

# Amy J. Devitt

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## Education

Ph.D. University of Michigan, English Language and Literature, 1982.  
M.A. University of Kansas, English Literature and Composition, 1979.  
B.A. *summa cum laude*. Trinity University (San Antonio, Texas), English, 1977.

## Academic Appointments

Professor Emerita, University of Kansas, 2020-present.  
Chancellors Club Teaching Professor, University of Kansas, 2007-2020.  
Professor of English, University of Kansas, 2001-2020.  
Frances L. Stiefel Teaching Professor, Department of English, 2012-2015.  
Conger-Gabel Teaching Professor, University of Kansas, 2001-2004.  
Associate Professor of English, University of Kansas, 1988- 2001.  
Assistant Professor of English, University of Kansas, 1985-1988.  
Assistant Professor of English, University of Tulsa, 1982-1985.

## Administrative Positions

Director, First- and Second-Year English Department of English, University of Kansas, 2010-2013.  
Administered campus-wide writing program  
Director, Freshman-Sophomore English, University of Kansas, 1994-2000.  
Administered campus-wide writing program  
Acting Director, Freshman-Sophomore English, University of Kansas, 1989-1990.  
Administered campus-wide writing program  
Associate Director and Originator, The Writing Center, University of Kansas, 1985-1989.  
Created and administered campus-wide writing-across-the-curriculum program

## Types of Consultant Experience

**Teaching Writing**--Designer and leader of seminars and workshops on using writing effectively for teachers of writing and for faculty across campus, 1985-present.

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**Writing in the Sciences**--Designer and leader of seminars and workshops on writing more effectively for graduate students in the sciences (Self Graduate Fellowship Development Program in Written Communication, University of Kansas), 2003-present.

**Legal Language**--Expert consultant on contract language (multiple law firms), jury instructions (state of Kansas Death Penalty Defense Unit), Miranda warnings (Expert witness in *State of Kansas v. Carl Dean Rails*, Case No. 98CR-2158, Division No. 1, in the District Court of Johnson County, Kansas (Criminal Court Department), 1987-present.

**Legal Writing**--Designer and Leader of Seminars in Legal Writing and individual tutorials for associates in law firms (Dallas, Wichita), 2000-present.

## **Publications**

### **Books**

*Landmark Essays on Rhetorical Genre Studies* (co-edited with Carolyn R. Miller). New York and London: Routledge, 2019.

*Writing Genres*. Carbondale IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2004.  
Finalist for CCCC Outstanding Book Award 2006.  
Reissued in paperback 2008.

*Scenes of Writing: Strategies for Composing with Genres* (with Mary Jo Reiff and Anis Bawarshi). New York NY: Pearson/Longman, 2004.  
Reissued independently on Amazon 2018.

*Standardizing Written English: Diffusion in the Case of Scotland 1520-1659*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.  
Reissued in paperback 2006.

### **Blog**

*Genre-Colored Glasses* <https://www.amydevitt.com/genre-colored-glasses>

### **Selected Articles and Chapters**

"Genre for Social Action: Transforming Worlds Through Genre Awareness and Action." *Genres of the Climate Debate*, edited by Sune Auken and Christel Sunesen, forthcoming.

"Genres-In-Use: Blurred Boundaries and Fuzzy Edges." *Studies in the History of the English Language VIII: Boundaries and Boundary-Crossings in the History of English*, edited by Peter J.

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Grund and Megan E. Hartman. Berlin: DeGruyter, 2020

Miller, Carolyn R, Amy J Devitt, and Victoria Gallagher. "[Genre: Permanence and Change.](#)" *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* (Rhetoric Society of America). 48:3, 269-277. Published online May 15, 2018. doi:10.1080/02773945.2018.1454194

"Uncovering Occluded Publics: Untangling Public, Personal, and Technical Spheres in Jury Deliberations." *Genre and the Performance of Publics*. Eds. Mary Jo Reiff and Anis Bawarshi. Boulder CO: Utah State University Press, 2016. 139-156.

"Translating Practice into Theory in Genre Studies." *Genre Studies around the Globe: Beyond the Three Traditions*. Eds. Natasha Artemeva and A. Freedman. Edmonton, AB, Canada: Canadian Canadian Association for the Study of Language and Learning/Inkshed Publications, 2016. 387-401.

"Genre Performances: John Swales' *Genre Analysis* and Rhetorical-Linguistic Genre Studies." *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*. 19 (2015): 44-51.

"Motives and Habits: Some Thoughts on What Linguists Can Gain from Rhetoric and Composition." *Journal of English Linguistics*. December 2015. 1-7.

"Crossing the Boulevard: The Action of 'Genre as Social Action.'" *Composition Forum* 31 (Spring 2015). <http://compositionforum.com/issue/31/devitt-retrospective.php>

"Genre." *Keywords in Writing Studies*. Eds. Peter Vandenberg and Paul Heilker. Logan UT: Utah State University Press, 2015. 82-87.

"Some Ideas for Teaching New Genres from Old Genres." With Heather Bastian. In A. Dionisio & L. Cavalcanti (Eds.), *Gêneros na Linguística e na Literatura* [Genres in linguistics and literature]. Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil: Editora Universitaria UFPE. Forthcoming.

"Algumas ideias para ensinar novos gêneros a partir de velhos gêneros." With Heather Bastian. [Gêneros na Linguística e na Literatura](#) [Genres in linguistics and literature]. Eds. Angela Dionisio and Larissa Cavalcanti. Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil: Editora Universitaria UFPE. [Original article, published in Portuguese]

"Genre Pedagogies." *Guide to Composition Pedagogies*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Eds. Amy Rupiper Taggart, Kurt Schick, and H. Brooke Hessler. Oxford and NY: Oxford University Press, 2014.146-62.

"Introduction: Genre Perspectives in Text Production Research." (with Charles Bazerman). *Handbook of Writing and Text Production*. Eds. Daniel Perrin and Eva-Maria Jakobs. De Gruyter Mouton, 2014. 257-61.

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“Reproducing Genres: Pattern-related Writing.” (with Mary Jo Reiff). *Handbook of Writing and Text Production*. Eds. Daniel Perrin and Eva-Maria Jakobs. De Gruyter Mouton, 2014. 263-84.

“Written Language In Use: An Essay on Returning Language to Writing Studies.” *Contours of English and English Language Studies*. Eds. Ann Curzan and Michael Adams. University of Michigan Press, 2011. 298-314.

“Re-fusing Form in Genre Study.” *Theories of Genre and Their Application to Internet Communication*. Eds. Janet Giltrow and Dieter Stein. John Benjamins Publishing, 2010.

“Teaching Critical Genre Awareness.” *Genre in a Changing World*. Eds. Charles Bazerman, Adair Bonini, and Débora Figueiredo. Parlor Press, 2009.

“Transferability and Genres.” *The Locations of Composition*. Eds. Christian Weisser and Christopher Keller. State University of New York Press, 2007. 215-27.

“Where Communities Collide: Exploring a Legal Genre.” Individually authored section of co-authored article “Exploring the Materiality of Communities: Genre as Ethnographic Methodology” (with Mary Jo Reiff and Anis Bawarshi). *College English* 65 (May 2003): 541-58.  
Reprinted *The St. Martin’s Guide to Teaching Writing*. 7th ed. Eds. Cheryl Glenn and Melissa A. Goldthwaite. Boston MA: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2014. 365-80.  
Reprinted in *Readings on Writing*, Van-Griner Publishing, 2014.

“Integrating Rhetorical and Literary Theories of Genre.” *College English* 62 (2000). 696-718.

“Creating Community, Collaboration and Consistency: The Use of Teaching Teams in Writing Program Administration” (with Angela Jones and Mary Jo Reiff). *Issues in Writing* 11 (2000). 28-63.

“The Developing Discipline of Composition: From Text Linguistics to Genre Theory.” *History, Reflection, and Narrative: The Professionalization of Composition, 1963-1983*. Eds. Mary Rosner and Beth A. Boehm. Ablex. 1999. 177-85.

“Genre as Language Standard.” *Genre and Writing: Issues, Arguments, Alternatives*. Eds. Wendy Bishop and Hans Ostrom. Portsmouth NH: Boynton Cook/Heinemann, 1997. 45-55.

“Genre, Genres, and the Teaching of Genre.” (Invited review essay) *College Composition and Communication* 47 (1996): 605-15

“Generalizing About Genre: New Conceptions of an Old Concept.” *College Composition and Communication* 44 (1993): 573-86.

Reprinted in *Concepts in Composition*. Ed. Irene Clark. Mahwah NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum,

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2003.

Reprinted in *Relations, Locations, Positions: Composition Theory for Writing Teachers*.  
Eds. Peter Vandenberg, Sue Hum, and Jennifer Clary-Lemon. Urbana IL: NCTE 2006.

"Intertextuality in Tax Accounting: Generic, Referential, and Functional." In *Textual Dynamics of the Professions: Historical and Contemporary Studies of Writing in Professional Communities*.  
Eds. Charles Bazerman and James Paradis. Madison WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1991.  
Pages 336-357.

Reprinted AcademicWriting Landmark Publications in Writing Studies:  
[http://wac.colostate.edu/aw/books/bazerman\\_dynamics/](http://wac.colostate.edu/aw/books/bazerman_dynamics/) Originally Published in Print,  
1991, by University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, Wisconsin.  
Publication Date: March 21, 2004.

"Genre As Textual Variable: Some Historical Evidence from Scots and American English."  
*American Speech* 64 (1989), 291-303.

Review of W. N. Francis, *Dialectology: An Introduction*. *American Speech* 61 (1986), 169-172.

Review article on Raven I. McDavid, Jr.'s scholarly contribution, *Dialects in Culture and Varieties of American English* (with James W. Hartman). *English World-Wide* 1 (1980), 270-273.

"In the Classical Tradition: Edward P. J. Corbett." *Jforum* 1 (1980), 32-34.

## **Selected Presentations**

### **Invited Lectures and Workshops**

"When Genres Break Bad: How to See, Name, and Sanction Illicit Communication."  
Plenary address. Symposium on Illicit Genres. University of Copenhagen. November 4,  
2019

"Why a Crash is No 'Accident': How Language and Conventions Shape Us."  
Chancellors Club Advisory Board. University of Kansas. October 1, 2018

"Genre Traces: How We Define, Recognize, and Hide Genres."  
University of Copenhagen, 22 May 2018.

"How to Choose the Genres You Use."  
Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program, University of Rochester, October 10, 2017

"How to Use the Genres You Choose."  
Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program, University of Rochester, October 10, 2017

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"Meanings and Meaningfulness of Genre: A View from Rhetorical Genre Studies."

Friedrich Schlegel Graduiertenschule für literaturwissenschaftliche Studien (Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School for Literary Studies), "The Rhetoric of Literary Studies." Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany, July 27, 2017.

"Conformity and Resistance: Some Challenges from Current Genre Theory"

Bemærkelsesværdig sagprosa: Danmark som tekstkultur, University of Copenhagen, April, 21, 2017.

"What Genre-Based Pedagogies Reveal about Disciplinarity"

Genre Studies in the Humanities doctoral seminar, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. October 8, 2015

"Who Gets to Say? What Defines Genre in Rhetorical Genre Studies,"

Genre Studies in the Humanities doctoral seminar, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. October 5, 2015

"Be(com)ing a Genre-Aware Teacher"

Red River Graduate Student Conference, North Dakota State University, March 28, 2015

"Choosing Genres to Teach and Teaching Them Well"

University of Michigan, January 23, 2015

"How to Use Genres Effectively in Your Teaching"

"Developing Genre Awareness for Teachers and Students"

Brigham Young University, November 20, 2014.

"Understanding Genres as Culturally Meaningful Actions."

Syracuse University, Keynote Address, April 3, 2014.

"Between Theory and Curriculum"

Genre 2012, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, June 27, 2012.

"Genre As Rhetorical Construct"

"Using Genre Analysis to Help You Write"

Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, September 15-16, 2011

"Challenges and Opportunities from Literary and Rhetorical Genre Theories"

California State University at Northridge, October 27, 2009

"Some Ideas for Teaching New Genres from Old Genres"

5th International Symposium on Genre Studies, Universidade de Caxias do Sul, Rio Grande

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do Sul, Brasil, August 2009.

“Integrating Rhetorical and Literary Theories of Genre”

“Current Issues and Challenges in Genre Studies” (with Carolyn R. Miller)

“Teaching New Genres through Genre Awareness”

Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Recife, PE, Brazil, August 2009.

“Studying Writing.” Perspectives on English Language Studies Symposium.

University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, Michigan, December 2008.

“Between Stability and Flexibility: How Genres Change.”

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, January 2008.

“Why Teaching Genre’s Not What You Think.”

University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Greensboro, North Carolina, October 2007.

“Teaching Critical Genre Awareness, Fostering Critical Genre Action.”

4th International Symposium on Genre Studies, Tubarao, Santa Catarina, Brazil, 2007.

### **Selected Conference Presentations**

"Decluttering Your Academic Life." Western States Rhetoric and Literacy Conference. Montana State University 2019

"En[Acting] Translingualism: Dramatizing Dialogues and Debates" Conference on College Composition and Communication 2018.

"Addressing the Challenge of Making Language Visible to Writing Instructors" Conference on College Composition and Communication 2017.

“Breaking Academic Habits for Public Motives.” Thomas R. Watson Conference on Rhetoric and Communication. University of Louisville. October 2016.

“Risk and Reward within Writing Program Ecologies: Undergraduate Writing Programs” Conference on College Composition and Communication 2015.

“Remembering Our Stories: Translating Academic Theory into Particular Stories.” Thomas R. Watson Conference on Rhetoric and Communication. University of Louisville. October 2014.

“Taking Genre Outside.” Conference on College Composition and Communication 2014.

“Competence and Performance: What Writers Know and What Writers Do.” Writing Research

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Across Borders III, Universite Paris-Ouest Nanterre La Defense, Paris, France, February 21, 2014.

“Genres in Action.” Conference on College Composition and Communication 2013.

“Genre Baggage.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, 2012. Featured Session.

“Creating within Genres: How Genre Metaphors Shape Student Innovation.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, 2011.

“Is There a Text In This Genre?” Writing Research Across Borders, George Mason University, 2011.

“Taking the Stage: Performance and the Writing Classroom.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, 2009.

Genre Research Symposium, Workshop Co-Organizer and Leader, Conference on College Composition and Communication, 2009.

“Genres For Social Action.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, 2008.

“Clashing over Connections in Existing Rhetorical Situations: Respecting Existing Cultures.” Western States Rhetoric and Literacy Conference. 2008.

“What’s Form Got to Do with It?” Conference on College Composition and Communication, 2007.

“First-Year Composition and Antecedent Genres.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, 2006.

“Genres that Matter: Integrating the Public, Personal, and Technical.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, 2004.

“Transforming Literacies: Genres as Sites of Critique and Change.” Roundtable. Western States Rhetoric and Literacy Conference. Salt Lake City UT, 2003.

“Classrooms: Student Expectations/Teacher Expertise.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, 2002.

“Decomposing Communities: Civic Genres that Exclude Citizens.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, 2001.

“Does Teaching Genre Teach Language?” Conference on College Composition and



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Communication, 2000.

"The Future of English Studies: What Should English Departments Teach?" Invited panel with Robert Scholes, Charles Kovitch, and Ian Munro. University of Missouri-Kansas City, 2000.

"A Critical History of the Genre Idea." Conference on College Composition and Communication, 1998.

"Will Worlds Collide or Collude? The Impact of Genre on Literature and Literature on Genre." 2nd International Symposium on Genre, 1998.

"WPA as Team Player." Conference on College Composition and Communication, 1997.

"From Text Linguistics to Genre Theory: Changes in the Relationship of Linguistics and Composition." Thomas R. Watson Conference on Rhetoric and Composition, 1996.

"Variation and Standardization within Genre." Conference on College Composition and Communication, 1995.

"Mediating Conflicting Desires: Storytelling in the Classroom from a WPA's Perspective." Conference on College Composition and communication, 1995.

"Multiple Perspectives on the Explicit Teaching of Genre." Chair and speaker. Conference on College Composition and Communication, 1995.

"Reconceiving Genre in Composition." Conference on College Composition and Communication, 1992.

"Graduate Students' Professional Development." Conference on College Composition and Communication, 1991.

"Consulting Across the Curriculum." Conference on College Composition and Communication, 1988.

"Consulting Across the Curriculum: Helping Faculty Use Writing in Business Courses." International Association of Business Communication, 1987.

"Writing to Learn and Writing to Communicate: Using Genres in Writing Across the Curriculum." Conference on College Composition and Communication, 1987.

"Genre As Textual Variable." Modern Language Association 1986.

"Promote Technical Writing Courses by Promoting Technical Writing." Sixth Annual Technical

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Writing Seminar, Pittsburgh State Univ., 1986.

“Hiring: An Applicant's Perspective.” National Council of Teachers of English (session sponsored by College English Association), 1985.

“The Influence of Genre on Using Standard English.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, 1983.

## **Courses Taught**

### **Composition/ Rhetoric**

- Composition Studies
- Study and Teaching of Writing
- The Study of Written English
- Practicum in the Teaching of College English I & II
- Rhetoric of Correctness
- Directed Readings (topics: Classical Rhetoric, Pedagogies of Composition)
- Seminars and Topics Courses in Composition Theory (topics: Genres for Social Action, Why Genre Matters, Ways of Knowing About Writing (research methods); Genre; Placing Composition; Creativity and Invention; Writing Program Administration, Genre Theory, Feminisms and Composition].

### **Writing**

- Basic Writing
- Introductory Composition
- Composition and Literature
- Advanced Exposition
- Advanced Composition (topics: Expository Writing, Writing with Confidence, Writing to Innovate/Writing to Conform)
- Research Writing
- Argumentative Writing
- Writing for the Professions
- Writing in a Democratic Society/Civic Discourse
- Scholarly Writing for Publication
- Legal Writing

### **Language**

- Introduction to the English Language
- English Grammar
- History of the English Language
- Development of Modern English
- Grammar and Usage for Composition
- Correctness in Writing
- Professional Editing
- Modern English Grammars
- Seminar on Standards and Norms in Written English

### **Literature**

- Restoration and Eighteenth-Century British Literature

- Eighteenth-Century Novel
- Directed Reading: The Genre of

Cowboy Poetry

## **Selected Honors and Fellowships**

Chancellors Club Teaching Professorship, University of Kansas, 2007 – 2020.

Frances L. Stiefel Teaching Professorship, Department of English, 2012 - June 2015.

Awarded for excellence in teaching, research, and service

Conger-Gabel Teaching Professorship. Department of English, 2001 – 2004.

First year given, chosen by committee of faculty and both undergraduate and graduate students

Mabel Frye Teaching Award, Department of English, 1994; 2007.

Chosen by graduate students

Keeler Intrauniversity Professor, University of Kansas, 2001.

Fulbright Scholar Faculty Mentor, Tatyana Yakhontova, 1998

Hall Fund for the Improvement of Teaching Grant, 1997, 1998.

Writing Program Administrators Grant, 1996.

Kemper Teaching Fellow, 1996.

First year given, university-wide teaching award

Byron A. Alexander Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award, 1996.

University-wide mentoring award

Edward Grier Award, Department of English, 1996.

For excellence in incorporating scholarship into teaching

Vice Chancellors Fellow, 1995-1996.

University-level administrative shadowing program

Faculty Summer Fellowship, University of Tulsa, 1983.

Thorpe Prize, University of Michigan, 1983.

For best dissertation produced in the English Department, co-winner

Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan, 1981-1982.

Phi Beta Kappa, 1977.