

Meta Henty

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in English

Areas of Specialty: Rhetoric, Gender Studies, American Literature
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
2013- Projected May 2019

Graduate Certificate: Women and Gender Studies

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
2013- Projected May 2019

Master of Arts: English

Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX
Thesis: "Screaming Across the Pond: A Pairing of Selected Works by Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Virginia Woolf"
2010-2013

Secondary Education Certificate: English Language Arts/ ESL Certification

Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX
2009-2009

Bachelor of Arts: English

Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX
2005-2009, Magna Cum Laude

Dissertation: *Rhetor-Moms Redefine #TeenMom: How Teen Mothers Challenge Dominant Discourses of Shame*

Committee: Drs. Charlotte Hogg, Sarah Ruffing Robbins, Stacie McCormick, Letizia Guglielmo

Rhetor-Moms Redefine #TeenMom explores the role of shame within the discourse surrounding teen pregnancy, especially within popular culture in the early twenty-first century, and the way in which teen mothers have pushed back against this shame, claiming rhetorical agency over their lives and stories. Drawing upon rhetorical, cultural, and feminist theory, I analyze the ways in which two groups of teen mothers, the stars of *Teen Mom* and the co-founders of #NoTeenShame, disrupt the dominant discourse of shame. I outline what I have termed the "watershed moment" for teen pregnancy representations in pop culture, which I argue sets the stage for the resistant rhetorical acts of teen mothers by keeping the topic of teen pregnancy in the public eye and providing the women with a platform. One of the groups that emerge from this watershed moment is the cast of *Teen Mom*, and I argue that these women have leveraged their roles on the show to claim agency over their own lives, and to some extent, the narrative surrounding teen pregnancy. Additionally, I argue that *Teen Mom* is one catalyst for the founding of the online movement against shaming teen mothers, #NoTeenShame. I analyze #NoTeenShame in order to argue that the co-founders of the movement employ technology and rhetoric in order to directly counter the dominant discourse of shame surrounding teen pregnancy and to re-write that discourse. I argue that these young mothers and their rhetorical moves can be viewed as a model for the ways in which marginalized communities can wield the very discourses that oppresses them to counter those oppressive discourses and claim agency.

RESEARCH

Publications

- “Review: Lepore, Jill. *The Secret History of Wonder Woman*,” *Authorship*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2015, <http://dx.doi.org/10.21825/aj.v4i1.1109>.
- “Life with Jeremy.” *HUMID*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2009, pp. 87-93.
- “Modernist Fragmentation and Alienation through Expressionism.” *Theocrit: An Online Journal of Undergraduate Literary Theory and Criticism*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2009, pp. 25-38.

Pending Publications

- “From *Teen Mom* to #NoTeenShame: Representations of Teen Motherhood,” *From Knocked Up to Parenthood: Interrogating Motherhood and Maternity in Contemporary Media*, edited by Aviva Dove-Viebahn and April Miller.

Selected Conference Presentations

- “Suffering Sappho! The Rhetoric behind the Making of Wonder Woman,” Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference 2015.
- “Rhetor-Moms Rewrite Teen Mom,” Southeastern Women’s Studies Association Conference 2017.

Keynote Address

- “#TeenMoms Disrupt Dominant Discourses: An Interactive Discussion and Workshop,” Texas Christian University Women and Gender Studies Graduate Symposium 2016.

COURSES TAUGHT

Composition

- English 10803 Introduction to Composition: Writing as Inquiry, Texas Christian University (TCU)
- English 20803 Intermediate Composition: Writing as Argument, TCU
- English 20803 Intermediate Composition: Writing as Argument: Gender and Pop Culture, TCU
- English 131 Rhetoric and Composition, Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA)
- English 132 Research and Argument, SFA

Literature

- English 10133 Introduction to Literature, TCU
- English 20623 Introduction to Women’s Writing, TCU
- English 200 Introduction to Literature, SFA
- English 229 American Literature to 1865, SFA

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

Visiting Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing

Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX
2017-present

Graduate Instructor

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
2013-2017

English Teacher – 8th grade

McMichael Middle School, Nacogdoches, TX
2011-2012

English Teacher – 9th and 11th grade

Lufkin High School, Lufkin, TX
2009-2011

Writing Tutor

Academic Assistance and Resource Center, Stephen F. Austin State University
2007-2009

AWARDS AND HONORS

Women and Gender Studies Graduate Student Research Award, 2016
Graduate Instructor of the Year, 2015-2016
Triota National Honor Society member
Academic Excellence Scholarship
University Scholars Scholarship
Texas Pioneer Scholarship
Clifford Haehl Osborne English Award

UNIVERSITY SERVICE**Leadership**

English Department Graduate Student Representative, 2015-2016
Rhetoric and Composition Reading Group Co-Leader, 2015-2016
Transatlantic/Transnational Studies Interest Group Co-Leader, 2014-2015
TCU English Department
Secretary, Graduate Student Senate, 2015-2016
TCU
Historian, Sigma Tau Delta National English Honor Society, 2008-2009
SFA

Pedagogical Development

Using Literature in the Composition Classroom Brown Bag Co-Organizer, 2015
Discussing Difficult Topics in the Classroom Brown Bag Co-Organizer, 2016
Graduate Student Teaching Award Judge, 2017
TCU English Department

Student Support and Outreach

High School Outreach Presenter and Volunteer
TCU Women and Gender Studies, 2014- 2016
Volunteer Judge for “Partners in Purple” Competition
TCU New Media Writing Studio, 2014

MEMBERSHIPS TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Modern Language Association
Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition
Southeastern Women’s Studies Association