

About the Contributors and about RhetCanada

RHETCANADA

About the Contributors

Michael Fox teaches language and writing at Western University. He spent seven years at the University of Alberta, teaching and writing in the field of medieval studies (mostly Old English and mostly Beowulf) before moving into Western's writing program, where he teaches mainly professional communication courses and the history of the English language. He has published on Old English and Latin, including the co-edited collection *Old English Literature and the Old Testament* (University of Toronto Press) and the forthcoming *Following the Formula in Beowulf, Örvar-Odds saga, and Tolkien* (Palgrave Macmillan). He also has work forthcoming in *Writing in Practice* and in a collection on Canadian rhetoric.

Monique Kampher works on political rhetoric of social media at the University of Waterloo, where she is pursuing her doctorate

in English Rhetoric, with previous graduate degrees in Rhetoric and Communication Design, Multimedia Journalism, and Political Science. Monique is a two-time recipient of the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2018-2019 and 2019-2020) and President's Graduate Scholarship at the University of Waterloo (2018-2019 and 2019-2020), is a HASTAC scholar (2018-2020), and is the winner of RhetCanada's 2018 Graduate Student Prize for the current article.

Tess Laidlaw's research passion is the application of rhetorical theory to practical communication about health and disease: how such communication occurs, its impacts, and the significance of implicit, symbolic, elements. She holds a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies (Rhetoric & Media Studies), and has particular interests in communication in high-risk health threat situations such as pandemics, and in applying the theories of rhetorician Kenneth Burke in exploration of these contexts. She is also investigating the persuasive impact of prenatal education on birth experience and the ways health professionals construct expertise in social media contexts. Her teaching and research are grounded in a laboratory- and field-based research background spanning microbiology, freshwater research, biochemistry and genetics, and her professional communication experience includes both CIHR (Institute of Infection and Immunity) and a university-affiliated vaccine research and development organization. These roles spurred an interest in effective communication of scientific and health-related topics to lay publics.

Shurli Makmillen lives in South Carolina and works at Claffin University as an Assistant Professor in English. Her research and publications continue to reflect her interest in how rhetorical genre theory and linguistic pragmatics can help us understand legal,

paralegal, literary and academic genres—especially in settings involving the participation and frameworks of minority/underserved populations. Some of this work follows her dissertation research and involves legal and literary texts. And some is inspired by her past involvement in teaching cohorts of Indigenous students and her present teaching at an HBCU, to focus on how the twenty-first century university operates as a site for students' emerging expertise and identities.

John Moffatt holds degrees from the University of Toronto (BA) and Queen's University (MA and PhD). He taught at several universities in Ontario, Québec, Alberta, and British Columbia before joining the faculty at the University of Saskatchewan, where he is an Associate Professor in the Ron and Jane Graham School of Professional Development, College of Engineering. There, he teaches courses focused on the rhetorical dimensions of public and professional communication. His research centres on rhetorics of identity in Canadian popular and professional culture, especially in historical contexts. He is particularly interested in changing perceptions of ethos and in the construction of credible witness in the interpretation of historical documents.

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About RhetCanada

RhetCanada, the Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric, promotes the study of the theory and practice of rhetoric in all periods and languages, and its relationships with other fields of enquiry and realms of practice, including: rhetorical theory and criticism, history of rhetoric, political and social discourse, sociolinguistics and

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discourse analysis, composition theory and pedagogy, professional communication, semiotics, media and communications, and critical theory and literature.

This bilingual society is open to anyone involved in the teaching or research of rhetoric. Our membership regularly includes scholars from Canada, the United States, and Europe. Our conferences often include joint sessions with other societies as a natural reflection of the interdisciplinary interests of our members.