

# PAMELA VANHAITSMA

Penn State University  
226 Sparks  
University Park, PA 16802  
[prv5@psu.edu](mailto:prv5@psu.edu)

[www.pamelavanhaitsma.com](http://www.pamelavanhaitsma.com)

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2017-present Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Arts and Sciences, Penn State University
- 2020-present Doug and Joyce Sherwin Early Career Professor, Rock Ethics Institute
- 2020-present Interim Director, Center for Humanities and Information
- 2019-present Assistant Professor, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- 2017-present Associate Director, Center for Humanities and Information
- 2014-2017 Assistant Professor, Department of English, Old Dominion University

## EDUCATION

- 2014 Ph.D., Department of English, University of Pittsburgh  
Concentration: Composition, Literacy, Pedagogy, and Rhetoric  
Certificate: Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies
- 2009 M.A., Department of English, San Francisco State University
- 2002 M.A., Department of Women's Studies, Ohio State University
- 2000 B.A., Department of English, Saginaw Valley State University, *summa cum laude*

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- 2019 *Queering Romantic Engagement in the Postal Age: A Rhetorical Education*. University of South Carolina Press.

\* Honorable Mention, Winifred Bryan Horner Outstanding Book Award, Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition

\*Reviewed in *Journal for the History of Rhetoric*, vol. 23, no. 2; *Rhetoric Review*, vol. 39, no. 3

**Refereed Journal Articles**

- 2021 An Archival Framework for Affirming Black Women's Bisexual Rhetorics in the Primus Collections. *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, vol. 51 (accepted with revisions).
- 2020 Between Archival Absence and Information Abundance: Reconstructing Sallie Holley's Abolitionist Rhetoric through Digital Surrogates and Metadata. *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, vol. 106, no. 1, pp. 24-47.
- 2019 Stories of Straightening Up: Reading Femmes in the Archives of Romantic Friendship. *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking*, vol. 6, no. 3, pp. 1-24.
- 2019 Digital LGBTQ Archives as Sites of Public Memory and Pedagogy. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, vol. 22, no. 2, pp. 253-280.
- 2019 Digital Curation as Collaborative Archival Method in Feminist Rhetorics. *Peitho: Journal of the Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition*, vol. 21, no. 2, pp. 505-531. With Cassandra Book.
- 2018 African American Rhetorical Education and Epistolary Relations at the Holley School, 1868-1917. *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*, vol. 21, no. 3, pp. 293-313.
- 2017 Romantic Correspondence as Queer Extracurriculum: The Self-Education for Racial Uplift of Addie Brown and Rebecca Primus. *College Composition and Communication*, vol. 69, no. 2, pp. 182-207.
- 2017 "Making It" in the Academy through Horizontal Mentoring. *Peitho: Journal of the Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition*, vol. 19, no. 2, pp. 210-233. With Steph Ceraso.
- 2016 Gossip as Rhetorical Methodology for Queer and Feminist Historiography. *Rhetoric Review*, vol. 35, no. 2, pp. 135-147.
- 2015 Archival Literacy: Reading the Rhetoric of Digital Archives in the Undergraduate Classroom. *College Composition and Communication*, vol. 67, no. 2, pp. 216-242. With Jessica Enoch.
- 2015 New Archival Engagements: Student Inquiry and Composing in Digital Spaces. *College English*, vol. 78, no. 1, pp. 34-55.
- 2014 Queering "the language of the heart": Romantic Letters, Genre Instruction, and Rhetorical Practice. *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, vol. 44, no. 1, pp. 6-24.

\*2015 Charles Kneupper Award

- 2010 More Talk about “Basic Writers”: A Category of Rhetorical Value for Teachers. *Journal of Basic Writing*, vol. 29, no. 1, pp. 99-124.

### Peer Reviewed Chapters

- 2021 LGBTQ+ Epistolary Rhetoric/Letter Writing. *Oxford Encyclopedia of Queer Studies & Communication*, edited by Isaac N. West, E. Cram, Frederik Dhaenens, Pam Lannutti, and Gust Yep, Oxford University Press (under contract, forthcoming in Jan.).
- 2019 “Opulent Friendships,” Rhetorical Emulation, and Belletristic Instruction at Leache-Wood Seminary. *Women at Work: Rhetorics of Gender and Labor in the U.S.*, edited by David Gold and Jessica Enoch, University of Pittsburgh Press, pp. 56-68.

### Book Reviews

- 2020 Review of *Textual Curation: Authorship, Agency, and Technology in Wikipedia and Chambers’s Cyclopædia*, by Krista Kennedy. *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, vol. 106, no. 1 pp. 95-97.
- 2018 Review of *Teaching Queer: Radical Possibilities for Writing and Knowing*, by Stacey Waite. *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, vol. 28, no. 5, pp. 541-543.

### Additional Publications

- 2019 What Can “The Favourite” Tell Us about the Rhetoric of Queer Letters? *Citizen Critics*, Feb. 22.
- 2017 Rhetoric, Digital Humanities, and the Archive. *Media Commons: A Digital Scholarly Network*, April 20.
- 2017 Teaching and Researching Feminist Rhetorics: Digital Curation as Collaborative Archival Method. *Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition Blog*, Feb. 24. With Cassandra Book, Meagan Clark, Christopher Giofreda, Kimberly Goode, and Meredith Privott.
- 2014 Feminist Invitations to Digital Historiography. *Digital Rhetoric Collaborative*. Gayle Morris Sweetland Center for Writing, University of Michigan, March 28. With Jessica Enoch and Jean Bessette.
- 2013 Making Relations. *Centered: Writing Center Tutors Reflect*, edited by Diane Boehm and Scott Merrow, Saginaw Valley State University, pp. 103-104.

### GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018-2019 Charlotte I. Hall Archives and Special Collections Library Research Grant, Vassar College (\$250)

- 2016 Summer Research Fellowship, Office of Research, Old Dominion University (\$7,000)
- 2015-2016 Robin L. Hixon Fellowship, Department of English, Old Dominion University (\$15,000)
- 2015 Summer Research Grant, College of Arts and Letters, Old Dominion University (\$5,000)
- 2013-2014 Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh (\$20,356)
- 2012-2013 Dissertation Research Travel Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh (\$2,533)
- 2010 Summer Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh (\$3,000)
- 2009-2010 Graduate Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh (\$17,822)
- 2009 Sally Casanova Predoctoral Scholar Summer Research Grant, California State University (\$5,946)
- 2008-2009 Sally Casanova Predoctoral Fellowship, California State University (\$3,000)
- 2007 Jan Gregory Postsecondary Reading and Composition Scholarship, Department of English, San Francisco State University (\$500)

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

- 2020-2023 Doug and Joyce Sherwin Early Career Professorship, Rock Ethics Institute, Penn State University
- 2020 Honorable Mention, Winifred Bryan Horner Outstanding Book Award, Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition
- 2016 Institutional Nomination, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, Old Dominion University
- 2015 Charles Kneupper Award, Rhetoric Society of America
- 2014 Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Dissertation Prize, University of Pittsburgh
- 2013 Graduate Writing Award in Literacy, Pedagogy, and Rhetoric, University of Pittsburgh

- 2012 Distinction, Ph.D. Project Exams, University of Pittsburgh
- 2010 Assignment Sequencing Award, Composition Program, University of Pittsburgh
- 2009 Graduate Student Award for Distinguished Achievement, Department of English, San Francisco State University

### INVITED TALKS

- 2020 Octalog IV: The Politics of Rhetorical Studies in 2020. With Candace Epps-Robertson, Allison Hitt, Jo Hsu, Aja Y. Martinez, Gabriela Raquel Ríos, Donnie Johnson Sackey, and Ryan Skinnell. Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), Milwaukee, WI (March 27, conference canceled)
- 2017 Teaching Public Memory: Digital Archival Analysis and Invention. National Archives of Composition and Rhetoric Workshop, CCCC, Portland, OR (March 15)
- 2015 Digital Archives, Gender Inquiries, and Student Writing. Department of English, University of Virginia (April 3)

### CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

#### Papers

- 2019 Romantic Letters as Archival Genre: Rebecca Primus's Bisexual Epistolary Networks, National Communication Association (NCA), Baltimore, MD (Nov. 14)
- 2019 Counter-Performances in the Archives. CCCC, Pittsburgh, PA (March 15)
- 2018 Digital Methods for Reconstructing Sallie Holley's Abolitionist Rhetoric. NCA, Salt Lake City, UT (Nov. 9)
- 2018 Straightening Up: Femmes and Romantic Friends in the Archives. Rhetoric Society of America (RSA), Minneapolis, MN (June 3)
- 2017 "So these people shall know their rights": Rhetorical Education for Racial Justice at the Holley School. Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s), Dayton, OH (Oct. 7)
- 2017 Digital Curation: Collecting Archives for Graduate Research on Women's Rhetorics. CCCC, Portland, OR (March 16)
- 2016 Reading Digital Archives: Cultural Rhetorics and Public Memory. Cultural Rhetorics Conference, East Lansing, MI (Oct. 2)
- 2016 Digital Curation, Archival Access, and Graduate Education. RSA, Atlanta, GA (May 24)

- 2016 The Pedagogical Erotics of Romantic Friendship Beyond Repair. DC Queer Studies Symposium, College Park, MD (April 22)
- 2016 Romantic Correspondence as Queer Extracurriculum. CCCC, Houston, TX (April 7)
- 2015 Women's Ways of Making It as New Faculty on the Tenure Track. Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s), Tempe, AZ (Oct. 31)
- 2015 Speculative Gossip for Queer History. DC Queer Studies Symposium, College Park, MD (April 17)
- 2015 Queering Critical Imagination in the Archive. CCCC, Tampa, FL (March 20)
- 2014 Responsivity to the Queer Extracurriculum: Self-Education for Racial Uplift in the Romantic Correspondence of Addie Brown and Rebecca Primus, 1859-1868. Thomas R. Watson Conference, Louisville, KY (Oct. 17)
- 2014 Albert Dodd's "queer in the extreme" Composing, 1836-1839. CCCC, Indianapolis, IN (March 21)
- 2013 Past and Present Links: Teaching (Online) Archives, Revising Historiographic Practices. Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s), Stanford, CA (Sept. 26)
- 2013 Teaching to Queer "Straight" Archives. CCCC, Las Vegas, NV (March 26)
- 2012 Reframing Romantic Identifications. RSA, Philadelphia, PA (May 25)
- 2012 Rhetorical Education for Romantic Engagement. CCCC, St. Louis, MO (March 22)
- 2012 Rhetorical Pedagogies of Romance and Sexuality. Queer Rhetoric: Fifth Annual LGBT Studies Symposium, Hempstead, NY (March 17)
- 2011 I Heard We Were There: Queer Relations, Letters, and Gossip. CCCC, Atlanta, GA (April 7)
- 2010 The Rhetorical Value of "Basic Writer": A Case Study of Teacher Talk. RSA. Minneapolis, MN (May 31)
- 2010 The Composition MA Remixed: Preparing New Community College Faculty, Addressing Diverse Student Needs. CCCC, Louisville, KY. With Sugie Goen-Salter et al. (March 17)
- 2009 Feminist Rhetorics of Community-Based Literacies. Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s), East Lansing, MI (Oct. 9)

- 2009 More Talk about So-Called “Basic Writers.” Working Class Studies Association Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (June 6)
- 2009 Community Literacy Work and Graduate Students: Finding Best Practices. Expanding Literacy Studies Conference, Columbus, OH. With Rebecca Lorimer (April 4)
- 2009 Knowledge Making, Making Students: Constructions of “Basic Writer” and “First-Generation College Student.” Qualitative Research Network, CCCC, San Francisco, CA (March 11)
- 2002 Going to “Prom”: Negotiating Femininity and Heteronormativity. Sixth Annual Women’s Studies Symposium: Third Wave Feminism, West Lafayette, IN (April 5)

### **Panels Chaired**

- 2019 Counter-Performances in the Archives. CCCC, Pittsburgh, PA (March 15)
- 2018 Feminist Rhetorical Memory Practices at Play in the Intersection of Race and Gender. NCA, Salt Lake City, UT (Nov. 10)
- 2017 Public Participatory Rhetorics. Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s), Dayton, OH (Oct. 7)
- 2015 How to Train Your Woman: The Rhetoric of Feminine Conduct in Historic Manuals. CCCC, Tampa, FL (March 20)

### **Additional Participation**

- 2019 Information + Humanities Conference, Center for Humanities and Information, State College, PA (Sept. 20)
- 2018 Information + Humanities Conference, Center for Humanities and Information, State College, PA (Sept. 21-22)
- 2018 Keystone Digital Humanities Conference, State College, PA (July 16-17)
- 2018 Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, Charlottesville, VA (June 14-16)
- 2017 NCA, Dallas, TX (Nov. 16-19)
- 2017 Information + Humanities Conference, Center for Humanities and Information, State College, PA (Sept. 22-23)
- 2017 Queer Archival Immersion: Rhetoric, Performance, Pedagogy, and Politics at the Kinsey Institute. RSA Summer Institute, Bloomington, IN. Workshop facilitated by E. Cram, Charles Morris, Eric Darnell Pritchard, and K.J. Rawson (May 22-25)

- 2015 Academic Publishing in Rhetorical Studies. RSA Summer Institute, Madison, WI. Workshop facilitated by James Jasinski (June 5-7)
- 1999 Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s), Minneapolis, MN (Oct. 7-9)

### **INVITED DEPARTMENT & COLLEGE TALKS**

- 2020 Queering Rhetorical Education in the Postal Age. Coffee Hour Series, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Penn State University (Feb. 19)
- 2019 Archival Research. Camp Rhetoric, Arnold-Ebbitt Interdisciplinary Rhetoricians, Penn State University (March 30)
- 2018 Ethics in Archival Research. Colloquium, Department of Communication Arts and Sciences, Penn State University (Sept. 28)
- 2018 Writing the Thesis and Dissertation. Graduate Education in Communication Studies Symposium, Department of Communication Arts and Sciences, Penn State University (June 20)
- 2017, 2018, 2020 Research Plans. Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows, Department of Communication Arts and Sciences, Penn State University (Dec. 6, Sept. 14, Aug. 28)
- 2016 Moving from Dissertation to Book Manuscript. Dissertation Bootcamp, Summer Doctoral Institute, Old Dominion University (July 20)
- 2016 Queering Rhetorical Education: Romantic Engagement in the Postal Age. Junior Faculty Forum, Institute for the Humanities, Old Dominion University (March 3)
- 2015 Publishing in Rhetoric and Composition. English Graduate Student Organization, Old Dominion University (Sept. 29)
- 2015 Rhetoric as Seduction. Rhetoric Society, Old Dominion University (March 27)
- 2014 Finding Queer Archives (and Surprising Finds). Anticipating Archives: A Panel on Research Methodology, University of Pittsburgh (April 7)
- 2013 Rhetorical Education for Romantic Engagement: Normative Genre Conventions and Queer Practices in Nineteenth-Century Epistolary Instruction. Writing Now: Celebrating Graduate Work in Literacy, Pedagogy, and Rhetoric, University of Pittsburgh (March 29)



## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017-present **Penn State University, Department of Communication Arts and Sciences**  
First-Year Seminar: Public Discourse about LGBTQIA Communities (Sp 2020)  
Communicating Gender (F 2021)  
Rhetorical Theory (Sp 2021, F 2021)  
Studies in Public Address: LGBTQIA Rhetorics (F 2017)  
Issues in Rhetorical Theory: Rhetoric/Archives/Information (grad, Sp 2018)  
Issues in Rhetorical Theory: Queer Rhetorics & Intersectionality (grad, Sp 2019)

### PhD advisees:

Robin Duffee (2019-present)

### Dissertation committees:

Jeffrey Nagel, "Queering Absence: The Public Rhetoric of the Homophile Movement" (2020-present)

Emily Smith, "Performing Histories: Archival Embodiment as a Method of Rhetorical Historiography" (English, 2018-present)

### Thesis committees:

Marguerite Nguyen Lehman, "'The Things I Won't Tell You': Privacy, A Rhetorical Strategy" (2018-2019)

### Comprehensive exam committees:

Sophia Maier (2020-present)

### Temporary advisees:

Cora Butcher-Spellman (2020-2021)

Robin Duffee (2019)

Carson Brockette (2018-2019)

2014-2017 **Old Dominion University, Department of English**

Introduction to Rhetorical Studies (F 2014, Sp 2015, F 2015, Sp 2016, Sp 2017)

Advanced Composition (F 2014, Sp 2017)

Teaching College Composition (grad, Sp 2016)

Women's and Feminist Rhetorics (grad, F 2016)

Classical Rhetoric and Theory Building (grad, Sp 2015)

Rhetorics of Seduction (grad, cross-listed with Women's Studies, F 2015)

Independent Study: Tensions in Digital Archive Creation (grad, Sp 2015)

### Dissertation committees:

Lucas Brown (2015-2017)

April Cobos (2015-2017)

Jennifer Moore (2015-2017)

Suzanne Sink (2015-2017)

Beth Wilson (2015-2017)

## M.A. committees:

Kimberly Goode (2017)

Tina Vermillion (2016)

Kristi Viers (2015)

- 2010-2013 **University of Pittsburgh, Department of English, Graduate Teaching Fellow**  
Seminar in Composition (F 2010, Sp 2011, F 2012)  
Seminar in Composition: Gender Studies (F 2011, Sp 2012)  
Written Professional Communication (Su 2011, Su 2012)  
Writing for the Public (Su 2013)
- 2008-2009 **San Francisco State University, Department of English, Graduate Teaching Associate**  
Freshman Composition (F 2008, Sp 2009)
- 2001-2002 **Ohio State University, Department of Women's Studies, Graduate Teaching Associate**  
U.S. Women Writers: Text and Context (F 2001, W 2002, Sp 2002)  
Internship in Feminist Theory and Collective Action (Sp 2001)

**SERVICE****Profession**

- 2020-present Archives Committee, Rhetoric Society of America (RSA)
- 2018-present Managing Editorial Board, *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking*
- 2017-present Reviewer, *Rhetoric Review*
- 2016-present Advisory Board, Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition (CFSHRC)
- 2019 Co-facilitator, Mentoring Table, Working and Teaching in/through Digital Spaces, CFSHRC, CCCC, with Michelle Grue
- 2018 George E. Yoos Distinguished Service Award Committee, RSA
- 2017 Reviewer, *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*
- 2017 Reviewer, 2018 Conference Proposals, RSA
- 2017 President's Dissertation Award Committee, CFSHRC
- 2017 Reviewer, *Rhetorica: A Journal of the History of Rhetoric*

2016 Reviewer, *Peitho: Journal of the Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition*

2016 Reviewer, *Journal of Basic Writing*

**Department, College & University**

2020-present Advisory Committee (Elected), Communication Arts and Sciences (CAS), Penn State University (PSU)

2020-present Executive Committee, Humanities Institute, PSU

2020-present Graduate Faculty Advisor, Gender Roles in Communication, World Campus Course Development, CAS, PSU

2019-present Facilitator, Archives, Power, and Information Colloquia, Center for Humanities and Information (CHI), PSU

2017-present Facilitator, Professional Development Series for Postdoctoral Fellows, CHI, PSU

2018, 2020 Future Faculty Committee, CAS, PSU

2017-2020 Technology Committee, CAS, PSU

2020 Ad Hoc Search Committee for Visiting Professor, CAS, PSU

2019 Chair, Selection Committee for Predoctoral Fellows, CHI, PSU

2019 Selection Committee for Postdoctoral Fellows, CHI, PSU

2018 Chair, Selection Committee for Predoctoral Fellows, CHI, PSU

2018 Ad Hoc Search Committee for Joint Appointment with College of Information Sciences and Technology, CAS, PSU

2018 Selection Committee for Junior Postdoctoral Fellows, CHI, PSU

2018 Chair, Selection Committee for Senior Postdoctoral Fellow, CHI, PSU

2018 Advisory Board, Undergraduate Speaking Center, PSU

2016-2017 Facilitator, Writing Habits: A Dissertation Group, English Graduate Student Organization, Old Dominion University (ODU)

2016-2017 Search Committee, Rhetoric and Women's Studies, ODU

2016 Research and Publications Committee, College of Arts and Letters, ODU

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2015-2017 | Gay Cultural Studies Advisory Board, ODU                                 |
| 2015-2017 | Safe Space Committee, ODU  |
| 2015-2017 | Assessments Committee, ODU   |
| 2015-2016 | Search Committee, Writing Studies, ODU                                   |
| 2014-2017 | Undergraduate Studies Committee, ODU                                     |
| 2014      | Committee for Graduate Writing Award, University of Pittsburgh (Pitt)    |
| 2013-2014 | Committee on Pedagogy, Pitt  |
| 2012-2014 | Composition Curriculum Committee, Pitt                                   |
| 2012-2013 | Faculty Development Subcommittee, Pitt                                   |
| 2012-2013 | Committee for the Evaluation and Advancement of Teaching, Pitt           |
| 2009      | Graduate Essay Test, Reader, Pitt  |
| 2009      | Learning Assistance Center, Tutor, San Francisco State University (SFSU) |
| 2008-2009 | Junior English Proficiency Essay Test, Reader, SFSU                      |
| 2008      | Writing and Reading Lab, Instructional Aide, Skyline College             |
| 2006-2008 | English Tutoring Center, Tutor, SFSU                                     |
| 2001-2002 | Graduate Studies Committee, Ohio State University (OSU)                  |
| 2001      | Writing Center, Tutor, OSU   |
| 1997-2000 | Writing Center, Tutor, Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU)            |
| 1997-2000 | Writing Program, Assistant to Director, SVSU                             |

### **COMMUNITY-BASED TEACHING**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2013      | Neighborhood Learning Alliance, volunteer tutor in summer program                  |
| 2007-2008 | First Graduate, teacher in summer program for first generation college students    |
| 2007-2008 | Transgender Law Center, tutor in professional writing for legal advocacy employees |

- 2006-2008 City College of San Francisco, facilitator of “Healing through Writing” workshops
- 2005-2008 Building Futures, facilitator of educational groups at domestic violence shelter
- 2004-2005 Rape Trauma Services, teacher of violence prevention curriculum
- 2002-2004 CHOICES, coordinator of domestic violence classes for incarcerated survivors