**Laura Ellis-Lai**

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EDUCATION

University of Texas at San Antonio, *Ph.D., English,* 2017

Harvard Graduate School of Education, *Ed.M, Arts in Education,* 2009

Texas State University, San Marcos, *M.F.A., Creative Writing,* 2006

University of California, Santa Cruz, *B.A., Literature, cum laude*, 2003

University of California, Santa Cruz, *B.A., Psychology, 1999*

WORK EXPERIENCE

**Senior Lecturer, Texas State University, San Marcos**

2016-2020, Taught First Year English (English 1320), World Literature Since 1600 (English 2340), Technical Writing (English 3303), Practices in Writing and Rhetoric - Topic: Writing for the Web (English 3311), an Honors College research-writing course called Write Yourself Into Academia with Portraiture (Honors 2301B), and University Seminar (US1100) for first year college students. Currently serving on the English Alumni and Advisory Committee, the Liberal Arts Study Abroad Committee, the Online Courses Committee, the First Year English Committee, the Outstanding Senior Award Committee, and the Technical Communication Curriculum Committee. I also serve as Faculty Advisor for the Omega Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honors Society for undergraduate and graduate students at Texas State.

**Adjunct Lecturer, Texas State University, San Marcos**

2006-2016, Taught First Year English (English 1310 and 1320), Technical Writing (English 3303), an Honors College research-writing course called Write Yourself Into Academia with Portraiture (Honors 2301B), Approaches to Writing and Rhetoric – Emphasis: Composing with Digital Media (English 3318), Honors and traditional sections of University Seminar (US1100), and ESL Writing and Reading in the Texas State University Intensive English Program. Served on the Online Course Committee, the First Year English Committee, and the Adjunct Faculty Committee.

**University Teaching Fellowship, University of Texas at San Antonio**

2009-2010, Assisted in planning and executing the fall and spring Gradate Teaching Assistant Training events. Supervised graduate teaching assistants as they completed their requirements for certification, conducted class observations for the Minnie Stevens Piper faculty teaching award, and participated in weekly meetings with university administrators, professors, and graduate teaching fellows.

**Intern, Harvard Graduate School of Arts & Sciences**

2008-2009, Planned events for the W. E. B. Du Bois Society for Graduate Students, an inclusive organization for historically underrepresented students in the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences that was named for the first African American to be awarded a doctoral degree at Harvard. Examined admissions applications for the Office of Minority Recruitment and Retention to help ensure that minority students’ graduate school applications received fair and equitable review.

**Intern, Harvard Graduate School of Education**

2008-2009, Assisted students and coordinated a monthly speaker series highlighting multiculturalism, civil rights, and access services for the Office of Access and Disability.

**Research Assistant, University of Texas at San Antonio**

2007-2008, Assisted a professor in the Department of English by editing a book for publication, performing library research, writing summaries of theoretical work, and submitting ideas for future research.

**Master English Teacher**

2006-2007, Trained, observed, evaluated and mentored six English teachers for the Austin branch of the national nonprofit organization, Breakthrough. Supervised teachers’ work with at-risk middle school students who will be the first in their families to attend college. Wrote curriculum for the English Department and participated in program-wide teacher training and student events on the University of Texas at Austin campus.

**Creative Writing Instructor**

2004-2007, Led middle school and elementary school creative writing workshops in after school and summer programs and edited student work for publication for a nonprofit organization, Badgerdog Literary Publishing, Inc., through the Youth Voices in Ink program in Austin, Texas

**Instructional and Teaching Assistant, Texas State University, San Marcos**

2003-2006, Independently taught College Writing (English 1310 and 1320), created original syllabi, advised students in office hours, assisted professors in *American Literature after 1865*, graded essays, proctored exams, presented lectures on the work of Sandra Cisneros, prepared and led study sessions for classes ranging from 300-350 students, helped to implement multimedia course materials, and mentored an incoming graduate assistant.

**Creative Writing Instructor**

2006, Led a summer creative writing workshop at Ballet Austin with the Monologue Project, a

summer program for at-risk high school students in Austin, Texas. This program helped students create a variety of multimedia projects exploring ekphrastic creative work based on Erik Erikson’s theories of identity development.

**ESL Tutor**

2004-2005, Tutored international students enrolled in the Texas State University Intensive English Program for the NCN Institute at Texas State University, San Marcos.

**Creative Writing Instructor**

2004, Led a summer creative writing workshop for at-risk high school students enrolled in the Academy at Hays through the Katherine Anne Porter House Writing Program in Kyle, Texas, sponsored by Texas State University.

**Creative Writing Coordinator at the University of California at Santa Cruz**

2002-2003, Coordinated programming for the University's Creative Writing Program. Work included writing grants that provided $14,300 for Creative Writing Program projects; founding and co-chairing the Raymond Carver Club for Student Writers; acting as the volunteer coordinator for the 2003 Transcontinental Poetry Conference; sitting on the planning board for the Kinetic Poetic Spoken Word events at Porter College; co-editing the Red Wheelbarrow, a student literary journal; participating on the Student Media Advisory Board; organizing student and faculty readings at the annual Art in the Arboretum event; assisting with the Introduction to Creative Writing Course (which enrolled over 130 students each quarter); organizing and promoting the Living Writers Reading Series (bringing over a dozen nationally celebrated authors to the UCSC campus); writing “The Journeys of Ruben Martinez” (an article on a visiting writer’s work documenting migrant workers on the Mexico-United States border for the periodical *Arts and Ideas*), serving as the Chancellor's Undergraduate Internship Advisor; and founding and operating the bi-weekly Porter Poetry and Spoken Word Student Reading Series.

**Spanish Team Coordinator and Customer Service Representative**

2000-2002, Worked for Cruzio, The Internet Store**,** as the Spanish Team Coordinator, supporting Spanish language outreach, co-creating curriculum for an Introduction to the Internet in Spanish course, generating web design and text for the company website in English and Spanish, performing administrative office duties, coordinating special occasion events, representing the company at local career and business fairs, overseeing office email correspondence, resolving billing problems for customers, and organizing office documents and library resources.

**Research Assistant, Harvard University**

2000, Studied children’s attitudes about the arts by traveling to Santa Cruz, California area schools and administering a survey for the School Arts Project under the auspices of Projects in Active Cultural Engagement, sponsored by the Harvard University Graduate School of Education and funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

TEACHING WITH TECHNOLOGY

1. Completed the semester-long Advanced Online Course Design and Development faculty development training offered through the office of Learning Experience Design at Texas State University. This training supported my work in developing a fully built-out online course for technical writing (English 3303).
2. Currently serving on the Online Courses Committee and the Technical Communication Curriculum Committee for the Department of English
3. Earned the OLC Certificate (formally SLOAN-C) for Online Teaching (2013-2014); In addition to the semester-long foundational course, my coursework included Digital Storytelling, Strategies for Supporting Student Research and Curation, and Workload Management Strategies for Online Faculty
4. Taught an upper division composition course at Texas State University, “Composing with Digital Media” (ENG 3318.251). This workshop and theory course focused on student blogging and composing with various social media platforms.
5. Taught ENG 1310, ENG 1320, ENG 3303, and HON 3395X at Texas State University using online learning tools, including student blogs, forums, and online assessments using quizzes and analytic grading rubrics for essays.
6. First Year English Program Presenter, Department of English, Texas State University November 2014, “Developing Eportfolio Rubrics to Support Student Learning and Save Time Grading”
7. Faculty Showcase Presenter, Instructional Technologies Support, Texas State University, February, 2014, “The Evolution of an Online Rubric”
8. Technology Integration Workshop (summer 2006 & summer 2013 – 80 hours/workshop)
9. Creating and Teaching an Online Course (7/8-17/2013 – 40 hours)

SPANISH LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE

**College Work:**

Studied Spanish language, literature, art and film during a total of 8 years at The University of California at Santa Cruz (1997-1998 and 2001-2003), Cabrillo College (2001), The University of Granada in Andalusia, Spain (1999-2000), and The University of Veracruz in Xalapa, Mexico (1996)

**Professional Experience:**

Worked as Spanish Team Leader at Cruzio, The Internet Store in Santa Cruz, California. Developed Spanish marketing material and web pages, taught free classes in Spanish on using the Internet in Watsonville, California, and promoted Cruzio at a local small business fair

HONORS AND AWARDS

University of Texas at San Antonio University Teaching Fellowship  
University of Texas at San Antonio Doctoral Fellowship

Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society, Texas State University Chapter

Texas State University Graduate College Grant

University of California at Santa Cruz Dean’s List

University of California at Santa Cruz Literature Undergraduate Colloquium

Susie Pfingstel Memorial Scholarship

Chancellor's Undergraduate Internship Advisor

University of California at Santa Cruz Grant

Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society

Sundberg Family Grant

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

1. Brief Update on Undoc/DACAmented Students (1/15/19)
2. Advanced Online Course Design and Development (August-December, 2017)
3. LGBTQIA Allies Training (7/20/2015)
4. Faculty Learning Community on Globalization, Office of Academic Development and Assessment (2014-2015)
5. Adjunct Faculty Learning Community, Office of Academic Development and Assessment (January-May, 2014)
6. Multicultural Curriculum Transformation and Research Institute (5/20-24/2013)
7. Preparing Students for Socially Responsible Global Citizenship (5/14-15/2013)
8. Teambuilding (10/10 & 7/2012)
9. Successfully Balancing Work and Life (5/30/2007)
10. QPR: Suicide Prevention Training (1/24/2007)
11. Seven Habits of Highly Effective College Students (2/18/2006)
12. Student Success and College Quality: What Really Matters (2/20/2006)
13. The College Student Mental Health Crisis: What Faculty and Staff Need to Know (2/24/2006)
14. The Millennial Generation: The Next Generation in College Enrollment (2/24/2006)

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

**2017, Conference on College Composition and Communication in Kansas City**

Co-led a workshop called “Fostering Undergraduate Research” as a Faculty Advisory Editor for the national scholarly journal, *Young Scholars in Writing*

**2015, National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Spokane**

Gave a presentation titled “Preparing Undergraduates for IRB-Approved Research During Study Abroad .” I also accompanied five of my Honors College research-writing students from Texas State University as they gave their own papers at the conference.

**2015, Conference on College Composition and Communication in Tampa**

Presented my dissertation research at the Research Network Forum

**2014, National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Louisville**

Gave a presentation titled “Portraiture Writing: Helping Students Write Themselves into Academia”  
I also accompanied two of my Honors College first year composition students from Texas State University as they gave their own papers at the conference.

**2014, Conference on College Composition and Communication in Indianapolis**

Presented a paper titled “Ethnographic Research, Cultural Survival Skills, and College Persistence”

**2013, Council of Writing Program Administrators Conference in Savannah**

Presented a paper titled “Seeking Consent: Boundaries of Intimacy and the IRB”

**2013, Conference on College Composition and Communication in Las Vegas**

Presented a paper titled “Portraiture Writing: A Research Methodology that Values First Generation FYC Students’ Lived Experiences”

**2011, Conference on College Composition and Communication in Atlanta**

Presented a paper titled “Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Ethnographic Research Projects in First Year Composition”

**2009, Conference on College Composition and Communication in San Francisco**

Chaired a panel titled “Balancing University Teaching and Other Professional Opportunities after the Master’s Degree“ and delivered a paper titled “Teaching, Studying, and Professional Development for the Doctoral Student”

**2008, International Conference of Chicana Literature in Alicante, Spain**

Presented a paper titled “The Cross-Continent Loom Shuttle: Weaving Together Identities of Place”

**2008, College Composition and Communication Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana**

Presented a paper titled “Creative Writing Techniques in the Composition Classroom” at the Research Network Forum

**2006, Film and History Conference Presentation in Dallas, Texas:**

Presented a paper titled “The Journey Upriver: Eleanor Coppola’s Role in the Making of *Hearts of Darkness, A Filmmaker’s Apocalypse*”

**2006, Teaching Strategies for Creative Introductions**

Created and gave a presentation for the Associate Director of First Year English and over twenty Graduate Assistants in the Department of English at Texas State University

**2004, Film and History Conference Presentation in Dallas, Texas**

Presented a paper titled “War Brides and Widows: The Role of the Wife in Vietnam War Films”

**2002, *Arts and Ideas***

Published “The Journeys of Ruben Martinez”, an article on Martinez’ work

documenting migrant workers on the Mexico-United States border

**1999 and 2002, *Chinquapin***

Published a short story and a prose poem

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER WORK

**Sigma Tau Delta**, Faculty Sponsor of the Omega Epsilon Chapter of the National English Honors Society, Texas State University, 2016-2019

Mentored the leaders of this student organization and other English majors members as they pursued service projects and activities related to literacy, creative writing, and writing research. I also participated in digital administrative work for the student organization.

**Technical Communication Curriculum Committee**, Texas State University, 2016-2018  
Reviewed textbooks for technical communication, developed training and continuing education requirements for senior lecturers in technical communication in the Department of English, and prepared instructional materials for the English 3303 Instructor Website.

**First Year English Committee,** Texas State University

2013-2019, Provided feedback and volunteered to pilot the First Year English program’s new outcomes assessment in my courses, assisted in the selection of a new handbook for English 1310 and 1320.

**Editorial Board Member**, *Young Scholars in Writing: Undergraduate Research in Writing and Rhetoric*

2014-2019, I review submissions and work one-on-one with the authors of tentatively accepted articles as they progress through the revise-and-resubmit process for this national, peer-reviewed journal for undergraduate student writers.

**Honors College Thesis Advisor**, Texas State University

2013-2014 & 2017-2018, Served as supervising professor to two Honors College students: Jessica Loechel, for her multimedia senior thesis “Listening to the Rain: A Fresh Look at the Works of Alan Watts;” and Victoria Dougless, for her creative thesis, “Fillory’s Not So Happily Ever After: A Creative Fairytale with German Language, Sexual Violence, and the #MeToo Act”

**Workshop Leader,** Office of Academic Development and Assessment, Texas State University

February, 2015, “Developing Alternative Assessments and Rubrics”

**Adjunct Faculty Committee Member**, Texas State University

2013-2015, Served the Department of English and the broader university as a representative on this Faculty Senate subcommittee. Served on another subcommittee to award competitive adjunct faculty course releases to applicants proposing innovative teaching or research projects.

**Workshop Co-Leader**, Faculty Learning Community for Adjunct Professors, Texas State University

February, 2014, “Designing Effective Assessments and Fair Grading Procedures”

**Faculty Subject Matter Expert,** Texas State Undergraduate Research Journal (TXSTUR)

2013, Served as a subject matter expert of English and Composition. Reviewed and edited submitted work to the journal.

**President of** **Student Government Association,** Harvard Graduate School of Education

2008-2009, Served as a campus leader to coordinate service projects, plan events, and raise money for scholarships. Worked in conjunction with the Graduate School of Education Development Office to initiate an expanded Class Gift campaign.

**President, Graduate Student Association,** University of Texas at San Antonio  
2007-2008, Co-founded this student organization and helped to plan programming to support the academic, financial, and social lives of graduate students at UTSA.

**First Year Freshman English Mentoring Program,** Texas State University

2005-2006, Mentored new graduate instructors in the Department of English

**Rising Star Writing Project**

2005, Judged poetry entries of Texas Public School elementary students

**Texas Book Festival**

2004-2005, Assisted with a student reading featuring the work of Austin public school students

**San Marcos Public Library**

2004-2005, Assisted with Summer Reading Program kickoff event and staffed the annual book sale

**Teacher,** Creative Writing in the Schools

2003, Taught writing and edited a student anthology at an alternative high school for at-risk teens in Castroville and Salinas, California.

**Teacher,** Creative Writing Class at the Santa Cruz Teen Center

2002, Created and taught a free six-week course to local teens

**Teacher Intern,** Delta Alternative High School at the University of California at Santa Cruz   
1999, Taught writing & photography at a charter high school in Santa Cruz, California