

Rachel Dean-Ruzicka

EDUCATION

- PhD American Culture Studies, Bowling Green State University, 2011
Dissertation: *Cosmopolitan Ethics and the Limits of Tolerance: Representing the Holocaust in Young Adult Literature*. Nominated for best ACS Dissertation Award, 2013
Committee: Dr. Beth Greich-Polelle (History), Dr. Kimberly Coates (English), Dr. Vivian Patraha (English/Theater)
- MA Literature, Colorado State University, 2006
- BA English Literature, Colorado State University, 2003

Certifications

- 200-Hour Pranakriya Yoga Teacher Certification, 2024
- Response to Intervention: Reading Strategies that Work, University of Georgia, 2020
- Guided Reading and Writing: Strategies for Maximum Student Achievement, University of Georgia, 2020
- Safe Space Training, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2017
- Segue Developmental Writing, Georgia Gwinnett College, 2015
- Digital Pedagogy, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2013
- Women's Studies, Bowling Green State University, 2011
- Professional Internship in English, Colorado State University, 2006
- Women's Studies, Colorado State University, 2003

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- Senior Lecturer; Georgia Institute of Technology; Department of Literature, Media, and Communication; 2022-Present
- Lecturer; Georgia Institute of Technology; Department of Literature, Media, and Communication; 2016-2022
- Instructor; Georgia Institute of Technology and USG eCore; Department of Literature, Media, and Communication; 2015-2016
- Visiting Assistant Professor; Georgia Gwinnett College; Department of English; 2014-2015
- Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellow; Georgia Institute of Technology; Department of Literature, Media, and Communication; 2011-2014

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- Tolerance Discourse and Young Adult Holocaust Literature: Engaging Difference and Identity*. New York: Routledge, 2017. (Paperback 2019).

Peer Reviewed Articles and Chapters

- "Stranger Things World of Queer Transmedia Storytelling." Forthcoming in *The Lion and the Unicorn*.
- "21st Century Perspectives on Young Adult Holocaust Literature." Forthcoming in *The Oxford Handbook of Young Adult Literature*.
- "Stay Sexy and Don't Get Murdered: An Unexpected Rallying Cry for Feminist Fans of True Crime." *South Central Review*, vol. 42 no. 3, 2025, 22-42.

PUBLICATIONS, continued

Peer Reviewed Articles and Chapters

- "Uncanny Teenagers, Canny Killers: Paranormal Maturation in a Subgenre." *Beyond the Blockbusters: Themes and Trends in Young Adult Literature*. Jackson, MS: University of Mississippi Press, 2020.
- "What the Junk? Defeating the Velociraptor in the Lighthouse with the *Lumberjanes*." *Graphic Novels for Children and Young Adults: A Collection of Critical Essays*. Jackson, MS: University of Mississippi Press, 2017. 218-232.
- "Representing 'The Great Devouring': Romani Characters in Young Adult Holocaust Literature." *Children's Literature in Education*. 45.3 (2014): 211-224.
- "Of Scrivens and Sparks: Girl Geniuses in Young Adult Dystopian Fiction." *Female Rebellion in Young Adult Dystopian Fiction*. Eds. Sara K. Day, Miranda Green-Barteet, and Amy L. Montz. Ashgate Press (2014): 51-74.
- "Mourning and Melancholia in Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*." *ImageText: Interdisciplinary Comics Studies* 7.2 (2014).
http://www.english.ufl.edu/imagetext/archives/v7_2/dean-ruzicka/
- "Themes of Privilege and Whiteness in the Films of Wes Anderson." *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 30.1 (2013): 25-40.
- "Combating Hate through Young Adult Literature." *The Journal of Hate Studies* 10.1 (2012): 199-220.
- "Vengeance, Healing, and Justice: Post 9/11 Culture Through the Lens of CSI." *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 26 (2009): 118-130.

Encyclopedia Entry

- "Guerrilla Girls" *The Encyclopedia of Women and American Popular Culture*. Facts on File Press (2011).

Book Reviews

- Review of *The Gender and Media Reader* by Mary Celeste Kearney. *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 30.3 (2013): 296.
- Review of *Girls' Studies* by Elline Lipkin. *The Journal of Popular Culture* 45.3 (2012): 665-667.
- Review of *Into the Closet: Cross-Dressing and the Gendered Body in Children's Literature and Film* by Victoria Flanagan. *The Lion and the Unicorn* 33 (2009): 241.
- Review of *Tales of Little Rebels: A Collection of Radical Children's Literature* ed. Julia Mickenberg and Philip Nel. *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* 34 (2009): 291.

Under Review and In Preparation

- Stranger Things, Transmedia, and the (Not) 1980s*. Book proposal under consideration at University of Mississippi Press.

Select Web Publications

- "Monstrous Others with Rachel Dean-Ruzicka" Podcast Episode. *The Animal Turn*. December, 2025.
- "Multimodal Assignment Design Series: Comics Creation." Blog Post. *Techstyle: A Forum for Digital Pedagogy and Research*. Georgia Institute of Technology Writing and Communications Program, November 6, 2019.
- "Classroom Observation Training Manual." Graduate Teaching Fellows Program. Georgia Institute of Technology Center for Teaching and Learning, 2018.
- "Pokemon Go(es) to Auschwitz." Blog Post. *Power, Privilege, and Popular Entertainment*. July 27, 2016.

AWARDS AND HONORS

GEARS Research Grant, 2025
Transformative Teaching and Learning CUREs Grant, 2024
Provost's Teaching and Learning Fellowship, Georgia Tech, 2022-2024
AP Visiting Fellow in Assessment, AP Higher Education, 2023
Jack and Anita Hess Seminar for Faculty, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2018
Writing and Communication Program Excellence in Pedagogy Award, 2014
Class of 1969 Teaching Scholar, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2012-2013
Thank a Teacher Certificate Recipient, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2011-2013, 2017
Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, Bowling Green State University, 2011
Midwest Popular Culture Association Travel Grant, 2008

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talk

"You Do You: Allowing Exploration of Fan Spaces in First Year Writing and Communication." Podcasting and Pedagogy Symposium, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, March 4, 2023.
"T4 Program and Forced Sterilization in Nazi Germany." Disability Studies Initiative, Emory University, Atlanta, April 24, 2019.
"What Does it Mean to Be a Life Unworthy of Living? Gender, Sterilization, and Nazi Germany." Gender and History Lecture Series, Avila University, Kansas City, March 20, 2018.
"Combating Hate through Young Adult Literature." Hate in Political Discourse Symposium led by the Institute for the Study of Hate, American University, Washington DC, September 27, 2012.

Conference Organizer

Children's Literature Association, "The Arcade," June 10-12, 2021.

National Conferences

"Of Suburbs and Trailer Parks: Neighborhoods and Safety in *Stranger Things* Season Four." *Forthcoming at Children's Literature Association Annual Conference*. Pittsburgh, PA, May 27-30, 2026.
"Queer Futurity and Temporality in *Stranger Things*." Children's Literature Association Annual Conference. Virtual. June 9-14, 2025.
"Soundwriting and Humanities Research." Computers and Writing, Athens, GA, May 15-18, 2025.
"Soundreading/Soundwriting: Remix, Agency, and Multimodal Presentation." Conference on College Composition and Communication. Baltimore, MD, April 9-12, 2025.
"Finding Family in the Transmedia World of *Stranger Things*: Terror and Aid in Hawkins Lab." International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, March 19-22, 2025.
"The Horrors Beneath the Whimsey: Immortality and Maturity in L. Frank Baum's *Oz* Books." International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, March 12-15, 2024.
"Stay Sexy and Don't Get Murdered: An Unusual Rallying Cry for Feminist Fans of True Crime." National Women's Studies Association, October 25-28, 2023.
"China Mieville's Anthropocene Fantasies." Children's Literature Association, June 18-21, 2020. **canceled due to COVID-19**

PRESENTATIONS, continued*National Conferences*

- "Short Session Corequisite Education: Possibilities and Pitfalls." National Organization for Student Success, March 4-7, 2020. Poster Presentation.
- "The Unchosen Ones and Environmental Activism in China Mieville's *Un Lun Dun*." Children's Literature Association, June 13-16, 2019.
- "Athletics and the Co-Requisite Model at Georgia Tech." Poster Presentation. National Association of Developmental Education, Atlanta, March 6-9, 2019.
- "Waveless Feminism and *A Wrinkle in Time* (1962, 2018)." Children's Literature Association, June 28-30, 2018.
- "1980s Nostalgia, Gendered Friendship, and Fantastic Weirdness in *Paper Girls* and *Stranger Things*." Playing with Childhood in the 21st Century Symposium, April 6-7, 2018.
- "Finding Feminist Futures in Young Adult Literature." Children's Literature Association, June 22-25, 2017.
- "What the Junk? Defeating the Velociraptors in the Outhouse with the *Lumberjanes*." Children's Literature Association, June 18-20, 2015.
- "Finding Our Heroines: New Routes into Holocaust History for Young Adults." University of South Carolina Comparative Literature Conference (Women and the Holocaust). March 1-3, 2015.
- "Representing the Great Devouring: Romani Characters in Young Adult Holocaust Literature." Children's Literature Association, June 21-24, 2014.
- "Playing Engineer: Girl Geniuses in Young Adult Dystopian Fiction." Children's Literature Association, June 13-15, 2013.
- "Teaching Adaptation." International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts, March 20-24, 2013.
- "How the Specter of Death Complicates the Image of the Nazi Bogeyman in Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*." International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts, March 21-25, 2012.
- "Is This the Fiction Fat Girls Need? Teaching *She's Come Undone* and *Hairspray* in the Women's Studies and English Classroom." National Women's Studies Association, November 10-14, 2011.
- "Echoes of Anne Frank: the Diary's Continued Influence on Young Adult Literature." Children's Literature Association, June 10-12, 2010.
- "Eating the Entire Plate: Violence, Forensics, and an Overindulgence in the Carnavalesque on *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*." Film and History Biannual Conference, October 30-November 2, 2008.
- "Nancy Drew and the Cultural Conundrum: How Race and Ethnicity are Marginalized in Nancy's Early Stories." Nancy Drew and Girl Sleuths: Past, Present, and Future, February 16-17, 2007.

Regional Conferences

- "From Weirdness to Whiteness: the Evolving Monsters of *Stranger Things*." Monsters, Heroes, and Others: Unpacking Power in Media and Politics through Race or Species. Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, March 1-2, 2025.
- "Genre Analysis and Writing for the Web." USG Teaching and Learning Conference, Athens, GA April 7-9, 2020. **canceled due to COVID-19**
- "Comics Creation Projects: Scaffolding, Skills, and Critical Thinking." USG Teaching and Learning Conference, Athens, GA, April 10-12, 2019.

PRESENTATIONS, continued

Regional Conferences

- "Say Something Once, Why Say it Again? The Proliferation of Psychics and Psychos in Young Adult Literature." South Atlantic Modern Language Association, November 3-5, 2017. Panel organizer and chair *Beyond the Blockbusters: Themes and Trends in Young Adult Literature*.
- "Sustaining Anne Frank's Voice: Adaptation and Appropriation of *The Diary of a Young Girl*." South Atlantic Modern Language Association, November 7-9, 2014.
- "21st Century Boy Detectives and the Rise of New Adolescent Detective Fiction." South Atlantic Modern Language Association, November 8-10, 2013.
- "The Limits of Tolerance: Representations of Neo-Nazis in Young Adult Literature." Battleground States: Collapsing Culture, February 25-26, 2011.
- "Is There Liberatory Possibility in Give Me Liberty? Frank Miller and Dave Gibbon's Martha Washington as Intersectional Heroine." Midwest Popular Culture Association Annual Conference, October 30-31, 2009.
- "I Always Wanted to be a Tenenbaum: *The Royal Tenenbaums* and a Search for Identity." Battleground States: The Future, February 20-21, 2009.
- "Futility of Motion: Wes Anderson Fails to Move Beyond Performing Whiteness." Midwest Popular Culture Association Annual Conference, October 3-5, 2008. Travel Grant Award Winner.
- "Feminist Idol or WASP Icon: (Re)Reading Nancy Drew's Whiteness." Battleground States: The Body, February 22-23, 2008.
- "Vengeance, Healing, and Justice: Post 9/11 Culture through the lens of CSI." Southwest/Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association Annual Conference, February 8-11, 2006.
- "Paradigmatic Organization of Sentences and the Color *Red* in the Work of Flannery O'Connor." South Central Modern Language Association Annual Conference, October 27-29, 2005.

Workshops

- "Inclusive Teaching." Curriculum Innovation Committee Workshop. January 28, 2025.
- "Research, Service, and Teaching." Brittain Fellow Orientation. August 17, 2020.
- "The Waiting is the Hardest Part." Book Publishing: from Pitch to Proposal to Manuscript. Professional Development Series & Working Group, February 9, 2017.
- "Why Murder? Teaching True Crime in ENGL 1101." Teaching the 20th Century: a Colloquium on Digital Pedagogy and 20th Century Literature and Culture, October 29, 2013.
- "Defining Digital Humanities for the Job Market." THATCamp Southeast, March 9-10, 2013.
- "*Persepolis*: a screening and talkback on the 2007 film." Delta Xi Phi Multicultural Sorority, Bowling Green State University, April 20, 2011.
- "The Online Feminist Classroom: Subverting the Master's Tools." Department of Women's Studies, Bowling Green State University, April 7, 2011.
- "Women in Higher Education." Delta Xi Phi Multicultural Sorority, Bowling Green State University, April 20, 2010.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE—online courses designated with **

Graduate

Feminist Theory in Science Technology & Society (LMC/PUBP 6749), Georgia Institute of Technology

Upper Level

Women, Art, and Culture (WS 3010), Bowling Green State University **

Diversity and Difference in Girls' Studies (WS 3000/ENG 3000), Bowling Green State University

Feminist Fiction and Theory (WS 3000/ ENG 3000), Bowling Green State University

World Literature I (ENGL 2111), University System of Georgia eCore **

World Literature II (ENGL 2112), University System of Georgia eCore **

Introduction to Gender Studies (LMC 2200), Georgia Institute of Technology

Introduction to Women's Studies: Perspectives on Gender, Class, and Ethnicity (WS 2000), Bowling Green State University

Twentieth Century Fiction (E238), Colorado State University

Lower Level

Composition

Transmedia (Honor's 1102), Georgia Institute of Technology

Monsters and Others (1102), Georgia Institute of Technology

Soundwriting (ENGL 1101), Georgia Institute of Technology

Popular Culture for Beginners (ENGL 1101), Georgia Institute of Technology

Childhood, Nostalgia, and 1980s Imaginary (ENGL 1101), Georgia Institute of Technology**

Popular Culture and Media Analysis (ENGL 1101), Georgia Institute of Technology

Autobiographical Graphic Novels (ENGL 1101), Georgia Institute of Technology

Comparative Genocide (ENGL 1101), Georgia Institute of Technology

English Composition I (ENGL 1101), Georgia Gwinnett College

Documenting Identity (ENGL 1101), Georgia Institute of Technology

Children's Literature (ENGL 1102), Georgia Institute of Technology

Murder in American Culture (ENGL 1101), Georgia Institute of Technology

Young Adult Literature (ENGL 1102), Georgia Institute of Technology

Cosmopolitan Imagination (ENGL 1102), Georgia Institute of Technology

Women, Engineering, and Popular Culture (ENGL 1101), Georgia Institute of Technology

College Composition (CO150), Colorado State University

English Composition II (ENG122), Front Range Community College

English Composition I (ENG 121), Front Range Community College

Cultural Conflicts in Literature and Life (HONR 192), Colorado State University *TA

Developmental

Support for College Writing (ENGL 0989/0999), Georgia Institute of Technology

Developmental English (ENGL 0099), Georgia Gwinnett College

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Georgia Institute of Technology

Curriculum Innovation Committee Chair, 2024-2025
Anti-Racist and Inclusive Teaching CTL Faculty Learning Community, 2022-2024
TechStyle Committee, 2022-2024
Podcasting and Curriculum Innovation Committee, 2022-2023
Professional Development Committee: Chair, 2020-2022
WOVENText Textbook Committee, 2019-2020
Professional Development Committee: Co-Chair, 2018-2020
Curriculum Innovation Committee: Wikipedia Edit-a-thon, 2017-2018
Professional Development Committee: Workshop Coordinator, 2016-2018

Georgia Gwinnett College

Professionalization Committee: Advising Resource Task Force, 2014-2015

Georgia Institute of Technology

Professional Development Committee: Workshop Coordinator and Co-Chair, 2011-2014
THATCamp Southeast Conference Organizer, 2012-2013
Special Events Committee: Colloquium and Speaker Series Organizer, 2012-2013
First Year Reading Selection Committee: Brittain Fellow Representative, 2012-2013
Writing and Communication Program Executive Committee: Representative 2011-2013

Bowling Green State University

Culture Club: Conference Organizer and At-Large Executive, 2007-2011
Graduate Student Development Leader: ACS GradStep Coordinator, 2009-2010
Women's Studies Steering Committee: Graduate Representative, 2008-2009
American Culture Studies Steering Committee: Graduate Representative, 2008-2009

Colorado State University

Organization of Student Readers: Founder/Co-Chairperson, 2005-2006
A: Literary Magazine: Assistant Editor, 2003-2004

SERVICE TO PROFESSION AND COMMUNITY

Ivan Allen College Dean's Advisory Committee, Writing and Communication Representative, 2025-26

Fund for Scientific Research–Belgium Grant Proposal Reviewer, 2025

Children's Literature in Education Peer Reviewer, 2025

Communication Committee, Children's Literature Association, 2024-2028

Humanities Peer Reviewer, 2024

International Journal of Young Adult Literature Peer Reviewer, 2024

Palgrave MacMillian Book Proposal Reviewer, 2023

Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award Committee Chair, Children's Literature Association, 2021-2022

Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award Committee, Children's Literature Association, 2018-2021

Paradoxa Peer Reviewer, 2020

Journal of Cultural Geography Peer Reviewer, 2018

Journal of Hate Studies Peer Reviewer, 2018

Children's Literature Association Quarterly Peer Reviewer, 2015-2017, 2021

Children's Literature and Education Peer Reviewer, 2015, 2018

ImageText Peer Reviewer, 2014-2015

SERVICE TO PROFESSION AND COMMUNITY, continued

Jerome Library OhioLink (state ILL program) Coordinator, 2009-2010

American Culture Studies Training Materials Coordinator, 2008

Black Swamp Arts Festival Volunteer, 2008

Bowlarama! Art Exhibition Artist, 2006

This is Not... local arts magazine, Assistant Editor, 2002