

Chris Featherman, PhD

Writing and Communication Center
Comparative Media Studies/Writing
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
cmf28@mit.edu | E18-233g

Qualifications

- 2008 – 2013 **Ph.D. (Honors), English Language and Rhetoric**
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Concentrations: Language and Globalization, Discourse Theory and Practice,
Composition Theory and Practice
Dissertation: Networked Identifications: Constructing Ideologies and Identities in the
2009 Iranian Presidential Election Protests
Advisors: Dr. Sandra Silberstein (Chair), Dr. Gail Stygall, Dr. Suhanthie Motha.
- 2006 – 2008 **M.A., Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages**
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Capstone Research Project: The Effectiveness of Grammar Teaching in Second-
Language Writing Instruction
- 1990 – 1994 **B.A. (Highest Distinction), English**
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
Minors in History and Creative Writing

Experience

- 2021 – present **Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA**
Lecturer, Writing and Communication Center, Comparative Media Studies/Writing
- Design, lead, pilot, assess, and administer Public Writing Certificate Program for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.
 - Co-design, pilot, and assess grant-funded Public Speaking Certificate program for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.
 - Coach postdocs, graduates, undergraduates, faculty, and staff on academic, professional, and public writing and communication projects.
 - Design and deliver workshops on academic, professional, public, and interpersonal communication topics and strategies for the MIT community.
 - Collaborate with campus partners to design and deliver writing and communication instructional content across the disciplines.
 - Serve on hiring committee to assess and interview applicants for open positions.
 - Analyze survey and usability data to collaboratively inform programming strategy.

- 2021 – 2022 *Manager, Communication Lab, Civil and Environmental Engineering*
- Mentored Communication Lab Fellows as peer communication coaches and instructional resource creators.
 - Collaborated with the Comm Lab Team to develop instructional materials, guide strategy, and develop peer-coaching strategies.
 - Engaged department faculty around graduate student and postdoc communication growth areas and professional development.
- 2019 – 2021 **Suffolk University**, Boston, MA
Lecturer, Writing Program
- Courses designed and delivered (multiple semesters):
- Honors Advanced First-Year Writing: The Right to the City (Research-Based Writing)
 - First-Year Writing II: Wicked Problems, Just Responses (Research-Based Writing)
 - First-Year Writing I: A Sense of Place (Project-Based Learning)
 - 2020 Summer U Symposium: Living in the City
 - Developmental Writing I: Literacy and Education (Project-Based Learning)
- 2018 – 2020 **Northeastern University**, Boston, MA
Lecturer, NU Global
- Courses designed and delivered (multiple semesters):
- Sociology of Boston (co-designed and piloted)
 - Globalization and International Affairs
 - Research and Writing for Graduate School
- 2014 – 2017 **Northeastern University**, Boston, MA
Assistant Teaching Professor, English Department
- Courses designed and delivered (multiple semesters):
- Advanced Writing in the Technical Professions: Writing and Activity Systems
 - Advanced Interdisciplinary Writing: The Future of Cities
 - Advanced Writing in the Social Sciences: Seeing the Social
 - Honors First-Year Writing: Writing about Writing
 - First-Year Writing for Multilingual Students: Language and Identity
 - First-Year Writing: Writing the City (with service-learning link)
 - First-Year Writing: Literacy and Education (with service-learning link)
 - First-Year Writing: Multimodal Genres

- 2011 – 2014 **Cornish College of the Arts**, Seattle, WA
Instructor, Humanities and Sciences Department
Courses designed and delivered (multiple semesters):
- Research Writing: The Arts in the Information Age
 - Expository Writing: Writing and Participatory Culture
 - Expository Writing: Visible Identities and the Arts
- 2010 – 2011 **University of Washington**, Seattle, WA
Research Assistant
- World University Network-funded study of skilled migration and global English in the African diaspora. (A. Suresh Canagarajah, P.I.)
- 2008 – 2011 **University of Washington**, Seattle, WA
Pre-Doctoral Teaching Associate, Expository Writing Program
Courses designed and delivered (multiple semesters):
- Intermediate Expository Writing: Writing and Participatory Culture
 - Intermediate Expository Writing: Investigating Communities
 - Introductory Expository Writing: Language and Identity (linked to ELL writing course)
 - Introductory Expository Writing: Media and Education
- 2006 – 2009 **University of Washington**, Seattle, WA
Instructor, English Language Programs
- Taught heritage language learners in Department-of-Defense sponsored program.
 - Taught Academic English Program courses, including Advanced Academic Writing and Advanced Language Structure.
 - Taught Intensive English Program courses, including Academic Reading and Writing, Advanced Grammar, skills courses at all levels.
- 2004 – 2006 **Soros International House**, Vilnius, Lithuania
In-company Teaching Coordinator and English Language Instructor
- Developed and delivered English-language courses for government ministries, major private industries, and the national supreme court.
 - Delivered regular teacher-training seminars and developed English for Special Purposes (ESP) teaching resources.
 - Conducted oral proficiency interviews for course placement and official exams.
 - Taught beginner (A1) to advanced levels (C2), including Cambridge and IELTS exam preparation, to adults and teens, on and off site.

- 2003 – 2004 **ELS-Bell Language School**, Gdańsk, Poland
English Language Instructor
- Taught beginner (A1) to advanced levels (C1), including Cambridge preparation to adults and teens.
 - Developed and delivered English-language courses for major private industries.
- 2002 – 2003 **London Language Centre**, Barcelona, Spain
English Language Instructor
- Taught beginner (A1) to intermediate levels (B2) to adults and teens.
 - Delivered bespoke English-language courses for groups and 1:1 at corporations.
- 2001 – 2002 **LaGuardia Community College**, New York City, USA
ESL and Computer Skills Instructor
- Taught displaced factory workers in Department of Labor-sponsored program.
 - Tutored small groups in the classroom and computer lab.

Selected Publications

Books

Discourses of Ideology and Identity: Social Media and the Iranian Election Protests ([Routledge, 2015/2018](#))

Public Essays

“Why Propaganda, Hate Speech and Political Extremism Thrive in the Attention Economy,” a double review essay for the *London School of Economics Review of Books*, [November 13, 2025](#).

“If Not a Nemesis, A Mirror?” a review essay on political ideology and meaning-making for the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, [June 4, 2025](#).

Review of *Language City: The Fight to Preserve Endangered Mother Tongues in New York* by Ross Perlin, *London School of Economics Review of Books*, [December 17, 2024](#).

“Words versus Words, Fire with Fire,” a review essay on the language of climate politics for the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, [July 30, 2024](#).

Review of *Science v. Story: Narrative Strategies for Communicators* by Emma Frances Bloomfield, *London School of Economics Review of Books*, [May 14, 2024](#).

Review of *OK* by Michelle McSweeney, *London School of Economics Review of Books*, [June 12, 2023](#).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Reviews

Review of *The Great Nation of Futurity: The Discourse and Temporality of American National Identity* by Patricia L. Dunmire, *Language in Society*, 53(5), 2024.

Review of *Discourses of Borders and the Nation in the USA* by Massimiliano Demata, *Language in Society*, 52(3), 2023.

Review of *Analysing Politics and Protest in Digital Popular Culture* by Lyndon Way, *Critical Discourse Studies*, 20(2), 2022.

Review of *Discourses of Disorder: Riots, Strikes and Protests in the Media* by Christopher Hart and Darren Kelsey (eds.), *Journal of Language and Politics*, 19(6), 2020.

Review of *Systematically Working with Multimodal Data* by Sigrid Norris, *Discourse Studies*, 22(2), 2020.

Review of *Discursive Strategies and Political Hegemony* by Can Küçükali, *Discourse & Society*, 30(1), 2019.

Review of *Multimodality: Foundations, Research and Analysis – A Problem-Oriented Introduction* by John Bateman, Janina Wildfeuer and Tuomo Hiippala, *Discourse Studies*, 20(3), 2018.

Review of *The Language of Fear: Communicating Threat in Public Discourse* by Piotr Cap, *Discourse & Communication*, 12(1), 2018.

Review of *Discourse, Grammar and Ideology* by Christopher Hart, *Journal of Language and Politics*, 16(1), 2017.

Review of *Migrant Communication Enterprises: Regimentation and Resistance* by Maria Sabaté i Dalmau, *Language in Society*, 46(1), 2017.

Review of *Unified Discourse Analysis: Language, Reality, Virtual Worlds, and Video Games* by John Paul Gee, *Discourse Studies*, 18(5), 2016.

Review of *Discourse, Politics and Media in Contemporary China* by Qing Cao, Hailong Tian and Paul Chilton (eds), *Discourse & Communication*, 9(6), 2016.

Review of *DIY Citizenship: Critical Making and Social Change* by Matt Ratto and Megan Boler (eds.), *New Media & Society*, 18(2), 2016.

Review of *Understanding Occupy from Wall Street to Portland* by Renee Guarriello Heath, Courtney Vail Fletcher and Ricardo Munoz (eds.), *Discourse & Society*, 26(6), 2015.

Selected Presentations and Workshops

“Communicate to Connect: Communicating Sustainability Research to Non-Experts.” A workshop presented to the Martin Fellows for the Office of Sustainability at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, February 13th, 2025.

“Conveying Your Data with Impact through Story.” A workshop presented at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, October 24th, 2024.

“Words and Deeds: Connecting to Public Audiences through Story.” A workshop presented at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, April 4th, 2024.

“Ways of Seeing: Using Metaphor and Analogy to Explain and Persuade.” A workshop presented at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, March 21st, 2024.

"Designing Clear and Inclusive Presentation Slides." A workshop presented at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, October 19th, 2023.

"Where Are the Safe Neighborhoods? Race, Place, and Gentrification in Online Discourse." A conference paper presented at the *American Association for Applied Linguistics 2017 Conference*, Portland, OR.

"Multimodal Translation as a Pedagogical Resource in FYW Classrooms." A conference paper presented at *Writing as Translation: Tenth Annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing 2016*, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.

"Metacognition and FYW Assignment Design." A conference paper presented at *Engaging Practices: A UMass-Boston Conference on the Teaching of Composition 2015*, Boston, MA.

"Networked Identifications: Twitter, Political Protest, and the 2009 Iranian Presidential Elections." A conference paper presented at the *Georgetown University Roundtable on Languages and Linguistics (GURT) 2011*, Washington, D.C.

"Skilled Migration and Global English: Language, Development, and the African Professional." A conference on a Worldwide Universities Network-sponsored research initiative (A. Suresh Canagarajah, PI), 2011, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.

"Keeping Up Appearances: Kairos, Anglo-Conformity, and Historical Imagination in the Nashville Official English Proposal." A conference paper presented at the *American Association for Applied Linguistics 2010 Conference*, Atlanta, GA.

"Transnational Political Identity in a Digital Borderland: Hybridity, Metaphor, and the Role of English in an Indian Economics Blog." A conference paper presented at *Language in the (New) Media: Technologies and Ideologies 2009*, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

"Increasing Tolerance and Understanding through Cultural Knowledge and Awareness." A pedagogical workshop presented at *SOCRATES/GRUNDTVIG 2 Practice Makes Perfect: Promoting European Citizenship Through Language 2006*, Vilnius, Lithuania.

Selected Awards and Grants

2025	Orion Non-Fiction Workshop: Place and Nature (competitive application)
2016 – 2017	Service-Learning Fellow, Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning through Research (CATLR), Northeastern University
2012	Humanities and Sciences Department Excellence in Teaching Award Nominee, Cornish College of the Arts
2011	Graduate School Fund for Excellence and Innovation (GSFEI) Travel Award, University of Washington
2011	Graduate and Professional Student Senate Travel Award, University of Washington
2010	Joan Webber Teaching Award for Outstanding Teaching Nominee, Expository Writing Program, University of Washington

- 2009 Richard Dunn First-Year Teaching Award, Expository Writing Program, University of Washington
- 1994 English Department Student Marshall, Pennsylvania State University
- 1994 Phi Alpha Theta National Historical Honor Society, Pennsylvania State University
- 1993 Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Pennsylvania State University

Professional Service and Affiliations

- 2024 Assistant Editor, *Best of the Journals in Rhetoric and Composition 2023*, Parlor Press
- 2023 – present Member, Boston Rhetoric and Writing Network (BRAWN)
- 2022 – present Member, Scientific Committee, Global Council for Anthropological Linguistics (GLOCAL), SOAS University of London
- 2016 – 2019 Submissions Reviewer, *Cogent Arts and Humanities*
- 2015 – present Member, Discourse, Ideology, Political Economy (DIPE) Research Group, DiscourseNet
- 2015 – 2017 Submissions Reviewer, *Social Semiotics Forum: Qualitative Social Research*
- 2015 – 2017 Manuscript Reviewer, Bedford/St. Martin's and Routledge
- 2010 – present Member, American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL)

Certification and Training

- 2024 Strategic Communication for Sustainability Leaders, University of Maryland
- 2024 Coaching for Learner-Centered Conversations, Imperial College London
- 2021 Poynter Institute-American Copy Editors Society (ACES) Certificate in Editing
- 2020 HyFlex Course Design, Center for Teaching and Scholarly Excellence (CTSE), Suffolk University
- 2015 Online Learning Program, Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning Through Research (CATLR), Northeastern University
- 2010 Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)
Human Subject Research Curriculum, Social and Behavioral Basic Course
- 2005 Diploma de la Lengua Española para Extranjeros (DELE)
The Cultural Institute of Spain, Madrid
Council of Europe Level B2
- 2002 – 2003 Spanish Language and Culture Studies
Universities of Granada and Barcelona, Spain
- 2002 Cambridge Certificate of English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA)
University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Pass A

Community Service

- 2026 – present Writer, Cambridge Volunteers, Cambridge, MA
- 2020 Volunteer, food packing and mobile markets, Food For Free, Cambridge, MA
- 2017 – 2018 Member, Envision Cambridge Mobility Working Group, Cambridge, MA
- 2016 Head Coach, Cambridge Youth Soccer, Cambridge, MA
- 2016 Budget Delegate, Participatory Budgeting, City of Cambridge, MA
- 2016 Outreach Committee Member, Participatory Budgeting, City of Cambridge, MA

Additional Professional Experience

- 1998 – 2001 **McGraw-Hill Publishers, School Division**, New York, NY
Production Artist, Editorial Design and Prepress
- Built page layouts in coordination with editorial, art, and design departments.
 - Line edited and proofed English and Spanish copy.
 - Edited and managed digital assets for pre-production.
- 1997 – 1998 **Walker Books**, New York, NY
Marketing Assistant
- Wrote, edited, and designed marketing materials for niche publisher.
 - Consulted and coordinated marketing and publicity strategies.

Languages and Skills

English ●●●● | Spanish ○●●● | French ○○●● | Polish ○○○● | Lithuanian ○○○●

Mac/Office/G-Suite | WordPress, Adobe Creative Cloud | Final Cut Pro, Logic Pro, Audacity, Panopto, | AntConc, Corpkit, Voyant, (corpus linguistics tools)