Pasts and Futures*. Southern Illinois University Press, Studies in Rhetorics and Feminisms. 2018.

*Winner of the 2018 Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition
“Winifred B. Horner Outstanding Book Award”

Articles and Chapters:

Bessette, Jean. “Rightness in Retrospect: Stonewall, the Archive, and the Sacred Call of *Kairos*.” *Responding to the Sacred*. Eds. Michael Bernard-Donal and Kyle Jensen. Penn State University Press, forthcoming 2020.

- Bessette, Jean. "Closets and Classification: The Archive as an Epistemic Resource for Identity." *Retellings: Opportunities for Feminist Research in Rhetoric and Composition Studies*. Eds. Jessica Enoch and Jordynn Jack. Parlor Press. 2019.
- Bessette, Jean. "Love in a Hall of Mirrors': Queer Historiography and the Unsettling In-Between." *Re/Orienting Writing Studies: Queer Methods, Queer Projects*. Eds. William P. Banks, Matthew B. Cox, and Caroline Dadas. Utah State University Press. 2019.
- Bessette, Jean. "Queer Rhetoric in Situ." *Rhetoric Review* 35.2. (March 2016).
* Winner of 2017 Conference on College Composition and Communication "Lavender Rhetorics Award for Excellence in Queer Scholarship"
- Bessette, Jean. "Audio, Archives, and the Affordance of Listening in a Pedagogy of 'Difference'." *Computers and Composition* 39. (December 2015).
- Bessette, Jean. "Past-Writing: Negotiating the Complexity of Memory and Experience." *Critical Expressivism: Theory and Practice in the Composition Classroom*. Eds. Tara Roeder and Roseanne Gatto. Parlor Press, 2015.
- Enoch, Jessica and Jean Bessette. "Meaningful Engagements: Feminist Historiography and the Digital Humanities." *College Composition and Communication* 64.4. (June 2013).
- Bessette, Jean "An Archive of Anecdotes: Raising Lesbian Consciousness after the Daughters of Bilitis." *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 43.1. (January 2013).
- Bessette, Jean. Associate Editor. *The Best of Rhetoric and Composition 2011: Essays from the Independent Journals*. Anderson, SC: Parlor Press, 2011.

Other Publications

- Bessette, Jean "Book Review—Teaching Queer: Radical Possibilities for Writing and Knowing." *Literacy in Composition Studies* 6.1. March 2018.
- Enoch, Jessica, Jean Bessette, and Pamela Vanhaisma. "Feminist Invitations to Digital Historiography." The Digital Rhetoric Collaborative. March 28, 2014.

Awards

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| University of Vermont Women's Center <i>Outstanding Woman Faculty Member</i> | 2019 |
| Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition <i>Winifred B. Horner Outstanding Book Award</i> | 2018 |
| University of Vermont Graduate Student Senate <i>Excellence in Teaching Award</i> | 2018 |
| Conference on College Composition and Communication <i>Lavender Rhetorics Award for Excellence in Queer Scholarship—Article</i> | 2017 |

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| Rhetoric Society of America <i>Outstanding Dissertation Award</i> | 2014 |
| University of Pittsburgh Women's and Gender Studies <i>Tamara Horowitz Graduate Writing Award</i> | 2013 |
| University of Pittsburgh English <i>Graduate Writing Award in Literacy, Pedagogy, and Rhetoric</i> | 2012 |

Professional Presentations

Invited Talks

“Post-human Desire.” Stevanovich Institute for the Formation of Knowledge. University of Chicago. Chicago, IL. March 2020.

Plenary. New England Archivist Association. Burlington, VT. April 2019

“Queer Time in the Archives.” English Department and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Program. Pennsylvania State University. State College, PA. February 2019.

“Retroactivism in the Lesbian Archives.” Global Feminisms Series. University of Bristol. Bristol, UK. June 2018.

Peer-Reviewed Presentations

“Desiring Bodies: or, Affect in Flux.” Rhetoric Society of America Conference. Portland, OR. Scheduled for May 2020.

“Queering the ‘Begging Letter’: Maimie Pinzer's Resistant Appeals for Charity in Epistolary Autobiography.” National Communication Association. Baltimore, MD. November 2019.

“Theorizing the ‘Archive Story’ in Rhetoric.” Rhetoric Society of America Conference. Minneapolis, MN. May 2018.

Queer Archival Immersion Seminar. Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute. Bloomington, IN. May 2017.

“Statistically Queer: Rhetorical Failure in Early 20th Century Studies of Sexuality.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Portland, OR. March, 2017.

“The Archive as Rhetoric.” *Supersession*. Rhetoric Society of America Conference. Atlanta, GA. May, 2016.

“Audio Archives and the Affordance of Engagement.” Digital Humanities Colloquium. UVM. Burlington, VT. October 2015.

“Performing Camp Historiography.” Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference. Tempe, AZ. October, 2015.

- “When the Archive Is Rhetoric, How Do We Read It?” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Tampa, FL. March, 2015.
- “Rumors and Remains in Queer Filmic Rhetorics.” Cultural Rhetorics Conference. Lansing, MI. November 2014.
- “‘Straight’ Feminism Vs. the Lavender Herring: Exploring Rhetorical Constructions of Heteronormativity.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Indianapolis, IN. March 2014.
- “Digital/Critical Imagination: Rhetoric and Remediation in Lesbian History.” Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference. Stanford, CA. September 2013.
- “Teaching Taboo Archives: Unsettling Cultural History as Public Work.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Las Vegas, NV. March 2013.
- “Re/Framing Lesbian Identity through Rhetorics of Collective Memory.” Rhetoric Society of America. Philadelphia, PA. May 2012.
- “Composing the Daughters of Bilitis: The Rhetorical Collectivization of Lesbian Memory and Identity.” Graduate Writing Award Ceremony. Invited Presentation. Pittsburgh, PA. March 2012.
- “Mediating the Queer Archive: Technological Gateways between Archive and Public.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. St. Louis, MO. March 2012.
- “(Re)making History: The Role of Literacy in Collective Memory and Identity.” Research Network Forum, Conference on College Composition and Communication. Atlanta, GA. April 2011.
- “Composition Historiography and Disciplinarity in the Managed University.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Louisville, KY. March 2010.
- “Feminist Historiography, Methodology, and Memory: Interpreting Margaret Fuller’s Feminisms.” Feminisms and Rhetorics. East Lansing, MI. Oct. 2009.
- “On the Methodology of Memory.” Rhetoric Society of America Institute. State College, PA. July 2009.
- “Between Influence and Agency: Pitt Composition and the First Year TA.” College English Association. Pittsburgh, PA. March 2009.

Fellowships, Grants, and Professional Development

- Foundational Writing and Information Literacy Critical Reading Fellow, UVM, 2017-2018.
- Writing in the Disciplines Institute, UVM, 2014.
- Curriculum Development Mini-Grant, UVM Dept. of English, 2014.
- Andrew W. Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, 2011-12.
- Women’s Studies Research Travel Grant, 2011.
- English Department Research Travel Grant, 2011.

- Graduate and Professional Student Association Travel Grant, 2009-2010.
- Arts and Sciences Conference Travel Grant, 2009.
- Arts and Sciences Summer Fellowship, 2009.
- Arts and Sciences Fellowship, 2007-2008.

Teaching Experience

University of Vermont

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| ENGS 201: | Feminist Memory (Senior Seminar) |
| ENGS 107: | Writing for the Digital Age (2 sections) |
| GSWS 200: | Senior Seminar in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies |
| ENGS 360: | Rhetoric and the Digital Humanities (Graduate Seminar) |
| ENGS 345: | Theories and Practice in Composition Pedagogy (Graduate Seminar, 3 sections) |
| ENGS 281: | Feminist History and Memory (Senior Seminar) |
| ENGS 212: | Digital Rhetorics (Senior Seminar) |
| ENGS 189: | Contemporary Women Writers Across Media |
| ENGS 107: | Digital Rhetorics |
| ENGS 107: | Feminist Critical / Rhetorical Theory |
| ENGS 50: | Expository Writing (4 sections) |
| ENGS 1: | Written Expression (2 sections) |

University of Pittsburgh

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| ENGCMP 420: | Writing for the Public |
| ENGCMP 400: | Written Professional Communication |
| ENGCMP 203: | Seminar in Composition: Gender Studies |
| ENGCMP 200: | Seminar in Composition |

Graduate and Undergraduate Supervision

Graduate:

Andrew Ridgeway. Thesis Advisor. Graduated May 2019
 Warren Griffiths. Comprehensive Exam Reader. Graduated May 2019
 Andrew Ridgeway. Independent Study on "Digital Rhetoric and Political Activism." Spring 2018
 Kim Dean. Thesis Reader. Graduated May 2018
 Mary Cook. Comprehensive Exam Reader. Graduated May 2018
 Mary Cook. Independent Study on "Feminist History and Memory." Spring 2017
 Robert Bitsko. Comprehensive Exam Reader. Graduated May 2015
 Jeanne Nauheimer. Comprehensive Exam Reader. Graduated December 2015
 Alexander Malanych. Thesis Reader. Graduated May 2014

Undergraduate:

Laurie Peluso. Internship Faculty Supervisor. Spring 2019.
 Brittany Manning. Internship Faculty Supervisor. Spring 2018.
 Dana Buckhorn (CDAE). Thesis Reader. Graduated May 2017.
 Emy Takinami. Thesis Reader. Graduated May 2016
 Hannah Cole. Honors Enrichment. Fall 2016.
 Sydney Camisa. Thesis Chair. Graduated May 2015.

Academic Service

External:

Editorial

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| Managing Editorial Board member of <i>QED: A Journal in Queer Worldmaking</i> | 2018-present |
| Member of Editorial Board for <i>Enculturation: A Journal of Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture</i> | 2014-present |
| Manuscript reviewer for <i>Rhetoric Review</i> , <i>Enculturation</i> , <i>Rhetoric Society Quarterly</i> , <i>QED: A Journal of Queer World-Making</i> , <i>TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly</i> , and <i>Peitho</i> | 2013-present |

Conferences

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| CCCC Stonewall Service Award Selection Committee member | 2018-2019 |
| Reviewer of proposals for Rhetoric Society of America 2018 Conference | 2017 |

University and College:

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| Foundational Writing and Information Literacy (FWIL) Committee | 2017-2019 |
| Race, Gender, and Sexuality Conference Committee | 2017-2019 |
| Ad-hoc Journalism Committee | 2016-2018 |
| English Representative, University of Vermont Faculty Senate | 2016-2017 |
| Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Steering Committee | 2014-2016 |

Department:

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| Chair of Composition Committee | 2016-2017, 2018-2019 |
| Executive Committee: Junior Faculty Representative | 2013-2014, 2016-2019 |
| Executive Committee: Chair of Composition Representative | 2016-2019 |
| Composition Committee | 2013-2014, 2017-2018 |
| Personnel Committee | 2017-2018 |
| Resources Committee | 2015-2016 |
| Curriculum Committee | 2014-2015 |

Writing Program Administration

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| Supervisor of Graduate Teaching Assistants, University of Vermont | 2016-2019 |
| Assistant to Director of Composition, University of Pittsburgh | 2012-2013 |
| College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Mentor, University of Pittsburgh | 2010-2011 |

