

## Melissa Wiser

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### EDUCATION

#### PhD in English

June 2018 (Expected)

University of Kentucky

*Dissertation title:* "Ticket to a Better Life: Representations of Tradition and Escape in Appalachian Child Characters"

*Committee:* Dr. Randall Roorda (chair), Dr. Virginia Blum, Dr. Nazera Wright, Dr. Shaunna Scott (Sociology and Appalachian Studies)

#### MA in English

2010

University of Louisville

Graduate Dean's Citation

*Culminating Project:* "Gendered Gestures: Nonverbal Communication in the Writing Center"

*Director:* Dr. Mary Rosner

#### BA in English

2008

University of Kentucky

*Summa cum Laude*

Honors in English, Honors distinction in the Honors Program

Minors in French and Psychology

### TEACHING AND ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

#### Instructor, Composition and Communication

2010-present

*University of Kentucky Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies*

- Instructor of record for Composition and Communication I and II (WRD 110, WRD 111)
  - Teach one to two sections per semester with approximately 23 students per section
  - Design syllabi, assignments, and lesson plans to teach rhetoric in a multimodal fashion
  - Taught one section for six-week Freshman Summer program for incoming freshman from underrepresented groups; Summer 2016 and Summer 2017
  - Taught one section for eight-week summer session; Summer 2013
- Instructor of record for three sections of Writing: An Accelerated Foundational Course (ENG 104); 2010-2011

#### Mentor for Instructors of Composition and Communication

2016-present

*University of Kentucky Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies*

- Mentor and observe five new instructors
- Regularly report on mentees' progress to Director of Composition
- Plan and execute yearly orientation for incoming instructors
- Assist Director of Composition and Assistant to the Director in planning and executing spring gallery of undergraduate work
- Judge award competition of undergraduate work

**Instructor, Introduction to Literature****2015***University of Kentucky Department of English*

- Instructor of record for Introduction to Literature (ENG 230)
  - Taught two sections with approximately 23 students per section
  - Designed syllabus, assignments, and lesson plans integrating literature from a variety of time periods, nationalities, and genres to teach literary analysis and basic concepts

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, Survey of American Literature I****2014***University of Kentucky Department of English*

- TA to Professor teaching Survey of American Literature I (ENG 251)
  - Graded essays (one 5-page, one 8-page) for one section of approximately 75 students
  - Kept attendance, participation, and grade records
  - Assisted in designing quizzes and exams
  - Presented invited lectures in professor's absence

**Instructor, Composition****2009-2010***University of Louisville, Department of English*

- Instructor of record for Introduction to Writing and Intermediate Writing (ENG 101 and ENG 102)
  - Taught one section per semester of approximately 25 students per section
  - Designed syllabi, assignments, and lesson plans to teach rhetoric in a multimodal fashion

**Assistant Director, University Writing Center****2009-2010***University of Louisville*

- One of three graduate students serving as Assistant Directors
- Mentored and observed first-year graduate writing consultants
- Designed publicity materials for the Writing Center to distribute to academic departments
- Designed and presented writing workshops for members of the campus community
- Tutored graduate and undergraduate students on writing assignments

**Writing Consultant, University Writing Center****2008-2009***University of Louisville*

- Tutored graduate and undergraduate students on writing assignments
- Designed handouts on writing issues for student use

**Undergraduate Peer Fellow and Tutor****2006-2008***University of Kentucky Writing Initiative*

- One of four undergraduates chosen for the position
- Worked with undergraduate Social Work and Communications Disorders courses to improve writing assignments
- Tutored undergraduate students on writing assignments in the Writing Center

**ACADEMIC SERVICE****Graduate Appalachian Research Community****2012-present**

- Symposium Chair, 2017-present
  - Plan and oversee execution of 9<sup>th</sup> annual Research Symposium and Arts Showcase, inviting students from all colleges and universities to share works in progress

- President, 2016-2017
  - Oversee leadership panel of five officers
  - Plan and execute regular meetings and social events
  - Assist with planning and execution of annual Research Symposium
- Secretary/Treasurer, 2015-2016; 2012-2013
  - Record and distribute meeting minutes
  - Maintain all organization records, email listserv, and social media accounts

**Microteaching Group Leader** **2016**

*University of Kentucky Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation*

- Mentor group of approximately ten incoming graduate teaching assistants
- Discuss best practices, concerns, strategies for teaching
- Observe incoming teaching assistants' practice teaching sessions and offer constructive feedback

**Honors Program Student Council** **2004-2008**

*University of Kentucky Honors Program*

- Served as Membership Chair

**Co-Editor, Tidings newsletter** **2006-2008**

*University of Kentucky Honors Program*

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**

"The Future of Appalachian Studies." Forthcoming roundtable at the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference. The Millennium Hotel, Cincinnati, OH. April 2018.

"'Bevies of Tow-Headed Children': Infantilization and Narratives of Escape in 19<sup>th</sup> c. Local Color Fiction." Presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Graduate Appalachian Research Community Symposium and Arts Showcase. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. March 2018.

"The Future of Appalachian Studies." Roundtable participant at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Graduate Appalachian Research Community Symposium and Arts Showcase. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. March 2018.

"Appalachian Literature and Ann Pancake's *Strange as this Weather Has Been*." Invited lecture, APP 200: Introduction to Appalachian Studies. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. March 2017.

"'Blood on the Snow': Place, Politics, and Childhood Trauma in Contemporary Appalachian Fiction." Presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. March 2017.

"Ticket to a Better Life: Narratives of Heritage and Assimilation in Urban Appalachia." Presented at the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference. Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV. March 2016.

"*Uncle Tom's Cabin*." Invited lecture, ENG 251: Survey of American Literature I. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. November 2014.

“The Children are Our Future: Exploring the Role of Children in Appalachian Literature.” Presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference. Marshall University, Huntington, WV. March 2014.

“Unable to Stay, Unable to Leave: Exiles To and From Appalachia.” Presented at the 84<sup>th</sup> annual South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Durham, NC. November 2012.

“An Eye-Opening Experience: Gender and Nonverbal Communication in the Writing Center.” Presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Kentucky Philological Association Conference. Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY. March 2010.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

<b>Barbara Sutton Cowles Award for an Outstanding Senior English Major</b> <i>University of Kentucky</i>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Presidential Scholar</b> <i>University of Kentucky</i>	<b>2004-2008</b>
<b>Kentucky Governor’s Scholar</b> <i>Eastern Kentucky University</i>	<b>2003</b>