

Megan A. Condis

Academic Inquiry into Popular Culture

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2015 Assistant Professor of English, Stephen F. Austin State University,
Nacogdoches, Texas

EDUCATION

2014 Ph. D., English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2010 M.A., English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Examination Fields: Gender, Visual Culture, and New Media
Passed Oral Examination with Distinction

2007 B. A., English and Philosophy, University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign
Graduated summa cum laude

BOOK PROJECT

*Playing Politics: Trolls, Fake Geeks, and the Game of Masculinity in
Online Culture*

I argue that a close examination of online video game culture reveals the way in which gender and sexuality resemble less a performance and more a game in which players cooperate and compete with each other to secure their own identities in relation to broader cultural norms. Participation in gamer culture currently requires that one value a masculine style of self-presentation online. However, women and queer gamers find ways to bend the rules of the game of gender, creating ruptures where they can enact alternative modes of identity play.

AREAS OF INTEREST

Digital Humanities; Twentieth-Century American Literature; Cultural Studies; Gender and Sexuality; Media Studies; Visual Culture; Popular Culture; Film and Television Studies

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Playing the Game of Literature: *Ready Player One*, the Game of Masculinity, and the Geeky Canon.” *The Journal of Modern Literature*. (Forthcoming)

“‘She Was a Beautiful Girl and All of the Animals Loved Her’: Race, the Disney Princesses, and their Animal Friends.” *GenderForum: An Internet Journal for Gender Studies*. (Forthcoming)

“No Homosexuals in *Star Wars*?: BioWare, Gamer Identity, and the Politics of Privilege in a Convergence Culture.” *Convergence: The International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies* 21.1 (2015). 198-212. Print.

“Adaptation and Space: Thematic and Atmospheric Considerations for Board Game Environment Construction.” *Intensities: The Journal of Cult Media* 7 (2014). Web.

“Speaking Through ‘Lard-Slicked Lips’: A Round Table Discussion of Fatness, Racism, and Narratives of Self-Control Circling the Paula Deen Scandal.” Co-written with Kaitlin Marks-Dubbs, and T. J. Tallie. *Genderforum: An Internet Journal for Gender Studies* 48 (2014). Web.

“Failure to Launch: Not-So-Superheroes in *Gravity's Rainbow* and *Superfolks*.” *The Journal of Popular Culture* 45.6 (2012): 1169-1188. Print.

“*The Saga of the Swamp Thing*: Feminism and Race on the Comic Book Stand.” *Image-Text: Interdisciplinary Comics Studies* 5.4 (2011). Web.

“Ghosts Between the Pages: The Devolution of Medb from Sovereignty Goddess to Comic Book Villainess and the Potential Dangers of the Transcriptions of Oral Tales.” *International Journal of the Book* 7.2 (2010): 31-44. Print.

BOOK CHAPTERS

“Applying for the Position of Princess: Race, Labor, and Privilege in the Disney Princess Line.” In *Princess Cultures: Mediating Girls' Imaginations and Identities*. Eds. Miriam Forman-Brunell and Rebecca Haines. New York: Peter Lang, 2014. Print.

“Converging Fan Cultures and the Labors of Fandom.” In *The Peanut Gallery with Mystery Science Theater 3000: Essays on Film, Fandom, Technology, and the Culture of Riffing*. Eds. Robert G. Weiner and

Shelley E. Barba. New York: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2011. 76-87. Print.

BOOK REVIEWS

“Surveying the Field: Recent Scholarship on Superheroines.” *Image-Text: Interdisciplinary Comics Studies* 6.1 (2011). Web.

“Digital Love: A Review of *Cinephilia in the Age of Digital Reproduction: Film, Pleasure and Digital Culture, Vol.1* eds. Scott Balcerzak and Jason Sperb.” *ImageText: Interdisciplinary Comics Studies* 5.2 (2010). Web.

DIGITAL PROJECTS

“Night of the Living Memes”

Original digital role-playing game designed to teach players about the memetic origins of sexism in video game fandom. Game and design journal available for free at:

<http://megancondis.wordpress.com/>

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Cecil the Lion’s Hunter Becomes the Hunted.” *Al Jazeera America*, August 1, 2015. Web.

“Hatemongers Coopt Consumer Revolt at Reddit.” *Al Jazeera America*, July 14, 2015. Web.

“#RedditRevolt is Harassment Dressed Up as Free Speech.” *Al Jazeera America*, July 7, 2015. Web.

“The Web is Not a Post-Racial Utopia.” *Al Jazeera America*, May 24, 2015. Web.

“The Game of Trolls and How to Win It.” *Al Jazeera America*, March 28, 2015. Web.

“Trolling Gender Trouble.” *Avidly: A Los Angeles Review of Books Channel*. 12 September 2014. Web.

“Cheat Codes Disabled.” *Memory Insufficient: The Games History E-Zine Issue 7: Disability and Games History*. 2014. Web.

IN PREPARATION

“Live in Your World, Play in Ours: Video Games and the Environmental Humanities.” (Revise and Resubmit)

“Enlisting the Fans: *Casablanca*’s Cult Film Propaganda Strategy.”
(Under consideration)

SCHOLARLY AWARDS

- 2015 Graduate Scholar Award, University of Illinois Women’s Resource Center and Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations. University-wide competition.
- 2014 National Center for Institutional Diversity Exemplary Diversity Scholar, University of Michigan. Nation-wide competition.
- 2014 English Department Summer Research Grant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Department-wide competition.
- 2014 Rusk Travel Grant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. University-wide competition.
- 2013 Smalley Fellowship in English Literature, English Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Two courses released from teaching.
- 2013 Graduate College Excellence Grant for Conference Travel Funding, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. University-wide competition.
- 2013 Designated one of two Nicholson-IPRH Graduate Student Fellows by the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Two courses released from teaching. University-wide competition.
- 2013 Barbara and Donald Smalley Graduate Research Fellowship in Gender and Women’s Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Two courses released from teaching and a summer stipend.
- 2012 Recipient of the Graduate College Excellence Grant for Conference Travel Funding, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. University-wide competition.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 “Diversity in Cinema,” Invited Panelist, Illinifest Student Film Festival, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2015 Hot Topics Dialogue Series – “#GamerGate: Sexism, Racism + Gamer Culture,” Invited Panelist, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2013 “Pink Games, Sexy Sidekicks, and Fake Geek Girls: Stereotypes of Women who Game,” Invited Talk for the Recipient of the Barbara and Donald Smalley Graduate Research Fellowship in Gender and Women’s Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 “Hacking the Discourse: Queering Online Gaming Culture,” National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Milwaukee.
- 2015 “The Video Games of Christine Love: Hacking the Harem-Style Visual Novel,” WisCon 39 Academic Track, Madison.
- 2015 “Manic Pixie Digital Girl: The Embodiment of Software and the Function of Femininity,” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association 2015 National Conference, New Orleans.
- 2014 “Adaptation and Space: Thematic and Atmospheric Considerations for Board Game Environment Construction,” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association 2014 National Conference, Chicago.
- 2013 “Cheat Code Disabled: How Video Games are Changing the Definition of (Dis)Ability,” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Las Vegas.
- 2012 “No Homosexuals in *Star Wars*?: The Politics of Play in the Online Community Surrounding *Star Wars: The Old Republic*,” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Saint Louis.
- 2010 “Queering the Strip: Drawn Women and the Ontology of Comics,” Queertopia!, Northwestern University, Chicago.
- 2010 “*The Saga of the Swamp Thing*: Feminism and Race on the Comic Book Stand,” The Eleventh Annual Graduate Symposium on Women’s and Gender History, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.
- 2009 “Ghosts Between the Pages: The Devolution of Medb from Sovereignty

Goddess to Comic Book Villainess and the Potential Dangers of the Transcriptions of Oral Tales,” Virtual Presenter *International Conference on the Book*.

- 2009 “Uncovering the Methodology of the Oppressed: Differential Strategies of Resistance in Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Ceremony*.” Tenth Annual CIC-American Indian Studies Consortium Graduate Student Conference, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois. *This presentation won an Honorable Mention in the competition for Best Paper.*
- 2009 “Meet Your Meat: The Butchering of Women in *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside*,” The No Limits Women’s Studies Conference, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 “Dating Tips for Oblivious Geeks,” WisCon 39, Madison.
- 2015 “Internet Memes as Collaborative Fiction,” WisCon 39, Madison.
- 2014 “Memeifying Gender in the Gaming Community,” Women’s Resource Center Gender Scholar Seminar Series, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2014 “Queering *Star Wars*: A Case Study on Fandom and Identity in Game Culture,” Guest Lecture in Education and Policy Studies Seminar on Online Pedagogies and Diversity, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois.
- 2008 “Teaching Taboos,” University of Illinois Rhetoric Department’s Series of Professional Development Meetings Regarding Teaching Practices, Urbana, Illinois.

EVIDENCE OF TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Included on the List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students in Rhetoric and Composition. University of Illinois.

Fall 2014 English Literature; Fall 2012 Rhetoric and Composition; Fall 2012 English Literature; Spring 2010 Rhetoric and Composition; Fall 2010 English Literature; Fall 2009 Rhetoric and Composition; Fall 2009 English Literature; Fall 2008 Rhetoric and Composition.

Measured according to student responses to questions on teaching effectiveness and overall course quality as determined by end of

the semester course evaluation forms. An average rating of 4.5 out of 5 must be achieved to be included in the list.

Nominated for the First-Year Rhetoric Award for Excellence in Writing Instruction. University of Illinois. Spring 2010.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of English, 2007 – Present

Introduction to Rhetoric: Principles of Composition

Required class for all undergraduates. Teaches introductory research and study skills, what it means to write for an academic audience, strategies for drafting and revising, and proper citation practices. Concludes with an introduction to the publication process. Past themes have included: Taboos, Food and Culture, and Writing With/About New Media.

Introduction to Film

Elective class in the humanities. Begins by introducing students to technical film terminology. Asks students to identify and interpret visual motifs. Introduces basic critical theory. Requires students to complete both traditional writing assignments and creative group work including pitch presentations for remakes of films watched in class and a filmmaking project where students are asked to try out the directorial techniques they studied during the course of the semester.

Private Teaching and Tutoring, Institute for Reading Development, 2008 - Present

Summer Reading Programs and Fall Study Skills Seminars

Privately-offered classes for all grade levels, from pre-Kindergarten to college students/adult professionals. Skills taught include phonics, fluency, long-word decoding and vocabulary-learning strategies, concentration, comprehension, and retention, note-taking and test-taking strategies, and speed reading.

EDITORIAL WORK

- 2015 Guest Reviewer, *Fat Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Body Weight and Society*, published by Taylor and Francis Online
- 2015 Guest Reviewer, *Journal of Media and Communication Studies*, published by Academic Journals
- 2015 Editorial Board Member, *Resilience: A Journal of Environmental Humanities*, published by the University of Nebraska Press
- 2014 Associate Editor, Forthcoming Special Issue of *Harlot: A Revealing Look at the Arts of Persuasion* on Crafting and DIY Culture
- 2014 Co-Editor with Mel Stanfill, Volume 15 of *Transformative Works and Cultures* on Labor and/as Fandom. *TWC* is published by the Organization for Transformative Works
- 2013 Began my two year stint as the Managing Editor of *Resilience: A Journal of Environmental Humanities*, published by the University of Nebraska Press
- 2010 Associate Editor, *The International Journal of the Book* Volume 7

SERVICE

- 2014 Member of the Selection Committee for Faculty, TA, and Undergraduate Awards for the Gender and Women's Studies Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2013 Member of the Curriculum Subcommittee on the Implementation of Online Education in English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2013 Co-Chair of the Planning and Budgeting Committees, Member of the Programming Committee for "Imagining Alternatives: A Graduate Symposium on Speculative Fictions," University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2013 Juror for the Ninetieth Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, a program that spotlights work by young talents in Grades 7 – 12.
- 2012 Graduate Student Representative, Advisory Committee to the Head, English Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (elected).
- 2011 Graduate Student Representative, Advisory Committee to the Head,

English Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
(elected).

- 2011 Communications Officer and Programming Committee Member,
Executive Committee for “The Twelfth Annual Graduate Symposium on
Women's and Gender History,” University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Gorr, Sarah. “What Makes a Midnight Movie Magical?” *Groupon Guide*.
21 July 2015. Web.

“What They’re Saying: Referendum in Greece, Reddit.” *The Boston
Globe*. 8 July 2015. Web.

Shaw, Adrienne. “Unpacking *Rust*, Race, and Player Reactions to
Change.” *Antenna*. University of Wisconsin-Madison. 15 June 2015.
Web.

Interview with *Smile Politely: Champaign-Urbana’s Online Magazine*,
June 12, 2015. Web.

“Episode 023: Women’s World Cup & #ThatGamingCism.” *Pop Rocket*.
June 11, 2015. Web.

Moosa, Tariq. “Colorblind: On *The Witcher 3*, *Rust*, and Gaming’s Race
Problem.” *Polygon*. June 3, 2015. Web.

Interview with Hashtag Radio on race in online gaming culture, May 26,
2015. Radio.