

Kelly M. Sauskojus
Clemson University

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EDUCATION

- 2024 Ph.D, Rhetoric, Writing and Linguistics, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Dissertation: *Tactical Vernacular Grantwriting*
Committee: Jeffrey Ringer (Chair), Lisa King, Jessi Grieser, LaToya Eaves
- 2019 M.A., English Baylor University
2017 B.A., English Liberty University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Community-Engaged Research | Technical and Professional Writing | Religious and Sacred Rhetorics
| Urban Agriculture and Food Justice | Grantwriting | Place-Based Pedagogy

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 2024 Postdoctoral Fellow Clemson University Department of English

RESEARCH

Articles

Sauskojus, K. (2021). 'I wants to awaken yer bloody clarrs consciousness': Gothic Marxism in Eugene O'Neill's *The Hairy Ape*. *Gothic Studies*, 23(3), 332-347.

Under Review

Sauskojus, K. and J. Buller-Young. "Reflexivity, Responsibility, and Reciprocity: Community Engagement for Scholars of Religious Rhetorics." *Rhetoric and Religion as Resources for Resistance*, ed. Will Duffy. Under revision.

King, L., Sauskojus, K., Takvoryan, S. and A. Kent-Johnson. "What do Indigenous Rhetorics have to do with College-Level Writing?: A Conversation." in H. Tinberg, et al. (eds) *What is 'College-Level' Writing 2.0*. NCTE. Solicited book chapter under revision with NCTE.

Von Bergen, M. King, L., Sauskojus, K, and A. Kent-Johnson. "Strategic Alliances and Programmatic Change: Program Profile of the University of Tennessee's Rethinking the Rhetoric and Writing PhD Comprehensive Exam." *Composition Forum*. Under revision.

Book Reviews

Sauskojus, K. (2021). Review of *Sacred Rhetorical Education in 19th Century America: Austin Phelps at Andover Theological Seminary*. *Journal for the History of Rhetoric*, 24(3), 341-342.

Sauskojus, K. (2020). Review of: *Reforming Women: The Rhetorical Tactics of the American Female Moral Reform Society* by Lisa S. Shaver. *Rhetoric Review*, 39(3), 363-365.

Select Scholarship in Progress

Sauskojus, K. "What Do We Talk About When We Talk About Grants?: A Comparison of Popular Grantwriting Handbooks."

Alford, K. and K. Sauskojus. "Who Knows About Crippling Ungrading?: ND and Disabled Instructor Lived Experience as Foundation for Adapting Alternative Assessment Practices"

AWARDS & GRANTS

Academic

University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Award for Excellence in Community Engagement, UT Graduate Student Senate, 2024

Humanities Center Graduate Fellow (\$20,000), 2023-2024.

Humanities Without Walls Career Diversity Fellow (\$4,000), 2023.

English Department Community Engaged Fellow (\$18,000), 2022-2023.

Community

BattleField Farm

United Way's Community Investment Fund, (\$10,000), 2024.

Opportunity Youth Engagement Grant, City of Knoxville, (\$35,000), 2024.

United Way's Capacity Building Award (\$5,000), 2024.

United Way's Community Healing Fund Grant (\$38,000), 2022-2023.

United States Botanic Gardens' Urban Agriculture Resilience Award (\$20,000), 2022-2023.

Aslan Foundation Community Grant (\$10,000), 2023.

Slow Food Tennessee Valley Community Enrichment Grant, (\$1,000), 2022.

Other Knoxville Community Garden Nonprofits

Knoxville Area Gardening Club (\$1500), 2023.

Tennessee Arts Foundation Community Award (\$10,000), 2022-2023.

First Place Okra, Tennessee Valley Fair, 2022.

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Volunteer Grant Reviewer, United Way of Greater Knoxville, 2024.

Grant Writer and Administrator, BattleField Farm and Gardens, 2022-Present

Professional Writing Educator for Black, queer, and other marginalized youth, Socially Engaged Energy Efficient Development (SEED), 2022-Present.

Community Garden Educator and Grantwriter, Deaf EcoFarm, Rooted East, the Museum of Infinite Outcomes, Knoxville Botanical Gardens, Knox County Community Gardens and Growers Alliance, Chilhowee Park Community Garden, Beardsley Farm, O'Connor Senior Center, 2021-Present.

Tutor, Qualitative Researcher, and Community Fellow, Judith Anderson Herbert Writing Center and Knox County Flagship High School Tutoring Partnership, 2021-2023.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

Sauskojus, K. (March 2024). "I'm not sitting down to eat while my brothers and sisters are hungry: Community-Led Food Justice and the Practice of Lent." *St. Johns Lutheran Church*, Knoxville.

BattleField Farm Team. (July 2023). [Creative Encounters: Living Religions in the U.S., Smithsonian Folklife Festival](#), Washington, DC.

Sauskojus, K. (January 2023). "How to Be an Ally," *Rooted East*, Knoxville.

Academic

Sauskojus, K., and C. Battle (April 2025). "Wait, are we talking about church, or are we talking about grants?": Religion as B-Side to Food Justice Community Work." *CCCC*, Baltimore.

Sauskojus, K. (October 2024). "I Wrote A Lot of Grants and Was on NPR Once: What Other Grad Students Can Learn from My Community-Engaged Dissertation." *Community Engagement & Outreach Conference*, Knoxville.

Sauskojus, K. (June 2024). "Tactical Technical Communication in Community-Engaged Grassroots Grantwriting." *Association for Teachers of Technical Writing*, Virtual.

Kent-Johnson, A. and K. Sauskojus (April 2024). "Embracing Embodied Difference: Professionalization Strategies for Creating Alt-Ac Opportunities." *Nexus Interdisciplinary Conference*, Knoxville.

Sauskojus, K., and J. Buller-Young (October 2023). "Community-Engaged Research in Religious Rhetorics: A Guided Practice of Contemplation and Conversation" (October 2023). *Rhetoric and Religious Traditions: An Interdisciplinary Conference*, Memphis.

Sauskojus, K (October 2023). "Weeding is Writing: Disrupting Colonialist-Capitalist Paradigms of Grantwriting" as part of a larger panel titled "Knoxville Dirt: Three Perspectives on Working with Community, Land, and Messy Institutions." *Conference on Community Writing*, Denver, CO.

Sauskojus, K. "Grantwriting Ecologies of East Knoxville Urban Agriculture Nonprofits." (February 2023). *GeoSym: Spatiality and Sustainability*, Knoxville.

Powell, K., Sauskojus, K., and A. Langendorfer (October 2022). 'Balancing Power Relationships in a High School-Writing Center Partnership.' *International Writing Center Association Conference*, Vancouver.

Benson, K., Powell, K., Langendorfer, A., Sauskojus, K., and S. Brown (October 2022). 'The Judith Anderson Herbert Writing Center's Flagship Tutoring Project.' *Engagement and Outreach Conference*, Knoxville, TN.

Anderson, M., Sauskojus, K., and K. Powell (October 2021). 'Stating Your Purpose: Connecting Communities to College Access.' *Engagement and Outreach Conference*, Knoxville, TN.

Community

Sauskojus, K., Battle, C. and L. Brown (October 2023). "Pastoring Okra and Shaking Our As(paragus) on the Veggie Bus: Radical Joy as the Path to Finding Kingdom Work." *Christian Community Development Association*, Cincinnati.

Sauskojus, K. (September 2023). "Seed Saving 101: Fighting Food Commodification, Embracing Food Sovereignty." *Rooted East Community Community Class*, Knoxville.

Sauskojus, K. (June 2023). "How I Quit Panicking and Learned to Love Grant Writing." *American Horticultural Society National Children and Youth Garden Symposium*, Knoxville.

TEACHING

Pedagogical Training

Ungrading and Antiracist Alternative Assessment Pilot, UTK English Department, 2021-2022.

Virtual Vols Bootcamp, UTK Teaching & Learning Innovation, 2020.

Teaching Second Language Writing, UTK English Graduate Seminar, 2019.

Issues in Composition Pedagogy, Baylor English Graduate Seminar, 2017.

Select Courses Taught

Clemson University, 2024

English 1310: Composition and Rhetoric

University of Tennessee-Knoxville, 2019-2023

English 295: Writing in the Workplace (in-person)

English 102: English Composition II (in-person, hybrid, online-synchronous and online-asynchronous)

English 101: English Composition I (in-person, online-synchronous and online-asynchronous)

Baylor University, 2018-2019

ENG 1304: Writing and Academic Inquiry (in-person)

ENG 1302: Thinking and Writing (in-person)

Invited Lectures

With J. Buller-Young. "Adapting Decolonial and Community-Based Research Methods for New Contexts in Religious Rhetorics," UTK English Department Graduate Methods Seminar, 2024.

With A. Kent-Johnson. "Ethically Teaching Qualitative Research with in First-Year Composition Courses," UTK English Dept New Instructor Workshops, 2022.

PUBLIC MEDIA COVERAGE

Brown, J. (2024, May 17). A Flagship Writing Program. *Higher Ground*.

<https://higherground.utk.edu/a-flagship-writing-program/>

Dodd, J. (2024, Jan. 13). Pastor Leaves His Church to Feed the Hungry on His Urban Farm: 'It's Literally Saving Lives'. *People Magazine*. <https://people.com/pastor-leaves-his-church-to-feed-the-hungry-on-urban-farm-8425557>

Burnett, J. (2022, Dec. 6). Churches in Knoxville, Tenn. are experimenting with ways to draw young people back. *NPR: All Things Considered*.

<https://www.npr.org/2022/12/06/1141047779/churches-in-knoxville-tenn-are-experimenting-with-ways-to-draw-young-people-back>

Owen, L. (2022, Dec. 1). Preparing for Success: Supporting Students at Austin-East. *University of Tennessee News*. <https://news.utk.edu/2022/12/01/preparing-for-success-supporting-students-at-austin-east/>

Dennis, A. (2022, Nov. 22). Knoxville's Chris Battle takes his solemn mission fighting food insecurity on the road. *Knoxville News Sentinel*.

<https://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/local/2022/11/23/knoxville-battlefield-farm-founder-chris-battle-fights-hunger/69614354007/>