

MATTHEW ABRAHAM

Associate Professor
Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse
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Education

- Ph.D. 2003 English, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
Primary Fields: Rhetoric and Composition, Cultural Theory, Social/Political Philosophy
Dissertation: "The Rhetoric of Resistance and the Resistance to Theory: Controversial Academic Scholarship in the American Public Sphere"
Committee: Arkady Plotnitsky (chair), Leonard Harris, William L. McBride, Aparajita Sagar, Patricia Sullivan
- M.A. 1998 Rhetoric and Writing, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR
Thesis: "Michel Foucault and the Rhetoric of Truth: An Embattled Intellectual and His Critics"
Committee: Michael Kleine (chair), Thomas Kaiser, Andrea Kwasny
- B.A. 1995 English and History (honors), University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR

Academic Positions

DePaul University, Associate Professor of Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse (July 2009-present)
DePaul University, Assistant Professor of Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse (2007-2009)
DePaul University, Assistant Professor of English (2006-2007)
University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Assistant Professor of English (2004-2006)
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Full-Time Faculty in English and Theater Arts (2003-2004)
Purdue University, Graduate Student and Teaching Assistant, Department of English (1998-2003)
University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Graduate Student and Teaching Assistant, Department of Rhetoric and Writing (1995-1998)

Research Areas

Civic and Political Rhetoric, Postcolonial/Anti-Colonial Theory, Critical Race Theory, Public Intellectuals

Publications

Special Journal Issue

Edward Said and After: Toward a New Humanism. Eds., Matthew Abraham and Andrew Rubin.
Special issue of *Cultural Critique* 67: 2007. "Introduction: Edward Said and After: Toward a New Humanism." 1-12.

Journal Articles

- Human Rights Anyone? Conceptions of Intellectual Labor after Noam Chomsky." *South Atlantic Quarterly* special issue on "Intellectual Labor," Eds. Timothy Brennan and Keya Ganguly. Durham: Duke University Press, 2009. Vol. 108, No. 2 (Spring 2009), pp. 364-393.
- "The Perils of Separation: Fouzi El-Asmar's *To Be an Arab in Israel* as an Allegory of Settler Colonial Anxiety." *South Atlantic Quarterly* 7:4, special issue on "Settler-Colonialism." Eds. Aloysha Goldstein and Alex Lubin. Durham: Duke University Press (2008): 715-734
- "Alan Wald's *The New York Intellectuals* and the Discourse of Shifting Alliances: Anticommunist Liberalism, Neo-Conservatism, and the Rise of Israelism as a Manifestation of Jewish Nationalism." *Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture* 8.1 (2008).
<<http://reconstruction.eserver.org/081/abraham.shtml>>
- "Confronting the Politics of Evasion in an Age of Frigate: Democracy, Religious Enthusiasm, and the State." *Journal of Culture and Religious Theory* 8.2 (2007): 28-40.
- "History, Memory, and Exile: Edward Said, the New York Intellectuals, and the Rhetoric of Accommodation and Resistance." *MMLA* special issue on "History, Memory, and Exile" Ed. Michael Bernard-Donals 39.2 (2006): 133-155.
- "Tracing the Discourse of Defiance: Remembering Edward W. Said through the Resistance of the Palestinian Intifada" *Nebula World* 2.2 (2005): 22-32.
- "The Rhetoric of Academic Controversy after 9/11: Edward Said in the American Imagination." *Journal of Advanced Composition* 24.1 (2004): 113-142.
- "What is Complexity Science?: Toward the End of Ethics and Law Masquerading as Justice." *Emergence: A Journal of Complexity Issues in Organizations and Management* 3.1 (2001): 169-184.

Book Chapters

- "Turning Fragmentation into Possibility: Theory in the Corporate University." *Fusion and Disciplinary Identities: Reform and English Studies*. Eds. Lisa Ostergaard, Scott Nugent and Scott Ludwig. West Lafayette, IN: Parlor Press, 2009, pp. 122-140.
- "Simply Said: Edward Said and the New York Intellectual Tradition." *The New York Intellectuals and Beyond*. Eds. Dan Morris and Ethan Goffman. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press, 2008. 213-242.
- "Said, Empire, and Territorial Ambition." *Paradoxical Citizenship: Edward Said*. Ed. Silvia Nagy-Zekmi. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2006. 75-82.
- "Supreme Rhetoric: The Supreme Court, Veiled Majoritarianism, and the Enforcement of the Racial Contract." *Race and the Foundations of Knowledge: Cultural Amnesia in the Academy*. Eds. Joseph Young and Jana Evans Braziel. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2006. 63-74.

Review Essays and Responses

- "Academic Freedom as a Rhetorical Construction: A Response to Powers and Chaput," a response essay to Karen Powers and Catherine Chaput's "Anti-American Studies in the Deep South: Dissenting Rhetorics, the Practice of Democracy, and Academic Freedom in Wartime Universities". *College Composition and Communication*. 59.3 (2008): 512-517.
- "Responding to Complaints about *Beyond Chutzpah* Review". *Logos: A Journal of Modern Society and Culture* 5:1 (2006). <http://www.logosjournal.com/issue_5.1/abraham.htm>.
- Review essay of Norman G. Finkelstein's *Beyond Chutzpah: On the Misuse of Anti-Semitism and the Abuse of History*. *Logos: A Journal of Modern Society and Culture* 4:4 (2005).
<http://www.logosjournal.com/issue_4.4/abraham.htm>.
- Review essay of Abdirahman's Hussein's *Edward Said: Criticism and Society* and Mustapha

Marrouchi's *Edward Said at the Limits*. *Journal of Advanced Composition* 25.2 (2005): 397-406. [Reprinted in *Logos: A Journal of Culture and Society* 4:3 (2005). <http://www.logosjournal.com/issue_4.3/abraham_said.htm>]

Review of session E.27, "Making Rhetoric Matter: The Classroom as a Site for Cultural Critique and Production." Across the Disciplines: Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Language, Learning, and Academic Writing (2004). <<http://wac.colostate.edu/atd/>>

Review of Paul Cillier's *Postmodernism and Complexity*. *Postmodern Culture* 10.2 (2000). <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/postmodern_culture/toc/pmc10.2.html>

Bibliographic Entries

"Edward Said." *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, Volume on *20th Century Arab Writers of Fiction & Philosophy*. Eds. Al-Mallah, Majd and Coeli Fitzpatrick. Columbia, SC: Brucoli, Clark, Layman Inc., 2009, pp. 221-231.

Under Consideration

"Developing Activist Rhetorics on Israel-Palestine: Resisting the DePolitization of the Academy." *Activist Rhetoricians and Rhetorical Activists: How Rhetoric Contributes to Democracy*. Ed. Seth Kahn and Jong-Hwa Lee.

In Progress

Out of Bounds: Academic Freedom and the Question of Palestine. Book manuscript. Under advance contract with Pluto Books (London and Ann Arbor).

Conferences Presentations

"Barack Obama and the Politics of Racial Literacy: A Rhetorical Analysis." Wright's Jeremiad and the Rhetorical Construction of Barack Obama. Conference on College Composition and Communication, San Francisco, March 2009.

"Rose's The Last Resistance, Jewish-Palestinian Suffering, and Psychoanalysis." Critical Theory and the Israel-Palestine Conflict. (Speaker with Grant Farred and Patricia Dodd). Modern Language Association Conference, San Francisco, December 2008.

"Writing the Realities of Zionism." American Zionism and Academic Freedom. (Speaker, with Anis Bawarshi and Patricia Dodd). Conference on College Composition and Communication, New Orleans, April 2008.

"After the Denials: Academic Freedom at DePaul University after June 8th, 2007." Academic Freedom Conference, DePaul University, Chicago, February 2008.

"The Rhetoric of Recovery: Palestinian History Before 1948." Palestine and the War Against Academic Freedom (Chair, with Anis Bawarshi and Patricia Dodd). Conference on College Composition and Communication, New York, March 2007.

"Introduction." Reconciling Representing Identity with Fostering Civic Literacy (Chair, with Tom Huckin, Ira Shor, Marlia Banning, and Donald Lazere). Conference on College Composition and Communication, New York, March 2007.

"Realizing Race as a Rhetoric: Racializing Institutional Critique in an Age of Racism." Race and Rhetoric (with Morris Young, Chair; LuMing Mao, Margaret Katharine Willard-Traub). Modern Language Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA, December 2006.

"Activist Rhetoric, Activist Rhetoricians: What Are We Acting Toward?" The Activism(s) of Rhetoric(s): Rethinking Rhetorical Theory as Activist Practice (with Seth Kahn, Charles Bazerman, Mary Braun, and Ellen Cushman). Conference on College Composition and Communication, Chicago, March 2006.

- “Rhetoric and the Question of Palestine.” Rhetoric and the Question of Palestine (Chair, with Harriet Malinowitz, Anis Bawarshi, Robert Jensen, and Melissa Hasbrook). Conference on College Composition and Communication, Chicago, March 2006.
- “Critical Theory and its Problems.” The School of Criticism and Theory: The Past, Present, and Future of Critical Theory (with Dominick LaCapra, Stephen Nichols, Michael Warner, Hortense Spillers, and Jenn Fishman). Modern Language Association Conference, Washington D.C., December 2005.
- “Response.” Criticism and Crisis: Academic Freedom and Twenty-First Century Intellectuals (respondent to Mary Louise Pratt, chair; Timothy Andres Brennan; Andrew Rubin; Robert Jensen). Modern Language Association Conference, Washington D.C., December 2005.
- “Edward W. Said, Exile, and the New York Intellectual Tradition.” The Politics of Exile (with Jeffrey Menne, Grace Lee, Ramsey Tesdell, Lee Tesdell). Midwest Modern Language Association Conference, Milwaukee, WI, November 2005.
- “The Rhetoric of Academic Controversy: Discussing the Israel-Palestine Conflict on American Campuses.” Research Network Forum, Conference on College Composition and Communication, San Francisco, March 16, 2005.
- “Toward a Racialized Conception of Institutional Critique.” Labor, Management, and the Institution (with Marilyn Cooper and John Ackerman). Thomas R. Watson Conference, Louisville, KY, October 2004.
- “Social Change and the Rhetoric of the Return of Repressed Religiosity.” Rhetorics of Social Change: Religiosity, Space, and Ideology (with Kelly Pender, Christa Jean Downer, and Pauline Uchmanowicz). Rhetoric Society of American Conference, Austin, TX, May 31, 2004.
- “Ghassan Kanafani's Return to Haifa and the Rhetoric of Resistance.” The Rhetoric of Resistance: The Intifada and the Literary Imagination (with Timothy Brennan, Paul Bové, Bruce Robbins, and Dominick LaCapra). Modern Language Association Conference, San Diego, December 27, 2003.
- “The Resistance to Theory in the Age of Corporatization.” Transforming Fragmentation into Possibilities: Theory in the Corporate University (with Kelly Pender, Michael Pennell, Michael Kleine). Conference on College Composition and Communication, New York, March 19, 2003.
- “The Fragmentation of the Disciplinary Subject.” Complexity, Emergence, and Resistance: Psychoanalysis in the New Millennium (with Thomas Rickert and Todd Hoffman). The Desire of the Analyst Conference, Columbia, SC, February 14, 2003.
- “Edward Said in the American Imagination.” Controversial Academic Scholarship in the Public Sphere after 9-11-01 (with Michael Bérubé, Dominick LaCapra, and Arkady Plotnitsky). Modern Language Association Conference, New York, December 29, 2002.
- “An Allegory of Anxiety in the Making: Veiled Majoritarianism and the Racial Contract.” The Problem of Race Conference, Cambridge, MA, April 5, 2002.
- “Foucault and Embarrassing the Orthopedists of Individuality.” Going Down on the Academy: Are You on the Right Track? (with Todd Hoffman and Xiaoye You). Theory and Cultural Studies Colloquium, West Lafayette, IN, April 2002.
- “De Manian Allergians: Why Are They So Potent?” Struggling With Our De Manian Inheritance: Paul de Man and the Afterlife of Theory (with Arkady Plotnitsky, Ned Lukacher, James Zeigler, and Todd Hoffman). Modern Language Association Conference, New Orleans, LA. December 29, 2001.
- “Supreme Rhetoric: The Supreme Court, Veiled Majoritarianism, and the Enforcement of the Racial Contract.” Race and the Humanities Conference, Lacrosse, WI, November 17, 2001.
- “Edward Said: A Tribute to the Secular Critic.” Contemporary Representations of the Intellectual Colloquium, West Lafayette, IN, September 14, 2001.

- “Affirmative Action as a Deconstructive Strategy in the Critical Race Theory Project.”
Illuminations Colloquium (Purdue University English/Philosophy Program), West Lafayette, IN, April 3, 2001.
- “Just Revenge in Jerusalem: Representing and Assessing Crimes against Humanity.” The Holocaust and Critical Theory Colloquium (sponsored by the Theory and Cultural Studies Program and Jewish Studies at Purdue), West Lafayette, IN, March 2001.
- “Discussing Affirmative Action in the Composition Classroom.” Reaffirming Affirmative Action in the Composition Classroom (with Keith Gilyard, Catherine Prendergast, and Michael Kleine). Conference on College Composition and Communication, Denver, CO, March 2001.
- “Affirmative Action as a Deconstructive Strategy Within the Critical Race Theory Project.”
Derrida and Contemporary Cultural Criticism (with Arkady Plotnitsky, Michael Kleine and James Zeigler). Modern Language Association Conference, Washington, D.C., December 28, 2000.
- “Examining the Issue of Free Speech in the Computer-Mediated Classroom.” Making Knowledge in the Computer-Mediated Classroom (with Michael Pennell, Julie Woodford, and Meredith Weisberg). National Council for the Teaching of English Conference, Milwaukee, WI, November 2000.
- “Foucault, Deleuze, and the Feminine: Eating Disorders in the Postmodern.” Unruly Women Colloquium, West Lafayette, IN, April 2000.
- “Paralogy as a Postmodern Techné.” Revisioning Techné: Three Perspectives (with Michael Carter, Janet Atwill and Michael Kleine). Conference on College Composition and Communication, Minneapolis, MN, April 2000.
- “Arguing for a New Culture through Critical Legal Studies.” Cultural Studies in the Composition Classroom (with John Schlib, Patricia Harkin, and Karen Bishop). Modern Language Association Conference, Chicago, IL, December 1999.
- “Heeding Whiteness as Property in the Affirmative Action Debate.” Critical Race Theory (with David Theo Goldberg and Cedric Robinson). Specter of Law Conference: Legal Theory at the Fin de Siecle’, Birkbeck College, London, England, September 1999.

Invited Talks and Media Interviews

- “The Importance of Discussing the Israel-Palestine Conflict in the American Academy.” Simpson University, Redding, CA, November 28, 2007.
- “Going on the Offensive: Defending Academic Freedom in Reactionary Times.” University of Texas, Austin, TX, January 31, 2006.
- “The Crisis of Academic Freedom.” Illinois AAUP annual address. John Marshall Law School, Chicago, IL, April 14, 2008.
- “Why Ward Churchill Must Not Be Fired.” Emergency Forum on Academic Freedom, Boulder, CO, April 28, 2007.
- Interview. “Living Room” with Kris Welch, KPFA San Francisco, September 8, 2007.
- Interview. “Beneath the Surface” with Michael Slate, KPFA, Los Angeles, April 10, 2007.
- Interview. “KPFA Evening News” with Michael Reagan, KPFA, San Francisco, June 16, 2007.
- Interview. “Protecting Academic Freedom” with Frederick Aldeen, Radio Islam, Chicago, June 20, 2007.
- Interview. “A Public Affair” with Willy Becker, WORT-FM 89.1, Madison, WI, July 3, 2007.

Academic Honors and Grants

Liberal Arts and Sciences Faculty Research Summer Grant, DePaul University (Summer 2006)
Hodges Summer Research Award, University of Tennessee (Summer 2005)
Hodges Better English Fund Research Leave, University of Tennessee (Spring 2006)
Rachel Corrie Courage in the Teaching of Writing Award sponsored by the progressive SIGS of
the Conference on College Composition and Communication (2005)
Purdue Research Foundation Fellowship (2001-2003)
English/Philosophy Interdisciplinary Fellowship, Purdue University (2000-2001)
Participant in School of Criticism and Theory (Cornell University) (Summer 1999)
Golden Key National Honor Society (1993-1995)
University of Arkansas Little Rock Chancellor's List (1993-1995)
Sigma Tau Delta (International English Honor Society) (1994-1995)
Alpha Theta (International History Honor Society) (1994-1995)

Courses Taught

DePaul University

Interdisciplinary Studies Program 101: Intellectuals, Writing, and Social Change
English 208: Introduction to Reasoned Discourse
English 306: Rhetoric
English 309: Public Writing
English 405/WRD 505: Modern Rhetoric (graduate)
English 406/WRD 506: Multicultural Rhetoric (graduate)
English 483: Composition Theory (graduate)

University of Tennessee at Knoxville

English 255: Public Writing
English 355: Rhetoric and Writing
English 455: Advanced Persuasive Writing
English 582: Rhetoric in the Public Sphere: Intellectuals, Writing, and Social Change (graduate)

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

English 101: Composition I
English 102: Composition II

Purdue University

English 101: Composition I
English 102: Composition II
English 101c: Community, Composition, Cyberspace, and Civil Liberties
English 103c: Composition (topic: First Amendment and Free Speech)
English 250: Great American Books
English 230: Great Narrative Works
English 420: Business and Professional Writing

Other Employment

Central Arkansas Legal Services, Legal Intern (May-August 1996)
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Research Writer (1993-1994)
University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Study Tutor (1991-1993)

Service

DePaul University

University

Member, Academic Program Review Committee (2008-present)
Academic Integrity Advisor, Academic Integrity Board (2006-present)

College

LA&S Faculty Governance Council Academic Freedom Taskforce (2007-08)
LA&S Faculty Council Alternate (2008-09)

Department

Member, WRD Self-Study Team (2008)
Member, Graduate Program Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee, Department of WRD (2008)
Member, Quality Instructional Council Grant Ad Hoc Committee, Department of WRD (2008)
Chair of Tenure and Promotion Guidelines Subcommittee, Department of WRD (2007)
Chair of Bylaws Subcommittee, Department of WRD (2007)
Undergraduate pre-law advisor, Department of WRD (2007-present)
Undergraduate pre-law advisor, Department of English (2006-2007)

University of Tennessee

Committee Service Senior Honors Thesis Committee, Department of English (2005-2006)
Geier Search Committee, Department of English (2005-2006)
Diversity Committee, Department of English (2005-2006)
Judge in 11th Annual SAEOPP/UTK McNair National Scholars Research Conference (2005)

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Co-Chair, North Africa-West Asia Committee (2003-2004)

Purdue University

Graduate Student Representative, English Department Head Search Committee (Spring 2002)
GradSEA Representative for the Theory and Cultural Studies Program, Purdue University (2000-2002)
Webmaster, English & Philosophy Program, Purdue University (2000-2001)
Graduate Student Representative, Business/Professional Writing Search Committee (Spring 2000)
Chair, Textbook Committee, Purdue University (Spring 2000)

Professional Activities

Reviewing

Cultural Critique manuscript reviewer (December 2007)
Mosaic manuscript reviewer (April 2007)

Conference and Lecture Coordination

Organized Dr. Robert Jensen's talk on "Defending Academic Freedom in Reactionary Times" at DePaul (May 2007)
Organized Dr. Robert Jensen's talk on "The Problem with Diversity" at DePaul (October 2006)

Organized Dr. Robert Jensen's talk on "The Heart of Whiteness" at University of Tennessee (October 2005)
PR Coordinator, Valerie Traub/Samuel Weber Colloquium on Virtuality, Materiality and the Body, Purdue University (February 2002)
Colloquium Organizer, Contemporary Representations of the Intellectual, Purdue University (September 2001)
Colloquium Organizer, Critical Theory and the Holocaust: Representing Shoah in Theoretical Discourses, Purdue University (April 2001)

Professional Service

Illinois AAUP state council member-at-large (2007-present)
Member, Taskforce on CCCC Awards and Guidelines (2008)
Chair, Progressive Special Caucuses Coalition (PSCC), Conference on College Composition and Communication (2006-2009)
Participant, Intellectual Property Caucus, College Composition and Communication, Minneapolis, MN (March 2000)

Session Chair

Session Chair, Conference on College Composition and Communication, Chicago, IL (March 2002)
Session Chair, Contesting the Racial Contract, Purdue University (April 2001)
Session Chair, Conference on College Composition and Communication, Atlanta, GA (March 1999)

Reading and Discussion Group Organization

Critical Race Theory Reading Group Organizer (2007-present)
Race Dialogues (started an informal discussion about diversity issues within the English Department at University of Tennessee in the summer of 2005 to address recent issues pertaining to recent searches)
U.S.-Israel-Palestine Group List Moderator U.S.-Israel-Palestine Group CCCC's Representative Guest Moderator for Pretext Listserv discussion of Noam Chomsky's *Hegemony or Survival : America's Quest for Global Dominance*, (September and October 2004). The Pretext Listserv is run by Professor Victor Vitanza at the University of Texas at Arlington. See <<http://www.pre-text.com/ptlist/reinvw.html>>

Professional Memberships

Modern Language Association
Midwest Modern Language Association
Conference on College Composition and Communication
National Council for Teachers of English
Association of American University Professors