

**Jean Bessette**  
*Curriculum Vitae*

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

**Academic Appointments**

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**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**

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**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**

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**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. “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. Forthcoming summer 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

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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
Rhetoric Society of America <i>Outstanding Dissertation Award</i>	2014
University of Pittsburgh Women's and Gender Studies	

*Tamara Horowitz Graduate Writing Award*

2013

University of Pittsburgh English

*Graduate Writing Award in Literacy, Pedagogy, and Rhetoric*

2012

**Professional Presentations**

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*Invited Talks*

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*

“Queering the ‘Begging Letter’: Maimie Pinzer’s Resistant Appeals for Charity in Epistolary Autobiography.” National Communication Association. Baltimore, MD. Scheduled for 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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**

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- 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**

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#### **University of Vermont**

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

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

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#### 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

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#### External:

##### *Editorial*

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***

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

### **University and College:**

Foundational Writing and Information Literacy (FWIL) Committee	2017-present
Race, Gender, and Sexuality Conference Committee	2017-present
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:**

Chair of Composition Committee	2016-2017, 2018-2019
Executive Committee: Junior Faculty Representative	2013-2014, 2016-present
Executive Committee: Chair of Composition Representative	2016-present
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-present
Assistant to Director of Composition, University of Pittsburgh	2012-2013
College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Mentor, University of Pittsburgh	2010-2011
Committee on the Evaluation and Advancement of Teaching (CEAT)	2009-2010