

Featured Student Post—Sarah Rose (she/her/hers)

Meet Sarah Rose, a second-year graduate student in the MARC program here at Texas State University. Four years before joining the MARC program, Sarah Rose was a Peace Corp volunteer in rural Panamá, where she utilized her B.A. in environmental studies by teaching reforestation techniques and working on community conservation projects. After her service, she moved to Thailand to continue working internationally by teaching English to primary and secondary students. Sarah Rose was driven to apply to the MARC program by the questions she developed during her work abroad, which centered on the ways language and communication influence international power dynamics. She also desired to become a more qualified teacher in order to better serve her students.

*“In my experience, environmental ecologies and rhetorical ecologies are natural parallels. They’ve created an easy transition for me from the sciences into the humanities... it is much more profound and joyful than I expected and I’m grateful for that.”*

Her future goals are to enroll in a PhD program and conduct research in feminist ecocomposition and postcolonial rhetoric. But, most importantly, Sarah Rose really just wants to be in a classroom. She wants to teach introductory composition courses; even when she retires, she would like to be a kindergarten teacher. Sarah Rose is a teacher through and through.

Currently, she is taking research courses and writing her thesis on intersectional feminist ecocomposition while assisting in the History Department as an IA (Instructional Assistant). In addition, Sarah Rose is preparing to present her paper “The Neocolonial Rhetoric of Transnational Peace Corps Narratives” at the International Rhetoric Workshop in San Luis

Potosí, México, which was postponed one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She is also co-presenting the paper “The Role of Writing Centers in Decolonizing Academia” with fellow MARC student and close friend, Olivia Hinojosa, for the Midwest Modern Language Association convention. Additionally, Sarah Rose is contributing a poem to MARC professor, Dr. Octavio Pimentel, and Dr. Miriam F. Williams’s Texas State publication *Cuentos and Testimonies: Diversity & Inclusion at Texas State University*. In her free time, she enjoys finding old things that people throw out and remaking them. During these hard times, Sarah Rose is repainting some terracotta pots and is enjoying tending to her community of plants, reading creative nonfiction, and taking long camping trips.

Sarah Rose has immensely enjoyed her experience in the MARC program as it has been much more collaborative and community-oriented than she expected. She says it has been “emotionally fulfilling” to be in a community of powerful, engaged, and compassionate people.