

Curriculum Vitae
Leandra A. Preston
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. May 2015, University of Central Florida (Texts and Technology)

-Ph.D. Dissertation: *Watch Me Disappear: Gendered Bodies, Pro-Anorexia, and Self-Injury in Virtual Communities*

M.A. August 2002, University of Central Florida (English, Literature)

-M.A. Thesis: *Reclamation as Resistance: Identity, Individuality, and Community in Toni Morrison's Beloved*

-18 hours of Women's & Gender Studies coursework

B.A. December 1998 University of Central Florida (English, Literature)

-Women's Studies minor

A.A. December 1994 Valencia Community College (General)

Awards and Honors

Promotion, Senior Lecturer, UCF, 2020

Teaching Incentive Program Award, College of Arts and Humanities, UCF, 2013; 2018

UCF Center for Success of Women Faculty Women's History Month Recognition, UCF, 2017

Outstanding Dissertation Award, UCF College of Arts and Humanities, 2015

Promotion, Associate Lecturer, UCF 2015

Professional Development Leave Grant, College of Arts and Humanities, 2014

Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, College of Arts and Humanities, 2014

Campus Compact National Service-Learning Faculty Award, State University Sector, 2012

Spirit of Philanthropy/Community Hero Award, Health First, Brevard County, 2010

Outstanding Faculty Achievement Award, UCF, College of Arts and Humanities, 2008

Excellence in Teaching at UCF Award, student-nominated, 2006

Summa cum Laude Recognition, M.A. 2002

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, UCF, 2001-2002

Graduate Incentive Fellowship Award, UCF, 2000-2001

TEACHING

Teaching Experience

**courses I created/proposed and taught; courses and positions held at University of Central Florida*

Senior Lecturer, Women's and Gender Studies, Fall 2020-present

Associate Lecturer, Women's and Gender Studies, Regional Campuses, Fall 2014-Summer 2020 (UCF)

Gender and Technology* (online)

Girls and the Body* (online)

Introduction to Gender Studies (online)

Theories in Gender Studies (graduate-level; online)

Instructor/Program Coord., Women's Studies, Regional Campuses, Fall 2005-Spring 2014 (UCF)

Gender Issues in Community Activism* (online)

Virtual Girls—Girls and Digital Media* (online)
Theories of Masculinity* (face-to-face, web-mediated, online)
Girls Studies* (face-to-face, online)
Womanist Studies--Study Abroad (Accra, Ghana, West Africa)
Introduction to Women's Studies (online, web-mediated, face-to-face)
Women and Community Activism* (web-mediated)
Third Wave Feminisms* (online, face-to-face)
Visiting Instructor, Women's Studies, Regional Campuses, Fall 2003-present (UCF)
Introduction to Women's Studies (online, web-mediated, face-to-face)
Women and Community Activism (web-mediated)
Visiting Instructor, English, Composition I & II, Fall 2002-Spring 2003 (UCF)
Introduction to Women's Studies (face-to-face)
Composition I (face-to-face, web-mediated)
Composition II (face-to-face, web-mediated)
Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2001-2002 (UCF)
Composition I (face-to-face)
Composition II (face-to-face)

Professional Development

Teaching WGSS Online in the Time of COVID: Lessons Learned So Far, Ms. Classroom, February 26, 2021
UCF Academic Leadership Academy, Faculty Excellence, Fall 2020-Spring 2021
UCF SAFE Zone Series (Coming Out Workshop, LGBTQ+ 101, G.O.L.D., Advocates), 2018-2021
Kognito At-Risk Intervention Training, 2020
UCF Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Conference Grants, 2003-2018 (see [addendum](#) for details)
NTE Communities Training (Non-Tenure Earning Faculty Workshops), 2017
2021 Florida Online Innovation Summit, March 2021

Workshops Conducted—University of Central Florida

"Change Never Stops: Pandemic Activism and Creative Service-Learning," 2020-2021
"Women and Academia in the Time of Covid," March 2021
Women's Day Organizer and Presenter, 2021
"What are Zines?" Change Never Stops: Pandemic Activism (WGST), 201
"Zine Workshop," Womanfest. UCF Library, March 2017-March 2020
"What is Feminism? Is there a 'Third Wave'?" Lead Scholars Presentation, 2014
"Service-Learning in Web Environments," Service-Learning Track, FCTL Conferences, 2006-2019.
"Service-Learning in Global Contexts." FCTL Sustainability Conference. October 8, 2010.
"Loving Our Bodies, Loving Ourselves," NOW Love Your Body Day, November 2009
"Using Blogs and Social Networks for Service-Learning," Service-Learning track, FCTL Conference, 2008
"What is Women's Studies?" Presentations sponsored by UCF Brevard Office of Student Activities and Campus Life at New/Transfer Orientations, 2004-2008
"Building Creative Assignments in Women's Studies," GTA workshop, November 16, 2005.
Fighting Violence Against Women workshop, UCF Cocoa Campus, 2005
Love Your Body Day Workshop, UCF/Brevard Community College, 2005
"What I Learned About Teaching Women's Studies," GTA workshop, November 11, 2005.
"Service Learning in Women's Studies: Practical Strategies," GTA workshop, October 19, 2005.

"Never Go Back!" sponsored by UCF Women's Studies Program, October 22, 2003

"What is Feminism?" sponsored by UCF-FMLA, September 18, 2003

"Black Feminism" sponsored by UCF-NOW, March 10, 2003

Keynote Speaking Engagements

"Gender Issues and Community Activism," American Association for University Women, Volusia County, October 14, 2017.

"We Meet at the Crossroads: Intersectional Feminism," National Organization for Women, Brevard County, March 14, 2016.

"Making It Work: Service-Learning Do's, Don'ts, and Lessons from the Trenches," University of South Florida Service-Learning Day, March 7, 2013.

Creative Teaching Projects (Sample of Active Projects)

Sutori Timeline, ["A Day in the Life of a Pandemic"](#) (Gender and Technology course project), Spring/Fall 2020

[Girls Studies Blog](#) (Girls Studies course project; service-learning project), 2008-current

[Masculinities Blog](#) (Theories of Masculinities course project; service-learning project, 2009-current)

[Third Wave Zines Blog](#) (from "Zine Assignment" in Third Wave Feminisms, maintained by students as part of service-learning projects, 2006-current)

RESEARCH

Publications

National, Refereed

"Collaborative Justice: Gender-Based Activism in the University Library." *Social Justice and Activism in Libraries, Moving Beyond Diversity to Action*. Jefferson, NC: Macfarland and Co., 2019.

"Third Wave Library Activism: The Dynamic Possibilities of a Women's and Gender Studies and University Library Partnership." *Gender Studies in the Library: Case Studies of Innovative Programs and Resources*. Jefferson, NC: MacFarland and Co., 2016.

"From Cyborgs to Cybergrrrls: Redefining 'Girl Power' Through Technology and Media." *Difficult Dialogues about Twenty-First Century Girls*. Eds. Donna Marie Johnson and Alice E. Ginsberg. New York: SUNY Press, November 2015.

"From Mamma to Mine: Constructing Feminist Homes on the Border(land)s of Italian America." *Olive Grrrls: Italian North American Women & The Search for Identity*. Ed. Lachrista Greco. Olive Grrrl Press, 2013.

Editor (proposed special issue), "Special Issue: Becoming-Girl." *Rhizomes: Cultural Studies in Emerging Knowledge*. Summer 2011. www.rhizomes.net

"A Space of Our Own: MySpace and Feminist Activism in the Classroom," *Radical Teacher*. Cambridge, MA: Boston Women's Teachers' Group, Inc., April 2008.

"You Can't Fight Violence with Silence: Practical Tools for Service Learning and Activism to Eliminate Violence Against Women." *Many Floridas: Women Envisioning Change*. Eds. Judy A. Hayden, Sharon Kay Masters, Rhonda L. S. Ovist and Kim Vaz. UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2007.

Encyclopedia Entries

The Women's Movement Today: An Encyclopedia of Third-Wave Feminism. Ed. Leslie Heywood. Greenwood Press, November 2005. *terms: academic feminism, single-sex education, women's colleges, third-wave pedagogy, Carol Gilligan*

National, Unrefereed

- "ATG Multi-Perspective Interview on Video Streaming featuring Leandra Preston-Sidler..." *Against the Grain* (December 2016-January 2017). 40-42.
- "On Being a Pregnant Elder: The Maternal Body in Medical and Virtual Communities." *Illuminations*, Vol 5, No 1, Art 5, 2017, 1-5. Online.
- "Counting Breaths." *Communal Table*. 5.1 Online Journal, 2016.
- "Dear Daughter: In Face of Tragedy, Try to Keep Your Spirit Intact." *Huffington Post* (June 16, 2015).
- "Appreciating the Simple Moments More Than Onslaught of Technology." *Huffington Post* (June 19, 2014).
- "Employers Need to do More to Help Maintain Careers of Employees with Babies." *Huffington Post* (April 17, 2014)
- "Toughness, Sensitivity Not Mutually Exclusive in a 'Real Man.'" *Huffington Post* (February 12, 2014).
- "First Month with My Newborn was Both the Shortest and Longest of My Life." *Huffington Post* (December 22, 2013).
- "The Overlooked Victims of Domestic-Violence Cases: Pets." *Huffington Post* (October 9, 2013).
- "She, He and Ze All Have the Right to Make Own Identity Choices." *Huffington Post* (August 7, 2013).

Refereed Conference Papers

- "Mommy Juice Memes: Disrupting Media Representations of Alcohol Use by Women during the Covid-19 Pandemic." Console-ing Passions: International Conference on Television, Audio, Video, New Media, and Feminism, Orlando, FL. June 23-25, 2022. (forthcoming)
- "Transforming the Virtual Landscape: Accessing Protest, Justice, and Transnational Organizing through Distance Education." Distance Education Interest Group Sponsored Session. National Women's Studies Association Conference, San Francisco, CA. November 16, 2019.
- "'Me Too': The Collective Power of Hashtag Activism." The Image Network Conference, Hong Kong, November 2-4, 2018.
- "From Sonogram to Selfie: Identity, Image, and the Persistent Social Lens." The Image Network Conference, Venice, Italy, October 31-November 1, 2017.
- "Does this Hashtag Make Me Look Fat? Embodied Resistance in Virtual Communities." Southeastern Women's Studies Association Conference (SEWSA), Atlanta, GA, March 23-25, 2017.
- "From Sonogram to Selfie: Blurring the Private and Public from Birth to Beyond." Southeastern Women's Studies Association Conference (SEWSA), Atlanta, GA, March 23-25, 2017.
- "Watch Me Disappear: Extreme(ly) Gendered Bodies in Virtual Communities." BodyHax/Bodyhacking Conference, Austin, Texas, January 27-29, 2016.
- "On Being a 'Pregnant Elder': Ageist Surveillance and/of the Occupied Body." National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Conference, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, November 11-13, 2016.
- "Feast Your Eyes on My Big Ol' Thighs: Embodied and Visual Strategies of Resistance in Virtual Communities. Southeastern Connecticut State University (SCSU) National Women's Studies Conference, New Haven: Connecticut, April 15-16, 2016.

- "Watch Me Disappear: Pro-Anorexia, Self-Injury, and Gendered Bodies in Virtual Communities." Gender, Bodies, and Technology (GBT) Conference, Roanoke, VA, April 21-23, 2016.
- "Virtual Beauty: Representing, Recreating, and Subverting Bodies through Online Communities." National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Conference, Milwaukee, WI, November 12-15, 2015.
- "Beyond Difficult Dialogues: Twenty-First Century Girl Futures." National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Conference, Milwaukee, WI, November 12-15, 2015.
- "Watch Me Disappear: Gendered Bodies, Pro-Ana, and Self-Harm in Virtual Communities." National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Conference, Oakland, CA, November 7-11, 2012.
- "Fulfilling Women's Studies' Mission of Social Transformation Through Academic Service-Learning" (Roundtable). National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Conference, Oakland, CA, November 7-11, 2012.
- "Out of the Classroom and Into the Community: A Workshop on Incorporating Service and Activist Learning into the Online Classroom." National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Conference, Oakland, CA, November 7-11, 2012.
- "Breaking Through the Boundaries of Women's Studies: Girl Studies, Global Service Learning, and Critical White Studies." National Women's Studies (NWSA) Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 11-13, 2011.
- "Moving Beyond the Walls of Women's Studies Through Service-Learning." National Women's Studies (NWSA) Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 11-13, 2011.
- "Outsider Feminisms: Masculinities in Women's Studies and Men in Feminism," National Women's Studies (NWSA) Conference, Denver, Colorado, November 11-14, 2010.
- "More Than Girl Power: Transgression through Digital Literacy." Reimagining Girlhood Conference. State University of New York, Cortland, October 22-24, 2010.
- "From Cyborgs to Cybergrrrls: Redefining 'Girl Power' Through Technology and Media," National Women's Studies (NWSA) Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 12-15, 2009.
- "Placing Girls at the Academic Center: Developing Girls Studies Programming at UCF," South Connecticut State University Women's Studies Conference ("Girls' Culture & Girls' Studies: Surviving, Reviving, Celebrating Girlhood"), New Haven, Connecticut, October 2008.
- "A Space of Our Own: MySpace and Feminist Activism in the Classroom," MAPACA Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland, October 19-21, 2006.
- "You Can't Fight Violence with Silence: Practical Tools for Service Learning and Activism to Eliminate Violence Against Women." Workshop, Presented with Christine Mouton, Director, Victim Services. Florida Women's Studies Consortium Conference (Many Floridas: Women Envisioning Change). USF, Tampa, FL, April 7-8, 2006.
- "Cyberpedagogy: Feminism, Activism, and Creative Pedagogy in the Online Classroom" Roundtable Discussion, National Women's Studies Association Conference (chaired by Leandra Preston and presented with Aimee Berger, Greta Gaard, and Sara Zeigler). Orlando, FL, June 9-12, 2005.
- "Pedagrrl: Third Wave Service-Learning Pedagogy" Panel/Roundtable, National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) conference, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, June 2004.
- "From Mamma to Mine: Constructing Identity on the *Border(land)s* of Italian-America." MELUS 17th Annual Conference: Homeplace, Identities, and the Political in U.S. Literature, Boca Raton, Florida, April 2003.

“Of Human Darkness: Sex and Violence in the Novels of Toni Morrison” (co-written and presented with Anthony Crisafi). American Women Writers of Color Conference, Salisbury University, Maryland, October 2001.

SERVICE

Professional Service

Member, National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA), 2004-present
Alternate Senator, UCF United Faculty of Florida (UCF-UFF), 2020-present
Chair, UCF-UFF Diversity and Equality Committee, 2020- present
Member, UCF-UFF Publications Committee, 2020
Member, The International Image Network, 2028-2020
Chair, NWSA Distance Learning Interest Group (elected position), 2018-2019
NWSA Member, NWSA Girls Studies Caucus, 2010-current
Member, NWSA Men and Masculinities Caucus, 2012-current
Member, American Association of University Women (AAUW), 2017-2021
Member, Florida Consortium for Women’s Studies, various
Member, Southeastern Women’s Studies Association, various
Chair, UCF Women’s Studies Curriculum Committee, 2011-present
Member, A&P Professional Development and Leave Committee, 2012
Member, Domestic Violence Task Force of Brevard County, 2005-present
Chair, Education Committee, Domestic Violence Task Force, Brevard County, 2008-2012
Chair, Awareness Committee, Domestic Violence Task Force, Brevard County, 2008-2011
Member, Commission on the Status of Women, Brevard County, 2007-2010
Vice President, Silent Witness Executive Committee, 2005-2009
Member, UCF Women’s Studies Program Executive Committee, 2005-present
Member, Faculty Advisory Committee, UCF Regional Campuses, 2004-present
Member, Search Committee for Vice-Provost (Regional Campuses), Spring 2004
Member, UCF Women’s Studies Executive Committee, 2003-present
Member, UCF Women’s Studies Curriculum Committee, 2004-present
Member, UCF Women’s Studies Advisory Board, 2012 (newly formed committee)
Member, UCF/Campus Compact Service-Learning Initiative Committee, 2003-2007

Community Activism Initiatives

Founder/Director, Animal Safehouse Domestic Violence Program, 2008-present
Service-Learning Coordinator, Ometepe Artisans, One Body Global Ministries, 2019-present
Organizer/Participant/Speaker, Take Back the Night, Brevard County, 2010-2014
Organizer/Participant, Steps Against Domestic Violence, DV Task Force, Brevard County, 2009-2017
Organizer, Invisible Victims Display, UCF/Brevard Community College, Fall 2007
Organizer/Participant, Silent Witness Display, UCF/Brevard Community College, 2005-2010
Women in Action Conference, UCF Orlando Campus (Co-Organizer), 2003-2005
March for Freedom Delegation Organizer, Spring 2004
Clothesline Project, Orlando campus, February 25, 2002-present, each semester
Take Back the Night, UCF Orlando, 2004-2007
Benefit show for Don’t Skirt the Issue, February 23, 2004

Benefit Art Show, Harbor House Domestic Violence Shelter (Co-Organizer), Fall 2003
R-LEED (Real Life Education for Eating Disorders), advisor, 2002-2005

Other Professional Experience

Consultant, Salvation Army Domestic Violence Program, Primary Prevention Project Development,
October 2007-2012.

Founder/Director, Animal Safehouse Program, Brevard County. 2005-Present.