

KATHERINE TU

University of Waterloo
Bachelor's of Computer Science (French Minor)
Master's of English (Rhetoric and Communication Design)

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RESEARCH STATEMENT

I am interested in computational rhetoric and computational linguistics, formal languages, general linguistics, and natural languages.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Lead Research Assistant, RhetFig, September 2017 - December 2017, May 2018 - Present
University of Waterloo

- Update and maintain the RhetFig website codebase, database, and annotations, using CSS, HTML, Javascript, PHP, Python and SQL

- Developed a cognitive-based ontology for the climactic suite of rhetorical figures with a small team in OWL

- Liaise with Wilfred Laurier University's game development group and help design RhetFig's gamified crowd-sourcing project

- Manage and train other research assistants, alongside completing my own research

ENGL109 Teaching Assistant, January 2018 - April 2018, January 2019 - April 2019
University of Waterloo

- Responsible for a small group of about 20 students

- Send weekly announcements reminding students of due dates, graded assignments almost weekly

- Available to students through email and Learn message boards

FR192A&B Teaching Assistant, May 2015 - August 2015, September 2016 - May 2017
French Department, University of Waterloo

- Teach and prepare material for weekly 50-minute conversation tutorials held entirely in French

- Held one tutorial per week in Spring 2015; currently hold three tutorials per week

Web Programmer, January 2011 - April 2011

Co-operative Education and Career Action (CECA), University of Waterloo

- Built the application for collaborative milestone reports for the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy using PHP and MySQL

- Implemented the back-end for internal staff website in JavaScript

- Developed applications for career fair sign-ups requiring financial transactions using PHP

- Acted as the webmaster and completed daily bug fixes on live and internal sites

Macro and Database Programmer, May 2010 - August 2010

Asset Management & Procurement, Canadian Revenue Agency

- Developed the interface and back-end for database to be used by procurement teams in Microsoft Access (using Visual Basic and SQL)

- Implemented macro scripts for asset-tracking and supplier evaluation spreadsheets in Microsoft Spreadsheet

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

An Ontological Approach to Meaning Making through PATH and Gestalt Foregrounding in Climax. With Lillian A Black (Senior author, formerly TW Black), Cliff O'Reilly, Yetian Wang, Paulo Pacheco, and Randy Allen Harris. 17 July 2019. The American Journal of Semiotics.

Rhetorical figures as cognitive: A case study of Isocolon. The Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric. Vancouver, Canada. 4-6 June 19.

Prosody as iconicity: isocolon's semantic and rhetorical homogeneity effects. Iconicity in Language and Literature. Lund, Sweden. 3-5 May 19.

A climactic ontology. With Cliff O'Reilly (Senior author), Yetian Wang, Sarah Bott, Paulo Pacheco, Tyler William Black, and Randy Allen Harris. International Association for Cognitive Semiotics. Toronto ON. 14 July 18.

Arguments in gradatio, incrementum and climax, a climax ontology. With Cliff O'Reilly (Senior author), Yetian Wang, Sarah Bott, Paulo Pacheco, Tyler William Black, and Randy Allen Harris. CMNA XVIII - Computational Models of Natural Argument. Proceedings. Liverpool, UK, 6 April 18. Presented by O'Reilly.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Member, RhetFig Climactic Ontology Group, October 2017 - Present
University of Waterloo

Research subgrup of RhetFig

We have presented at two conferences, published one paper, submitted one paper, and have another paper being written

Editor, March 2014 - June 2016, September 2016 - January 2018
mathNEWS, University of Waterloo

Organised and led production nights, managed finances, copyedited articles, compiled layout, and partook in distribution for bi-weekly newsletter intended for undergraduate mathematics students

Artist for mathNEWS since September 2010

Vice President, Operations, January 2016 - March 2016
Mathematics Society, University of Waterloo

Maintained computing resources, and updated the website and social media

Opened the office at 9AM, ensured that the office was closed at 5PM, and held office hours

Trained new office workers

Ordered and maintained inventory

Vice President, Academic, May 2015 - August 2015
Mathematics Society, University of Waterloo

Attended regular meetings with school councils and committees

Liaised between students and administration; reported to undergraduate mathematics student body on meetings

Helped organise resume critique session, mock interview sessions, and spirit events for mathematics undergraduate students

Held various directorships for Society since May 2013

Other Volunteer Positions
Mathematics Society, University of Waterloo

Novelties Director (January 2014 - April 2014)

Office Manager (May 2013 - December 2013)

Math Orientation Black Tie Leader (September 2013)

Office Worker (September 2011 - August 2013)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

DiMarco Graduate Scholarship in Computational Rhetoric, Winter 2019

Rosa McEachern Memorial Award, Spring 2015