

Britt Starr, PhD

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

PhD in English, University of Maryland, May 2023

- ❖ Graduate Certificate in Digital Studies
- ❖ Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies
- ❖ Dissertation: "Wise Angers: Gen-Z Activists and Their Digital Rhetorics of Feminist Rage"

MA in English and American Literature, Mills College, 2016

- ❖ Thesis: "On to R, once more. R—': Quantum Realism in Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*"

BA with honors in Comparative Literature and Arts, Washington University in St. Louis, 2009

- ❖ Minor in French Language and Literature
- ❖ Minor in Anthropology
- ❖ Minor in Modern Dance

Dissertation Abstract

"Wise Angers: Gen-Z Activists and Their Digital Rhetorics of Feminist Rage" works at the nexus of feminist theory, digital media studies, and rhetoric to investigate how teen and young adult activists use 21st century social media technologies to challenge the sexist, racist, ageist, and ableist anger norms that disenfranchise young women in the public sphere. Each chapter theorizes what I call a "wise anger" strategy that its principal subject deploys to generate rhetorical agency for angry girl activists and change oppressive anger norms. The activists I examine are Greta Thunberg, Thandiwe Abdullah, and Shina Novalinga. While their causes range from the climate crisis to racial justice and Indigenous rights, and their primary platforms are Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok, respectively, they all make innovative, strategic use of digital affordances to reframe young women's anger in public discourse. Examining IRB-approved datasets I compiled from the activists' social media posts between 2018-2022, I use grounded theory to identify patterns in the posts and then read the patterns through Black feminist theories of racialized anger norms (Lorde, hooks, Cooper, Judd, Collins) and youth activist rhetorical frameworks (Applegarth, Hesford, Dingo). Ultimately, I develop a theory of what I call their "digital rhetorics of feminist rage" to help scholars understand this paradigmatic shift in the positive rhetoric of female anger, spearheaded by young women activists from Generation Z.

Publications

Peer-reviewed Articles in Refereed Journals

"Wise (Teen) Anger: Greta Thunberg Uses 'Bio Warfare' to Reshape Oppressive Anger Norms,"
Rhetoric Review, June 2023.

"Disturbing White Perfectionism in the Graduate Student Habitus," *Peitho: Journal of the Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric & Composition*, Spring 2021.

Chapters in Academic Books

With Kirschenbaum, Matthew, Kari Kraus, and Mallory Haselberger. "Meet the (Book) Beetle: Teaching with Tabletop Letterpress." *Teaching the History of the Book*. University of Massachusetts Press, forthcoming.

With Davis, Melvette Melvin and Katherine Joshi. "When an Essay Just Won't Do." University of

Maryland Academic Writing Program. *Fearless Writing: Rhetoric, Inquiry, Argument* [EBOOK]. 2nd ed. Bedford, 2020.

With Joshi, Katherine and Marina Seamans. "John Oliver Does Inquiry." University of Maryland Academic Writing Program. *Fearless Writing: Rhetoric, Inquiry, Argument* [EBOOK]. 2nd ed. Bedford, 2020.

Non-traditional Published Digital Scholarship

"Willa Muir," *Modernist Archives Publishing Project*, 2018, modernistarchives.com/person/willa-muir.

"Edwin Muir," *Modernist Archives Publishing Project*, 2018, modernistarchives.com/person/edwin-muir.

Published Popular Writing

"Breaking Up with Our Toxic Present in 9 Books," *The Rational Online*, 2018.

"Puisque l'Histoire Était Si Personnelle" and the English translation, "Since the Story Was So Personal, Book Review and Interview with Brigitte Findakly," *The Rational Online*. 2018.

Conference Presentations

"Futures of Girlhood Studies," National Women's Studies Association Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, October 2023.

"Border Crossings" Thirty Years Later: Feminist Rhetorical Reconsiderations and Revisions," Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, September 2023.

"Reeducating Instagram Publics with Eloquent Rage," Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, May 2022.

"Modeling Eloquent Rage on Instagram: How One Teen Activist Uses Instagram Stories to Change Anger Norms," Computers and Writing Conference, Greenville, North Carolina, May 2022.

"Stakeholders Considered: Addressing Inequity & Supporting Student Learning through Labor-Based Grading Practices," Conference on College Composition and Communication, Virtual, March 2022.

"Closing the Gap of Scholarly Distance: Transformative Reflections on Researcher Positionality when Studying Women of Color Rhetors," National Communication Association Convention, Seattle, November 2021.

"Micro/bio Warfare as a Youth Feminist Rage Rhetoric,"* National Women's Studies Association, Virtual, September 2021.

*Selected as the Sponsored Panel of the Graduate Student Caucus

"What Constitutes Constructive Feminist Rage in Public?" Chelóna RSA Summer Seminar at UMD, Summer 2021.

"Decolonizing 'The Human' and Transforming our own Scholarly Dispositions toward Marginalized Bodies in Protest" at Rhetoric Society of America, May 2020 (proposal accepted, conference canceled due to Coronavirus).

"Affective Disruption on Twitter: Affirming Leen Dweik's Anger," Computers and Writing Conference, May 2020 (proposal accepted, conference canceled due to Coronavirus).

"Shifting Commonplace Understandings of Women's Anger in the Trump-Kavanaugh Moment,"

Conference on College Composition and Communication, March 2020 (proposal accepted, canceled due to Coronavirus).

“The Letterpress as Campus Makerspace” Roundtable, Modern Language Association Convention, Seattle, January 2020.

“Radical Redesign, Part II: Revising the University of Maryland’s FYW Curriculum towards Social Justice and Civic Engagement,” Council of Writing Program Administrators Conference, Baltimore, July 2019.

“Towards Antiracist Transformation from within White Supremacy Culture,” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Pittsburgh, March 2019.

“A single image is not splendor”: The Anti-Phallogocentric, Anti-Capitalist Ecriture Feminine of Gertrude Stein’s Tender Buttons,” PAMLA, Honolulu, November 2017.

“On to R, once more. R—’: Quantum Realism in Virginia Woolf’s To the Lighthouse,” 26th Annual International Conference on Virginia Woolf, Leeds, June 2016.

“Wave-Particle Duality of the Kitchen Table: Subatomic Realism in Virginia Woolf’s To the Lighthouse” at 25th Annual International Conference on Virginia Woolf, Bloomsburg, June 2015.

Invited Talks and Teaching Engagements

“It feels like a hummingbird in my hands’: An Intro to Zines and Zine-making,” invited talk for Dr. Cameron Mozafari’s course, ENGL290: Introduction to Digital Studies, University of Maryland, May 2022.

“Mindful Reading for Civic Good,” invited talk for UMD’s Academic Writing Program, August 2021. Viewable [here](#) with passcode: k08R.=%D

“A Room of One’s Own,” invited seminar lead for UMD undergraduate course, “Women’s Writing,” October 2021.

“Resisting Post-Truth Culture Through Pedagogical Interventions,” moderator for a professional development lecture by Dr. Ellen Carillo for UMD’s Academic Writing Program, March 2021.

“BookLab: A Critical Makerspace at UMD,” invited talk for Professor Andrew Ferguson’s course, “Engaging Aesthetics: Brokenness, Malfunction, Maintenance, and Repair,” November 2020.

“New Instructor Orientation,” developed and delivered for UMD’s Academic Writing Program, August 2020 and January 2021.

“Teaching the Inquiry Presentation Online,” developed and delivered for UMD’s Academic Writing Program, August 2020.

“*Wadjda*: Viewing through Frames, Frameworks, and Feminism” invited lecture for FILM280, “Film Art in a Global Society,” Spring 2019.

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

ARHU Summer Fellowship (\$1,250), 2022

Writing Programs Award for Social Justice and Antiracist Teaching (\$400), 2022

Wylie Dissertation Fellowship Award (\$15,000), 2021

Do Good Institute Grant: “Mindful Reading for the Civic Good” curriculum (\$1000), 2021

Special Departmental Fellowship (\$5,000), 2021
 James A. Robinson Teaching Award (\$150), English Department, 2021
 Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship (\$4,000), 2020
 Donna B. Hamilton Teaching Award (nominated by student), 2020
 Goldhaber Travel Award, College of Arts and Humanities (\$400), 2019
 Graduate Student Development Award (\$300), Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, 2019
 Elevate Fellowship for ENGL101 Course Redesign (\$650), 2019
 UMD Dean's Fellowship (\$12,500), 2017-2022
 UMD English Departmental Fellowship (\$2,000), 2017-2022
 ARHU Travel Award (\$350), 2019
 Mills College English Alumnae Scholarship (\$2,000), 2014-2016

Courses

Instructor, ENGL293: Writing in a Wireless World (UMD, Fall 2020, Spring 2022)

- My themed title: "Designing Democracy in the Age of the Social Web"
- An introduction to using digital and rhetorical methods and methodologies to interrogate digital communication technologies and their social consequences

Teaching Assistant, JOUR181: Grammar for Journalists (UMD, Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

- A grammar-intensive course required for journalism majors

Instructor, ENGL245: Film Form and Culture (UMD, Winter 2021)

- My themed title: "Whose Gaze?: An Intersectional Approach to Film Form and Culture"
- An introduction to fundamental principles of film form, film narrative, and film criticism with an emphasis on intersectional feminist analysis

Instructor, ENGL290: Introduction to Digital Studies (UMD, Spring 2020)

- My themed title: "Dirty Computer: World-Making in a Digital Age"
- An introduction to digital studies topics and methods, themed around intersections of racial, gender, and environmental justice

Instructor, ENGL101: Academic Writing (UMD, Fall 2018, Fall 2019)

- A writing-intensive course that equips students with rhetorical methods and skills to participate effectively in academic and civic life

Guest Lecturer and Teaching Asst., FILM280: Film Art in a Global Society (UMD, Spring 2019)

- An introduction to the critical analysis of global cinema

Teaching Assistant, Rhetoric and Composition for the College Writer (Mills College, Spring 2016)

- A first-year writing course teaching textual analysis and argumentation

Teaching Assistant, Senior Thesis in English (Mills College, Fall 2015)

- A fourth-year writing course for English majors teaching literary analysis

Administrative Work Experience

Academic Writing Program, University of Maryland

Assistant Director, 2020-2021

- Oversaw FYW program with 60+ instructors and 120+ sections of English 101 each semester
- Transitioned instructors to online teaching during pandemic
- Developed programming related to social justice and academic writing
- Designed curricula for new instructors, with an emphasis on antiracism and social justice
- Mentored new instructors, including conducting teaching observations and grade-norming

BookLab, University of Maryland

(BookLab is the English department's critical makerspace, studio, library and community letterpress.)

Founding Graduate Assistant, 2018-2020

- Helped launch and build the innovative program in collaboration with our small team
- Developed, led, and supported workshops, class visits, and other programming related to book history, book-making and related book arts
- Founded and managed ZineClub, a monthly zine-making gathering open to the public
- Assisted students and community members in their use of the space, including three presses

Center for Teaching and Scholarship, Mills College

Founding Program Coordinator, 2016-2017

- Developed resources for faculty on topics including metacognition, student-centered classrooms, faculty scholarship support, and WAC curriculum
- Developed and maintained the Blackboard® site for the Center
- Worked closely with the Founding Director to assess faculty needs and develop programming

Multilingual Services, Mills College Center for Academic Excellence

Program Coordinator, 2015-2016; Tutor, 2014-2016

- Designed and taught academic skills class series
- Hired, trained, and supervised four graduate student tutors
- Expanded tutoring and workshop programming to support multilingual students at Mills

Service to the Department

Graduate Student Representative, Departmental Writing Committee, 2021

Member, ENGL101 Online Transition Committee, 2020

Member, ENGL101 Textbook Writing Committee, 2020

Instructor, ENGL101 Redesign Pilot Committee, 2019

Member, ENGL101 "Civic Engagement" Redesign Committee, 2019

Volunteer, English PhD Recruitment Committee, 2019

Treasurer, Graduate English Organization, 2018-2019

Organizer, Graduate English Organization Conference, 2017-2018

Service to the University

Founder, Intersectionality+Digital Studies+Rhetoric Writing Group (multi-institutional), 2022

Founder, Women's Studies Writing Group, Summer and Fall 2021

Founder, ZineClub, Fall 2019-Spring 2021

Co-founder, #KeepCaring UMD, Pandemic response working group, Spring 2020

Elected Senator, University of Maryland Senate, 2019-2020

Service to the Profession

Graduate Representative, FemRhet Conference Antiracism and Accessibility Committee, 2022

Professional Memberships

Design Justice Network

Association of Internet Researchers

Peitho Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the
History of Rhetoric and Composition

National Communication Association

National Women's Studies Association

Conference on College Composition &
Communication

Rhetorical Society of America

National Council of Teachers of English

Modern Language Association

Languages

French: advanced reading, writing, speaking proficiency

Mandarin: beginner-intermediate reading, writing, speaking proficiency

Wolof: beginner reading, writing, speaking proficiency