

JWells, PhD

Assistant Professor: Writing, Rhetoric, & Digital Studies: African American & Africana Studies
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
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Education

- 2020 Ph.D. English, specialization in Rhetoric & Writing
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
- 2016 M.A. English, specialization in Rhetoric & Writing
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
- 2015 Certificate in Women and Gender Studies
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
- 2011 B.A. English
Colorado State University-Pueblo, Pueblo, CO

Academic Appointments

- 2020-Present University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
Assistant Professor, Writing, Rhetoric, & Digital Studies
Affiliate Faculty, African American & Africana Studies
- 2020 Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America, Princeton, NJ
Director of Writing Instruction, Pre-Collegiate Writing
- 2016-2020 University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
Assistant Instructor, Rhetoric and Writing
Assistant Director, Lower Division Rhetoric and Writing
Presentations Coordinator, University Writing Center
- 2013-2015 Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
Graduate Instructor, English

Grants and Fellowships

- 2023 *The Continuum of Motherhood in a Carceral State*, The American Association of University Women Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship, \$55,000 (Funded)
- 2023 *Write to Motherhood*, The United in True Racial Equity High Impact Pilot Grant, \$49,500 (Funded)
- 2023 *Write to Motherhood*, The United in True Racial Equity Small Scale Funding, \$2,500 (Funded)

- 2023 *Write to Motherhood*, Commonwealth Institute For Black Studies, \$2,500 (Funded)
- 2023 *The Continuum of Motherhood in a Carceral State*, The Institute for Citizens & Scholars Career Enhancement Fellowship, \$35,000 (applied)
- 2022 Black Women in Bourbon Oral History Project, UNITE Humanities & Social Science Research Pilot Grant, Principal Investigator Jan Fernheimer, Co-PI, JWells, \$12,000 (Funded)
- 2019 *The Available Means of Motherhood: Writing, Resistance and Childrearing Behind Bars*, University of Texas at Austin May Excellence Award, \$5,000 (Funded)
- 2016 *Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program Training*, University of Texas at Austin Florence Durrett Endowed Presidential Scholarship
- 2015 Texas Christian University, Global Outlooks on Education Institute Fellow
- 2012 Texas Christian University, University Fellowship

Publications

Journal Articles

- 2019 “‘This call may be monitored and recorded’: Video Visitation as a Form of Surveillance Technology and Its Effect on Incarcerated Motherhood.” *Screen Bodies*, vol. 4, no. 2, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.3167/screen.2019.040206>.
- 2024 “‘I don’t want dirty people holding my baby’: Analyzing Misogynoir in *Babies Behind Bars*.” *Journal of the Motherhood Initiative*. Vol. 14, No. 2. 2024, <https://jarm.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/jarm/article/view/40695/36868>.

In Progress Journal Articles

- 2024 (Revise and resubmit) “Mothering Through Barbed Wire and Literacy Barriers: The Role of Literacy in Incarcerated Motherhood.” *Literacy in Composition Studies*.
- 2024 (Finalizing for submission) “The Continued Criminalization of Black Mothers: Misogynoir and Prison Nursery Program Eligibility Requirements.” *Feminist Media Studies*.
- 2024 (Finalizing for submission) “‘We are the mothers’: How Incarcerated Mothers’ Reclaim Motherhood to Establish Ethos.” *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*.

Book Reviews

- 2019 Review of *Performing Antiracist Pedagogy in Rhetoric, Writing, and Communication* written by Frankie Condon and Vershawn Ashanti Young. *Praxis: A Writing Center Journal*, vol 16, no 2, 2019. <http://www.praxisuwc.com/162-jwells>.
- 2018 Review of *Women Doing Life: Gender, Punishment, and the Struggle for Identity*, written by Lora Bex Lempert. *E3W Review of Books*, vol. 18, 2018. Print.

Public Writing

- 2020 (co-authored with Rashel Chipi) "The Next Frontier For Community Outreach." *Axis: The Blog*, 2020.
<http://www.praxisuwc.com/praxis-blog/2020/2/19/the-next-frontier-for-community-outreach>
- 2019 "Take It." *Denver Scholarship Foundation*, 2020.
<https://denverscholarship.org/blog/2020/take-it-guest-blog-from-dsf-alumna-jwells/>
- 2019 "How on earth are you supposed to mother your children from behind bars?" *Thinking in Public*, 2019. <https://thinkinginpublic.org/story/how-on-earth-are-you-supposed-to-mother-your-children-from-behind-bars/>

Media Materials

- 2022 "Supporting Incarcerated Parents." *Survivors and Systems Involvement Training Series*, from The Kentucky Coalitions Against Domestic Violence, 2022. (not accessible to the public).
- 2022 Major, Eboni. Interview by JWells. Black Women in Bourbon Oral History Project. *Louis B. Nunn Center for Oral History*, 21 Apr. 2022,
<https://www.kentuckyoralhistory.org/ark:/16417/xt71h7xwk59t2>
- 2022 Davis, Samara Interview by JWells. Black Women in Bourbon Oral History Project. *Louis B. Nunn Center for Oral History*, 12 Apr. 2022,
<https://www.kentuckyoralhistory.org/ark:/16417/xt7fwn7pdzc1s>
- 2022 Dickerson, Creola. Interview by JWells. Black Women in Bourbon Oral History Project. *Louis B. Nunn Center for Oral History*, 16 Mar. 2022,
<https://www.kentuckyoralhistory.org/ark:/16417/xt7lz7wf4vz9b>
- 2022 Emery, Courtney. Interview by JWells. Black Women in Bourbon Oral History Project. *Louis B. Nunn Center for Oral History*, 22 Feb. 2022,
<https://www.kentuckyoralhistory.org/ark:/16417/xt71bq5gzwsf7>
- 2022 Sanders, Sonia. Interview by JWells. Black Women in Bourbon Oral History Project. *Louis B. Nunn Center for Oral History*, 14 Feb. 2022,
<https://www.kentuckyoralhistory.org/ark:/16417/xt711nfzhlxx2>.
- 2018 "How She Writes Beyond Four Walls." *How We Write* from UT's UWC, ep. 5, 2018,
uwc.utexas.edu/how-we-write/.
- 2017 "Everything Doesn't Need to be Bigger in Texas: ISAP's Approach to Ending Sexual Assault in Texas Prisons." *Revolution*, Summer 2017. Texas Association Against Sexual Assault.
- 2016 "Action Rhetoric Project." *Performing Feminist Action: a toolbox for feminist research & teaching*. 2016. <http://cwshrc.org/actionhour2016/hogg.html>.

Professional Development

- 2023 NSF Grant Writing Seminar and Workshop
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
- 2021, 2023 Faculty Success Program
National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity
- 2021 Service-Learning Educator Learning Community
Kentucky Campus Compact, Lexington, KY
- 2018 Inclusive Classrooms Leadership Certificate
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
- 2018 Grant Writing I, II
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
- 2016 Questionnaire Design and Survey Analysis
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
- 2013 Certificate in “Crucial Conversations” Training
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX

Workshops and Conferences

- 2024 “Using Feminist Rhetorical Practices to Justly Do Rhetoric”
Rhetoric Society of America, Denver, CO
- 2024 “Write to Motherhood”
Conference on College Composition and Communication, Spokane, WA
- 2023 “Supporting Incarcerated Survivors Through Writing”
Kentucky Association Against Sexual Assault, Lexington, KY
- 2023 “Write to Motherhood: Restoring Harms with Justice-Involved Mothers”
Feminisms and Rhetorics, Atlanta, GA
- 2023 “Black Women in Bourbon’s Oral Histories as Counterstorytelling”
Oral History Association Conference, Baltimore, MD
- 2023 “Analyzing the Construction of Motherhood in Prison Nursery programs”
Motherhood to Motherhoods: Ideologies of the ‘The Feminine,’ Chapman, CA
- 2023 “I don’t want someone dirty holding my baby”
Museum of Motherhood, St. Petersburg, FL

- 2023 “I’m Done Proving Myself”
Conference on College Composition & Communication, Chicago, IL
- 2022 “Letter to Power: An Approach to Implementing Code-Meshing”
College English Association, Birmingham, AL
- 2022 “The Crisis of Childrearing Behind Bars”
The Global Conference on Women and Gender, Virtual
- 2021 “(Re)appropriating the First Teacher Narrative”
MLA, Virtual
- 2021 “Cardi B, Meg Thee Stallion, and Feminism(s)”
UCLA Prison Education Program, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 “How to Perform Antiracist Pedagogy”
Colorado State University-Pueblo, Pueblo, CO
- 2020 “The Personal As Transactional”
CCCC, Milwaukee, WI
- 2018 “Kathy Boudin’s Prison Activism and Its Effect On Black Incarcerated Motherhood”
RSA, Minneapolis, MN
- 2018 “Let the Mothers Teach Them: Using Incarcerated Mother’s Literacy Practices to Inform
the Classroom”
CCCC, Kansas City, MO
- 2017 “The Disembodiment of Bans Against Shackling”
IU “Words Matter” Graduate Conference, Bloomington, IN
- 2016 “The Action Rhetoric Project” Workshop
CCCC, Houston, TX
- 2015 “Performativity of Pinto Poetry”
Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Riverside, CA
- 2015 Chair, “The Risks and Rewards of Women and Words: Maternal Rhetorics Negotiated”
Feminism and Rhetorics, Tempe, AZ
- 2015 “Women Prisoners Making Motherhood Through Writing”
Feminism and Rhetorics, Tempe, AZ
- 2015 Chair, “Rhetorical Approaches to Literature”
Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Riverside, CA

- 2014 “The Chain Gang Zombies: Offering an Antidote to Mental Slavery Through
Quarantining the African American Prisoner In Eldridge Cleaver’s *Soul on Ice*”
Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Riverside, CA
- 2014 “Multifaceted Approaches to Prison Studies & Women’s Studies”
TCU’s American Culture Interest Group, Fort Worth, TX
- 2013 ”The Reasonable and Sensible: Toward a Rhetorical Theory of Justice”
TCU Rhetoric & Composition Reading Group, Fort Worth, TX

Teaching

Graduate Courses Co-Taught

Supervised Teaching

Undergraduate Courses Taught

Composition and Communication II
Honors Advanced Composition and Communication
Rhetoric and Popular Culture
Rhetoric and Argument
Writing in the Social Sciences
Public Advocacy
Rhetoric & Writing
Writing As Argument
Writing As Inquiry

Specialized Topics

Internship

Community Courses

Pre-Collegiate Writing
Contemporary U.S. Social Problems
Adult GED Course

Student Advisorship

Graduate Research Supervision

Zoe Sigola, UKY, Fall 2023- Spring 2024

Undergraduate Research Supervision

Olivia Corley, UKY, Fall 2022-Summer 2023

Service

Field

2023, 2024 RCWS Literacy Forum Executive Committee
Modern Language Association

2023, 2024 Advancing the Agenda Committee
Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition

University

2023 Carceral Studies Working Group
Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

2019-2020 Writing Center Accessibility & Inclusivity Working Group
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

College

2023 Staff Hiring Committee
College of Arts & Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

2022, 2023 Women of Color Meet-Up Committee
College of Arts & Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Department

2023 Lecturer Search Committee
WRD Department, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

2022, 2023 Executive Committee
AAAS Program, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

2021 STUCK Committee
WRD Department, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

2021 Curriculum and Assessment Committee
AAAS Program, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

2017- 2019 Lower Division Rhetoric & Writing Curriculum Committee
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

2017, 2018 Lower Division Rhetoric & Writing Online Curriculum Committee
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

2017, 2018 First-Year Forum Committee
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Community

2020, 2021 Advisory Board Member
Racing to Empathy, Austin, TX

2019, 2020 Seedling, Mentor
Austin, TX

2017-2018 Incarcerated Survivors Advocacy Program
Austin, TX

2014 Opening Doors For Women
Fort Worth, TX

Professional Memberships

- Member, Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition
- Member, Rhetoric Society of America
- Member, College English Association
- Member, Modern Language Association
- Member, Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society