

# Seth E. Davis

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## EDUCATION

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**PhD. Composition and Cultural Rhetoric**

**C.A.S. Certificate of Advanced Study (Women and Gender Studies)**

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

(March 2018)

**Dissertation: *Fierce: Black Queer Literacies of Survival***

2019 CCCC Lavender Rhetorics Excellence in Queer Scholarship Dissertation Award

Dissertation committee: Patrick W. Berry and Gwendolyn D. Pough (co-chairs);

Eileen Schell, Brice Nordquist, and Eric Pritchard

**M.A., Communication Studies (Communication Liberal Arts and Sciences)**

Ball State University, Muncie, IN

(May 2011)

**B.S. in Speech Communication and Theatre**

Tennessee State University, Nashville TN

(May 2009)

*Magna Cum Laude*

## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

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Literacy Studies

Digital Literacies

Queer Theory

Black Feminist Theory

Communication Studies

African American Rhetoric

Cultural Rhetoric

Sexual Literacies

Technical Communication

## PUBLICATIONS

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“Trade: Sexual Identity, Ambiguity, and Literacy Normativity.” *Literacy in Composition Studies*, 9(2), 48-66. <https://licsjournal.org/index.php/LiCS/article/view/2192>

“Shade: Literacy narratives as Black gay pride.” *Literacy in Composition Studies*, 7(2), 56–89. <http://licsjournal.org/OJS/index.php/LiCS/article/view/223/327>

“High Top Reflections.” *Salt Hill Journal* 33 (2014): 57-59.

## Media

*Seth University* (Content Creator). Youtube Channel. September 2022 – present.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIvf65Dm3Jw7o3hsjimZqPw/about>

“Coming of Age” (Collage). *Homemade with Love: More Living Room* (Art Installation). Krannert Art Gallery. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 27, August 2020.

“Black Manhood and the Erasure of the Black Queer Experience with Dr. Seth E. Davis.” *You Da Man*. Podcast. 21 May 2021.  
<https://anchor.fm/you-da-man/episodes/Black-Manhood-and-the-Erasure-of-the-Black-Queer-Experience-with-Dr--Seth-E--Davis-e105q5p>

“A One-Women Show with Elaine Richardson.” *This Rhetorical Life*. Podcast. 4 December 2013:  
<http://thisrhetoricallife.syr.edu/episode-16-a-one-woman-show-with-elaine-richardson>

“Paris is Burning Sands (featuring @SeththeShocker).” *QueerWOC*. Podcast. July 2017:  
<https://soundcloud.com/queerwoc>.

“Seth Paints Sh!t: An Exhibition.” Studio 754, Syracuse, NY. January 2014.  
Presented a 16 piece collection of paintings titled, “Shade.”

### **AWARDS, GRANTS, & DISTINCTIONS**

BEHIVE Collective Black HIV Epidemic Curriculum Development. African American AIDS Policy & Black AIDS Institute, LeMoyne-Owen College, Memphis, TN.  
April 2024

Lavender Rhetorics Excellence in Queer Scholarship Article Award (“Shade”)  
CCCC, Virtual March 2021

Lavender Rhetorics Excellence in Queer Scholarship Dissertation Award  
CCCC, Pittsburgh, Pa  
March 2019

Joan Lukes Rothenberg Graduate Student Service Award  
Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY  
Spring 2018

Certificate in University Teaching, The Graduate School and Future Professoriate Program  
Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY  
May 2014

Research Grant (“Shade”), Composition and Cultural Rhetoric, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY  
Summer 2013

Building Better Communities Fellowship, Emerging Leader Award  
Ball State University, Muncie IN  
February 2011

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Best Online News story “Step Show Preparations,” National HBCU Student News Media Conference  
February 2009

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**LeMoyne-Owen College, Memphis TN (Spring 2023-Present)**

**English Area**

ENGL 111 English Communications I: Taught the first part of the two-semester freshman composition program, this interdisciplinary course is designed to help the student gain proficiency in thinking logically and writing intelligently and effectively.

ENGL 112 English Communications II: Taught a continuation of English Communications I, with emphasis on analysis and evaluation of written discourse and argument as a type of discourse.

ENGL 205 Human Literary Heritage: Taught a course that introduces students to humanity's literary heritage through reading and critical analysis and evaluation of poetry, drama, and fiction.

#### **Journalism and Mass Communication Area**

JMCO 335 Minorities in the Media: Taught a course that covers minority depictions in the media and questions whether the mass media can truly serve and be responsive to the needs of a socially and economically diverse society.

JMCO 437 History of Journalism: Taught a course that examines the fundamentals and history of modern journalism, including its importance and impact on a democratic society. The course emphasizes effective news coverage/practices, writing and production.

#### **Humanities Area**

HUMN 212 The Global Village: Taught a survey of human heritage with special emphasis on the arts, religion, philosophy, and cultural developments throughout the world.

HUM451 (Special Topics) Literature, the Black Church, and HIV/AIDS: Focuses on the relationship between the Black church and cultural literacies around HIV/AIDS.

### **Curry College, Milton MA (Fall 2018-Spring 2021)**

#### **Writing Program**

WRIT 1500: Taught course focused on developing a sound research process from inquiry to final product using strategies for applying research methods in order to locate, critically read, and evaluate diverse texts. (Inquiry: Feminism and Popular Culture)

WRIT 1400 Taught course focused on strategies for critical reading, purposeful revision, and reflection within a clear writing process. (Inquiry: Decentering Self)

WRIT 2250 Black Voices Matter: This course aims to familiarize students with the rhetorical dimensions of the Black community.

WRIT 2260 Contemporary Queer Narratives: This course aims to familiarize students with life at the intersections of queerness and various cultural identities, privileges, and oppressions.

### **Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY (Fall 2011- Spring 2018)**

#### **Department of Writing Studies, Rhetoric, and Composition**

WRIT 105: Practices of Academic Writing, Fall 2011–2013, Fall 2015

Taught introduction to academic writing focusing on analysis and argument, practices that carry across disciplinary lines and into professional and civic writing.

WRT 205: Critical Research and Writing, Spring 2012–Spring 2016

Taught sophomore-level course on research writing across academic genres. Course inquiries included “Reimagining the Normal,” as well as those that I developed that include “What’s Your Fantasy: Gender & Sexuality in Hip-Hop,” “After Caitlyn: Race & Gender in Popular Culture.”

WRT 307: Professional Writing, Fall 2014

Taught course that focuses on professional communication through the study of audience, purpose, and ethics.

Writing Center, Summer 2014

Served as a writing consultant to students across campus.

### **Department of Women and Gender Studies**

WGS 201: Transnational Feminist Studies, Fall 2016–2018

Led discussion sections for introductory writing-intensive course that explores transnational feminism, including how constructions of gender and differences shape the lives and activism of women around the world.

WGS 101: Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies

Served as discussion leader for introductory course designed to familiarize students with the study of women, gender, and sexualities in national and international contexts.

### **Syracuse University Athletic Department**

Instructional Assistant, July 2018

Assisted student athletes with goal development, both short-term and long-term, as well as organization, time management, note taking, test preparation, and critical thinking

**Ball State University**, Muncie, IN (Fall 2009- Spring 2011)

### **Department of Communication Studies**

COMM 210: Fundamentals of Public Speaking, Fall 2009–Spring 2011

Led discussion section for course focused on helping students develop oral communication skills, as well as an awareness of the role of communication in culture.

## **PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS**

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Creator, Audre Lorde Social Justice Film Series, LeMoyne-Owen College. Memphis, TN.

September 2023.

Audre Lorde’s scholarship and life of activism inspires this series’ efforts to highlight and give voice to marginalized communities, including people of color, LGBTQ folk, women, immigrants, the differently able, and working-class folk.

Moderator, Reel Feminisms: *Tangerine*. Department of Women’s and Gender Studies and the Composition and Cultural Rhetoric Doctoral Program, Syracuse University.

Syracuse NY. February 2018.

Moderated screening and discussion of sex work, gender identity, and transphobia in *Tangerine*.

Moderator, Reel Feminisms: *Moonlight*. Department of Women's and Gender Studies and the Composition and Cultural Rhetoric Doctoral Program, Syracuse University.

Syracuse NY. October 2017

Moderated screening and discussion of Black masculinity, addiction, and homophobia in *Moonlight*.

Project Alpha Workshop Leader, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (Iota Kappa Lambda Graduate Chapter)

Syracuse NY. April 2017

Moderated discussion for national program about sexual health and self-esteem with teenage Black men and fraternity members.

McNair Writing Workshop, Syracuse University McNair Program

Syracuse NY. February 2017.

Led professional writing workshop, focusing on résumés and various application materials for McNair scholars.

Bricolage Workshop, The Black Man Can Institute, Syracuse University

Syracuse, NY. June 2014–Present

Taught young men bricolage while also creating a space for them to engage with their emotions through symbols.

Writing Our Lives Outreach Program, Syracuse University

Syracuse, NY. Spring 2013–2014.

Led workshop focused on issues of gender in Hip-Hop vernacular. Writing Our Lives is a program dedicated to promoting writing in the lives of youth, in and out of school.

Discussion Leader, ARISE, Syracuse University

Syracuse, NY. September 2012

Served as discussion leader on Rebecca Skloot's *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

## **SERVICE**

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Member, Library and Research Committee, LeMoyne-Owen College

September 2023-present

Member, Academic Placement Committee, LeMoyne-Owen College

September 2023- present

Faculty Advisor, Brunch Club, Lemoyne-Owen College

September 2023 – present.

Co-Chair, CCCC Lavender Rhetorics Excellence in Queer Scholarship Awards Committee

May 2023-Present

Member, Black Studies Board, Curry College

Spring 2019- 2021

Member, Women and Gender Studies Board, Curry College

Spring 2019- 2021

Co-Advisor- Multicultural Student Association, Curry College

Fall 2018- 2020

Member, Writing Program Outcomes and Assessment committee, Curry College

Fall 2018- 2021

Title IX Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment Liaison, Curry College

Fall 2018- 2021

Member, College of Arts and Sciences Student Standards Committee, Syracuse University

January 2013–May 2014

Host, *This Rhetorical Life* [Podcast] Syracuse University Composition and Cultural Rhetoric  
Doctoral Program  
December 2012–May 2018.  
Chair, Affective Learning Committee  
Ball State University, September 2010–May 2011  
Led committee that evaluated curriculum to make it more culturally relevant to the  
students.

#### **CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

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“Unbuckling the Bible Belt: Memphis Queer Sexual Literacies” Conference on College  
Composition and Communication. Baltimore, MD. April 2025.

“The Rhetorics of Black Women and Femmes (Super Session)” Biennial Conference of the  
Rhetoric Society of America, Denver, CO. May 2023.

“Black Santas Matter: Black Parents and Facebook Groups.” *Computers and Writing* 2023.  
University of California Davis. Davis, CA. June 2023.

“Reading the Room: What is fit at a lily-white university?” (Graduate Research Network).  
*Computers and Writing* 2023. University of California Davis. Davis, CA. June 2023.

*Are These Poems?* Book Release. Discussion Moderator. Quad Cinema. Manhattan, NY.  
September 2022

“Black Feminism and Sexual Liberation” Workshop Facilitator. EROS Fest. Los Angeles, CA.  
August 2022.

“Utopias Cruised: Thinking With — and Beyond — Muñoz.” Panelist. University California Irvine  
Queer Utopias Online Symposium. Virtual. April, 2021.

“Preparing for Graduate School.” Panelist. Ball State University Undergraduate Communication  
Research Conference. Ball State University, Muncie, IN. November 2020.

“Shade and Trade: Black Queer Literacies of Survival.” LGBTQ+ History Month: Second Annual  
Potash Keynote. Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. October 2020.

“Queering English Studies: Navigating Politics, Policies, and Practices in ELA Learning Spaces  
(roundtable).” National Council of Teachers of English. St. Louis, MO. November 2017.

“Cruising: Refashioning Space for Love and Survival.” Hip Hop Literacies Conference. Columbus,  
OH. March 2016.

“Reads, Tea(s) and Kiki’s: Refashioning Literacies in Digital Spaces.” *Computers and Writing*  
Conference. Stout, WI. May 2015

Panel Participant. *Feminism and Black Women*. Alpha Kappa Alpha (Iota Upsilon chapter),  
Syracuse University, Syracuse NY. January 2015.

Panel Discussion. *1 Step Forward, 2 Steps Back*. Delta Sigma Theta (Kappa Lambda chapter),  
Syracuse University, Syracuse NY. November 2014.

“Barber Shop: Studio 754 and the Performance of Race and Queer Identity.” Computers and Writing Conference. Pullman, WA. May 2014.

“Reading Shade: Writing a Black Queer Rhetoric.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Indianapolis, IN. March 2014.

“Accessing the Wreckage: Kid Cudi, Tweets and Hip-Hop Capital.” Alien Bodies: Race, Space, & Sex in the African Diaspora Symposium. Emory University. Atlanta, GA. February 2013.

Building a Meaningful Career During and Beyond Graduate School. CCR Community Day, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. August 2012.

“Morehouse Masculinities: Can a Morehouse Man be a Mean Girl?” Biennial Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America, Philadelphia, PA. May 2012.

“Morehouse Masculinities: Can a Morehouse Man be a Mean Girl?” University of Texas at San Antonio African American Studies Symposium, San Antonio, TX. April 2012.

“Far Away yet Close and Familiar: Marsha Ambrosius’ ‘Far Away’ and Fisher’s Narrative Paradigm.” Voices of Diversity Division (Top Four Papers). Eastern Communication Association Convention, Cambridge, MA, April 2012.

Empowerment Forum. Syracuse Academy of Science, Syracuse NY, April 2012.

“Independent Womanists?: An examination of Destiny’s Child’s *Survivor*.” Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Division. CSCA Convention, Milwaukee, WI , April 2011.

“Mr. and Miss Swag. G.I.F.T.S.” Great Ideas For Teaching. CSCA Convention, Milwaukee, WI, April 2011.

“It’s (Queer) Barbie!”: The Sexual Evolution of Nicki Minaj. CCIM Kaleidoscope Diversity Symposium, Ball State University, Muncie IN. February 2011.

“Baby You Got What I Want: An Examination of Missy Elliott’s ‘Hot Boys’ through the eyes of Hélène Cixous.” CCIM Kaleidoscope Diversity Student Symposium, Ball State University, Muncie, IN., March 2010.

### **TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN SKILLS**

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Digital audio/video: Audacity, GarageBand, iMovie

Graphics: Photoshop, Illustrator, iPhoto, Inkscape

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS**

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Conference on College Composition and Communication

Rhetoric Society of America

National Council of Teachers of English

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Life Member

National Communications Association

### **REFERENCES**

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Patrick W. Berry  
Professor of Writing Studies, Rhetoric, and Composition  
Syracuse University  
[pwberry@syr.edu](mailto:pwberry@syr.edu)

Gwendolyn D. Pough  
Professor of Women's and Gender Studies  
Syracuse University  
[gdpough@syr.edu](mailto:gdpough@syr.edu)

Eileen Schell  
Professor of Writing Studies, Rhetoric, and Composition  
Syracuse University  
[eeschell@syr.edu](mailto:eeschell@syr.edu)