

Yuan Zhao
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. student in Rhetoric and Composition | The University of Louisville, 2023-present

Dissertation: “All you need is more than Attention: Attention and Situational Rhetoric in Social Movements”

Dissertation Committee: Joe Turner (chair), Karen Kopelson, Joshua Adams, and Daneil Gross

M.A. English | The University of Louisville, 2023

M.A. English (Literary Studies) | The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2017

M.A. English Language and Literature | Shanghai International Studies University, 2016

B.Eng. Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Nanjing Normal University, 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Article

Zhao, Yuan. “Typeface in TOEFL Reading Section, University Admission Decisions, and Epistemic Injustice.” *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy* (14,821 words, 2nd round of revise-and-resubmit in May, 2026).

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapter

Zhao, Yuan. “A Student Leader’s Positionality: Local Justice with International Students.” *Dangerous Others of Writing Studies*, edited by Lisa Mastrangelo and Cheri Lemieux Spiegel, Peter Lang, 2027 (5,722 words, in press, expected 2027).

Book Reviews

Zhao, Yuan. (2025). Review of Bas de Boer’s *How Scientific Instruments Speak: Postphenomenology and Technological Mediations in Neuroscientific Practice* (Lanham MD: Lexington Books, Rowman & Littlefield, 2021). *Prometheus: Critical Studies in Innovation*. 40(2). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.13169/Prometheus.40.2.0110>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

International/National Conferences

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| 2026 | “Public Attention to Make Sense of State Dignity and Civic Indignity,” part of panel “Authoritarian (In)Dignity Tropes,” with Ryan Skinnell, Mary McCoy, Megu Itoh, Elina Nikolskaya, and Sharon Yam, 22nd Biennial Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America (RSA), Portland, Oregon, USA, May 21-24, 2026. |
| 2026 | “Inaccessible Accessibility Principles: ETS’s Performative Allyship,” part of roundtable “With Liberty and Justice for All: Multi- and Trans- Linguistic Advocacy and Activism” with Second Language Writing Standing Group of the CCCC (with Jingjing Xing, Ghada Gerwash, Shawna Shapiro, Qianqian Zhang-Wu, Shao-wei Huang, Zhaozhe Wang, Brooke Schreiber, Islam Farag, |

- and Hidy Basta), 2026 Conference on College Composition & Communication (CCCC) Annual Convention, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, March 4-7, 2026.
- 2026 “Accessible Writing Center,” part of panel “‘There Isn’t Even a Table to Write On!’: Writing Centers Fostering Cultures of Writing in STEM,” with Timothy Johnson and Annmarie Steffes, 2026 Conference on College Composition & Communication (CCCC) Annual Convention, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, March 4-7, 2026.
- 2025 “Negotiating Dissensus: Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Technical and Professional Communication and Computer Science,” 2025 Conference on College Composition & Communication (CCCC) Annual Convention, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, April 9-12, 2025.
- 2024 “Burke’s Figures and Reality after de Man’s Deconstruction,” the 24th Biennial Conference of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric (ISHR). University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada, July 23-26, 2024.
- 2024 “Typeface in TOEFL Reading Section and Epistemic Injustice in University Admission Decisions,” Building Community and Coalitions through Liberatory Pedagogies in Technical Communication, Association of Teachers of Technical Writing (ATTW) 2024 Conference, virtual meeting, June 10-12, 2024.
- 2022 “Feminist Reading on Frame Narrative in *Frankenstein*: Masculine/Feminine Frames, and Feminine Vitality,” *Persuasions: The Rhetoric of Romanticism*. The International Conference on Romanticism. University of California, Santa Barbara, USA, October 2022.

Regional Conferences

- 2026 “Beyond AI Refusal, Toward Ethical Transparency in a Composition Classroom,” Human Connections in a Digital World Symposium. University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, May 12-14, 2026.
- 2025 “Why English Department Needs to Teach Coding,” 18th Graduate Student Regional Research Conference (GSRRC). University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, USA, March 28, 2025.
- 2024 “UofL Local Justice with International Students, State/National Level Justice Rhetoric, and Institutional Neutrality: An International Student’s Experience at GSC,” 2024 Inaugural Inclusive Excellence and Belonging Symposium. University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, USA, August 26-30, 2024.
- 2024 “Paul de Man as a Burkean Poet: Deconstruction and the Corporeal Cognitive Process,” 17th Graduate Student Regional Research Conference (GSRRC). University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, USA, March 28, 2023.
- 2023 “TOEFL Writing and White Supremacist Desire,” 16th Graduate Student Regional Research Conference (GSRRC). University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, USA, March 22, 2023.

WORKSHOPS & INSTITUTES

- 2026 Participant, Research Network Forum at RSA 2026, organized by Timothy Oleksiak and Emily Winderman, and facilitated by Ira Allen. RSA Conference, Portland, USA, May 21, 2026.
- 2025 Participant, 250 by 2026 Wikipedia Scholars 8-week online course, WikiEducation, October-November, 2025.

- 2025 Presenter, “Revising Inoue’s Labor-Based Grading Contracts: Design Your Own,” Annual Composition Orientation. University of Louisville, Louisville, USA, August 15, 2025.
- 2025 Participant, “Rhetoric Before Closure: Exploring Possibilities Beyond the Dialectic,” virtual seminar led by Rubén Casas and Meg Marquardt, RSA Virtual Summer Institute, June 16-17, 2025.
- 2025 Participant, “Digital Rhetorics,” seminar led by Casey Boyle, RSA Summer Institute, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, USA, June 2-5, 2025.
- 2024 Participant, “Developing an App to Support Ungrading: Making Non-Traditional Grading Easier with a Standalone Web Application,” workshop facilitated by Michelle Cowan, Elizabeth Matthews, & Joe Schicke, Watson Conference on Rhetoric and Composition. University of Louisville, Louisville, USA, February 28-March 26, 2024.
- 2024 Participant, “The Graduate Reading Exchange,” workshop facilitated by Carolyn King, Lizzie Hutton, Michelle Sprouse, & Emily Sok, Watson Conference on Rhetoric and Composition. University of Louisville, Louisville, USA, March 7-9, 2024.

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2026 Barbara Taustine Plattus Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, English Department, UofL
- 2026 The Anne Braden Institute (ABI) Social Justice Multimedia Research Award, Anne Braden Institute & Digital Media Suite, UofL
**Webpage project: “Typeface Injustice: How TOEFL Typeface in Reading Section Troubles Readability”*
- 2024 Student Leadership and Involvement Award, 2023-2024 Graduate Student Council Executive Board Member, Graduate School, UofL
- 2017 Exemplary Student on the Dean’s List, Faculty of Arts, CUHK
- 2017 MA in ELS Academic Excellence Award, English Department, CUHK
- 2008 British Council Fellowship

TEACHING

- ENGL 101 Introduction to College Writing (2022 Fall, 2 sessions; 2025 Fall, 1 session)
- ENGL 102 Intermediate College Writing (2023 Spring, 1 session; 2026 Spring, 1 session)
**Student Publications: Fox, Kennedy (2023) “Artist Statement and Video,” *Cardinal Compositions* Vol. 7, Article 5. <https://ir.library.louisville.edu/cardcomp/vol7/iss1/5>.*
- ENGL 303 Scientific and Technical Writing (2026 Fall, 1 session)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2025-2027 Watson Conference Assistant Director, University of Louisville
- 2025-2026 Composition Course Instructor (PhD, Graduate Teaching Assistant) for ENGL101 (1 session), University of Louisville

2022-2023	Composition Course Instructor (MA, Graduate Teaching Assistant) for ENGL101 (2 sessions), ENGL102 (1 session), University of Louisville
2021-2023	Writing Center Consultant (Graduate Teaching Assistant), University Writing Center, University of Louisville
2019-2021	Secondary School Associate Teacher (English, Liberal Studies), Concordia Lutheran School – North Point (Hong Kong)
2017-2019	Secondary School English Teaching Assistant, Concordia Lutheran School –North Point (Hong Kong)
2008-2016	Electrical Engineer, The Maintenance Branch of Jiangsu Power Supply Company, State Grid Corporation of China
2007-2008	English Tutor (part-time), New Oriental School (Nanjing, China)

SERVICE

2025	Stage 1 proposal reviewer for the 2026 RSA Conference.
2025	Stage 1 proposal reviewer for the 2026 CCCC Annual Convention.
2024-2025	Student Representative, Website and Social Media Committee, English Department, University of Louisville.
2024-2026	Treasurer, English Graduate Organization (EGO), English Department, University of Louisville. <i>*Successfully applied for \$500 GSC grant and used it to organize the “EGO Academic & Professional Membership Awarding Project;” applied for \$200 CPC funding for EGO events in March and April, 2025.</i>
2025	Panel Chairperson at sessions “I10-What Makes a Movement?” and “J7-Contemporary Inventions” in 52nd Louisville Conference On Literature & Culture Since 1900.
2025-2026	Participant, Ascend Champions Program, Delphi Center, University of Louisville. <i>*Ascend Champions Program built a pedagogy community for mutual support among educators.</i>
2023-2026	Mentor, First-Generation Mentoring program (READY First Year Initiatives), University of Louisville. <i>*Mentees: Austin Aphayasane (2023-24), Angela Rutherford (2024-25), Moyzidi Cheikh (2025-26).</i>
2023-2024	Director of Finance, Graduate Student Council, University of Louisville.
2023-2024	Student Senate (representing Graduate Student Council), Student Government Association (SGA), University of Louisville.
2023-2024	Member (representing Graduate Student Council), SGA Appropriation Committee, University of Louisville.
2022-2023	Public Relationship/Social Media Coordinator, International Student Council, International Student and Scholar Services, University of Louisville.

2022-2023	Graduate Student Council Representative for English Department, University of Louisville.	
2022	Panel Chairperson at session “D6 -Constructing Art” in 49th Louisville Conference on Literature & Culture Since 1900.	

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2026/Summer	English Department Travel Grant, English Department, UofL.	\$1,000
2026/Summer	Barbara Taustine Plattus Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, English Department, UofL.	\$250
2026/Summer	The Anne Braden Institute (ABI) Social Justice Multimedia Research Award, Anne Braden Institute & Digital Media Suite, UofL.	\$250
2026/Summer	RSA Travel Grant, Andrea Lunsford Diversity Fund, 2 nights at the conference hotel.	
2026/Spring	Graduate Student Travel Grant, Graduate School, UofL.	\$350
2025/Fall	Graduate Network in A&S (GNAS) Travel, Research, and Creative Activities Grants, College of Arts & Science, UofL.	\$250
2025/Spring	Graduate Student Travel Grant, Graduate School, UofL.	\$200
2025/Spring	Club Programming Committee Funding, Student Organization Advisory Board (SOAB), UofL (On behalf of English Graduate Organization: for Rhetoric Reading Group’s events in March & April).	\$200
2025/Spring	Graduate Student Council Recognized Student Organization (RSO) Support Grant, Graduate School, UofL (On behalf of English Graduate Organization: for EGO Academic & Professional Membership Awarding Project).	\$500
2024/Fall	Graduate Network in A&S (GNAS) Travel, Research, and Creative Activities Grants, College of Arts & Science, UofL.	\$250
2024/Summer	Graduate Student Travel Grant, Graduate School, UofL.	\$350
2024/Summer	English Department Travel Grant, English Department, UofL.	\$1,000
2024/Spring	Graduate Student Council Research Grant, Graduate School, UofL.	\$500
2024/Spring	Graduate Network in A&S (GNAS) Travel, Research, and Creative Activities Grants, College of Arts & Science, UofL.	\$250
2024/Spring	Graduate Student Travel Grant, Graduate School, UofL.	\$65
2023/Spring	Graduate Student Travel Grant, Graduate School, UofL.	\$350
2023	Graduate Network in A&S (GNAS) Travel, Research, and Creative Activities Grants, College of Arts & Science, UofL.	\$250
2023	English Department Travel Grants, English Department, UofL	\$1,000
2023-2025	University Fellowship, UofL	\$44,000

PUBLIC WRITING

- 2025 “Recalling the First Reading Experience of Margaret Mackey’s ‘Exploring Readerly Diversity’.” Materializing Reading, *The Graduate Reading Exchange*, March 21, 2025. <https://blogs.bgsu.edu/graduaterreadingexchange/2025/03/21/recalling-the-first-reading-experience-of-margaret-mackeys-exploring-readerly-diversity/>.
- 2024 “Read it Twice.” Reading Tool Kit, *The Graduate Reading Exchange*, June 25, 2024. <https://blogs.bgsu.edu/graduaterreadingexchange/2024/06/25/read-it-twice/>.
- 2023 “The Importance of Reading the Syllabus and Assignment Sheets.” *UofL Writing Center Blog*, March 20, 2023. <https://uoflwritingcenter.com/2023/03/20/the-importance-of-reading-the-syllabus-and-assignment-sheets/>.
- 2023 “Grand Duel.” (Poetry), *The White Squirrel: UofL Student Literary and Arts Magazine*, Vol. XIX, Spring 2023, pp.20-21.
- 2022 “Why Can’t I Write Like Derrida?.” *UofL Writing Center Blog*, February 7, 2022. <https://uoflwritingcenter.com/2022/02/07/why-cant-i-write-like-derrida/>.
- 2021 “Reader as a Tyrant: Co-operative Principles in Standardized Exam Writing.” *UofL Writing Center Blog*, October 25, 2021. <https://uoflwritingcenter.com/2021/10/25/reader-as-a-tyrant-co-operative-principles-in-standardized-exam-writing/>.
- 2024 “重讀《安提戈涅》(Rereading *Antigone*).” 虛詞 *P-articles*, Hong Kong, Dec 2, 2024. <https://p-articles.com/critics/4989.html>
- 2023 “以巴問題選邊邊，看齊澤克點講 (Zizek on Israel-Palestine War in 2023).” 虛詞 *P-articles*, Hong Kong, Oct 18, 2023. <https://p-articles.com/critics/4107.html>
- 2022 “《心靈築動》：成為父親，成為母親 (*Columbus: Becoming a Father, Becoming a Mother*).” 虛詞 *P-articles*, Hong Kong, Jan 24, 2022. <https://p-articles.com/critics/2720.html>
- 2021 “《神奇女俠 1984》：平庸的超級英雄？(*Wonder Woman 1984: An Mediocre Superheroine?*).” 虛詞 *P-articles*, Hong Kong, Mar 17, 2021. <https://p-articles.com/critics/2063.html>
- 2021 “「齊澤克：特朗普背叛，出賣的正是民粹」導讀 (A Reading on Slavoj Zizek’s Op-ed: Trump’s GREATEST TREASON is the betrayal of populism).” 虛詞 *P-articles*, Hong Kong, Jan 19, 2021. <https://p-articles.com/works/1933.html>
- 2020 “惑：《無痛斷捨離》舒緩的節奏 (*The Slow Rhythms in Happy Old Year*).” 虛詞 *P-articles*, Hong Kong, May 25, 2020. <https://p-articles.com/critics/1458.html>

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Teachers of Technical Writing (ATTW) 2024
 American Society for the History of Rhetoric (ASHR) 2026-27
 International Society for the History of Rhetoric (ISHR) 2024
 Rhetoric Society of America (RSA) 2024-26