Laura Ellis-Lai, Ph.D.



https://lauraellislaiphd.wp.txstate.edu/

Flowers Hall 365
601 University Dr.
San Marcos, TX 78666
LE17@txstate.edu

EDUCATION

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

Harvard University Graduate School of Education, *Ed.M.*, Education, 2009

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

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

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

WORK EXPERIENCE

Professor of Instruction in the Department of English, Texas State University

2006-2026, Supervised teaching assistants, co-facilitated professional development programming for faculty across campus through the Office of Faculty Development, developed study abroad programs to Mexico and England, developed a Study-in-America program to California, served as Academic Program Director for the Texas State in London & Cambridge study abroad program, directed the English Internship Program, advised the English Honor Society, directed graduate and undergraduate thesis students, coordinated service learning activities, served on a dozen university committees and councils, and taught face-to-face, hybrid, and asynchronous-online courses in digital rhetorics, research writing, world literature, technical communication, and professional editing in the Department of English, the Honors College, and the Intensive English program. Earned the OLC Certificate (formally SLOAN-C) for Online Teaching in 2013-2014, concentrating in Digital Storytelling, Strategies for Supporting Student Research and Curation, and Workload Management Strategies for Online Faculty.

Application Reviewer for Harvard University

2023, Reviewed applications from around the world for graduate student applicants.

Editorial Board Member, *Young Scholars in Writing*

2014-2019, Reviewed submissions and worked one-on-one with college student authors of tentatively accepted articles as they progressed through the revise-and-resubmit process for this national, peer-reviewed journal for original undergraduate student research.

University Teaching Fellow, University of Texas at San Antonio

2009-2010, 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.

Graduate Student Intern, Harvard University

2008-2009, Coordinated and supported events highlighting multiculturalism, civil rights, and access services for the Office of Access and Disability and the Office of Minority Recruitment and Retention.

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Texas at San Antonio

2007-2008, Line edited the anthology, *Relations*, *Locations*, *Positions: Writing Theory for Composition Teachers* prior to publication and assisted professors in scholarly research.

Master English Teacher, Breakthrough Austin

2006-2007, Trained, observed, mentored, and evaluated six English teachers for the Austin branch of this national nonprofit organization on the University of Texas at Austin campus. Wrote curriculum and supervised teachers' work with at-risk middle school students who will be the first in their families to attend college.

Creative Writing Instructor, Badgerdog Literary Publishing, Inc.

2004-2007, Led elementary, middle school, and high school creative writing workshops and edited student work for publication for this nonprofit organization in Austin, Texas.

Creative Writing Instructor, Ballet Austin

2006, Led a summer creative writing workshop with the Monologue Project, a summer program for 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, NCN Institute at Texas State University

2004-2005, Tutored international students from Japan while they attended Texas State University.

Creative Writing Instructor, Katherine Anne Porter House Writing Program

2004, Led a summer creative writing workshop for high school students enrolled in the Academy at Hays in Kyle, Texas, sponsored by Texas State University.

Creative Writing Coordinator at the University of California at Santa Cruz

2002-2003, Coordinated national conference programming and wrote grants that provided $14,300 for Creative Writing Program projects, co-edited a literary journal, served on the Student Media Advisory Board, organized poetry readings, assisted with the Introduction to Creative Writing Course, marketed and supported the Living Writers Reading Series, and served as the Chancellor's Undergraduate Internship Advisor.

Customer Service Representative, Cruzio - The Internet Store

2000-2002, Generated web design and text for the company website in English and Spanish, coordinated special events, taught classes about the Internet, represented the company at business fairs, oversaw correspondence, resolved customer problems, and organized office 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 David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

HONORS AND AWARDS (SELECTED)

- Presidential Distinction Award for Excellence in Teaching, Texas State University, 2022
- Liberal Arts Golden Apple Award (Teaching), Texas State University, 2022
- Excellence in Online Teaching Award (Runner-Up), Texas State University, 2021
- Alph Chi Favorite Professor, 2018
- 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
- Susie Pfingstel Memorial Scholarship
- Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society
- Sundberg Family Grant

FUNDED TEACHING GRANTS

- Nontenure Line Faculty Workload Release Grant, Texas State University. *Project: Creating the Writing Mentors Tutoring Project for Texas State University Students at San Marcos High School* (2025)

- Multicultural Curriculum Transformation and Research Institute grant at the Texas State University Center for Diversity and Gender Studies (2024)

- Exploratory Grant Award for Study in America - California, Office of Distance and Extended Learning, Texas State University (2022)

- Nontenure Line Faculty Workload Release Grant, Texas State University. *Project: Creating National Day of Writing Service-Learning Events at a Local Elementary School* (2020-2021)

- Exploratory Grant Award for Study Abroad - Merida, Mexico, International Affairs, Texas State University (2018)

- Foundations & Advanced Online Course Design and Development Grant, Texas State University (August - December, 2017)

- Nontenure Line Faculty Workload Release Grant, Texas State University. *Project: Creating a Workshop Series on Presenting at Undergraduate Research Conferences* (2015-2016)

- Project Grant, Faculty Learning Community on Globalization, Office of Academic Development and Assessment (2014-2015)

- Technology Integration Workshop Grant, Texas State University – 80 hours (2013)

- Creating and Teaching an Online Course Workshop Grant, Texas State University – 40 hours (2013)

- Technology Integration Workshop Grant, Texas State University – 80 hours (2006)

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE & SERVICE WORK

1) Job Search Committee, Lab-Coordinator in the Department of English (2021)
2) Office of Distance and Extended Learning Award Selection Committee (2020 - 2021)
3) Job Search Committee, Lab-Coordinator in the Department of English (2021)
4) College of Liberal Arts Study Abroad Committee (April 2019 – Present)
5) Donor and Alumni Advisory Council (August 2018 - 2019)
6) Sigma Tau Delta International Honors Society Advisor (2017 - 2020)
7) First Year English Handbook Committee (2017 - 2019)
8) Major/Minor Committee (2016 - 2021)
9) Outstanding Senior Award Committee (2016 – Present)
10) Undergraduate Technical Communication Committee (2016-Present)

11) Online Courses Committee (2015 – Present)
12) First Year English Committee (2013 - 2024)
13) Adjunct Faculty Committee (2013- 2015)
14) First Year English Mentoring Program (2005-2006)

CONFERENCE & UNIVERSITY PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

2026, Southwest Popular American Culture Association Conference in Albuquerque, NM
Gave a presentation titled "Study Abroad and the Serendipity of Travel"

2024, Lilly Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning Conference in Asheville, NC
Gave a presentation about inclusive teaching practices in global contexts in higher education.

2022, International Virtual Education Conference (IVEC) in Valencia, Spain
Gave a presentation about starting new COIL programming at a university campus, educating my fellow faculty members on campus about the COIL pedagogy, and running my first COIL teaching collaboration at Texas State University with a faculty colleague in Mexico at the Autonomous University of the Yucatan (UADY)

2022, Office of Faculty Development at Texas State University
Gave a presentation introducing COIL pedagogy to faculty across campus titled "Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)"

2021, National Distance Learning Week for the U.S. Distance Learning Association
Presented on a faculty professional development panel about developing my online teaching skills: "Taking Advantage, Taking Action: Advancing Your Career Through Professional Development"

2021, Lilly-Online Teaching and Learning Conference (Virtual)
Gave a presentation titled "Faculty Presence in Times of Crisis in Online Teaching"

2021, Conference on College Composition and Communication (Virtual)
Gave a presentation titled "Engagement, Encouragement, & Flexibility: Faculty Presence During Times of Crisis"

2017, Conference on College Composition and Communication in Kansas City, Missouri
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, Washington
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 this conference.

2015, Office of Academic Development and Assessment, Texas State University
Presented and facilitated a workshop to assist colleagues in grading college writing called "Developing Alternative Assessments and Rubrics"

2014, National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Louisville, Kentucky
Gave a presentation titled "Portraiture Writing: Helping Students Write Themselves into Academia"
I also accompanied some of my Honors College first year composition students from Texas State University as they gave their own papers at this conference.

2014, Faculty Learning Community for Adjunct Professors, Texas State University
Presented and facilitated a workshop titled "Designing Effective Assessments and Fair Grading Procedures"

2014, Conference on College Composition and Communication in Indianapolis, Indiana
Presented a paper titled "Ethnographic Research, Cultural Survival Skills, and College Persistence"

2013, Council of Writing Program Administrators Conference in Savannah, Georgia
Presented a paper titled "Seeking Consent: Boundaries of Intimacy and the IRB"

2013, Conference on College Composition and Communication in Las Vegas, Nevada
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, Georgia
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, California
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, Teaching Strategies for Creative Introductions, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas
Created and gave a presentation for the Associate Director of First Year English and two dozen Graduate Assistants in the Department of English at Texas State University

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SELECTED)

1. Program for the Internationalization of the Curricula – U.S.-Mexico, Sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Mexico, Banco Santander, and CONAHEC (6/17/2022-7/8/2022)
2. Microsoft 365 Champions Training (5/20/22)

3. La Asociación Mexicana para la Educación Internacional – Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Coordinators Seminar – (3/24 & 31/2022)
4. SUNY Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Coordinator Training (1/10 & 18/2022)
5. "What's NEXT? Charting Your Path," a Mid-Career Professional Development Program, Sponsored by the Provost's Office, the Faculty Development Advisory Committee, and the Office of Faculty Development (12/2021- 5/2022)
6. UDOIT: Accessible Learning in Your Canvas Courses (8/11/2020)
7. Group Work that Works Online (8/6/2020)
8. One-Time Design: Measure Twice, Cut Once (7/15/2020)
9. Microsoft Teams (7/28/2020)
10. Canvas Toolkit: Communication & Collaboration (7/21/2020)
11. Zoom for Faculty and Staff (6/24/2020)
12. Connect and Engage for Student Success in Canvas (6/19/2020)
13. Canvas Toolkit: Quizzes, Assignments, & Grading (6/18/2020)
14. Canvas Essentials (6/12/2020)
15. Canvas Migration Workshop (6/10/2020)
16. Camp Canvas: Choose Your Own Adventure: Customizable Learning Paths in Canvas (5/22/2020)
17. Camp Canvas: Integrate Multimedia that Matters (5/22/2020)
18. Canvas Basics (5/11/2020)
19. Open Educational Resources (2/10/2020)
20. Brief Update on Undoc/DACAmented Students (1/15/19)
21. Supporting LBGTQIA+ Non-binary Community Abroad (10/12/2019)
22. Developing and Offering a Faculty-Led Study Abroad Program (1/24/2018)
23. Foundations & Advanced Online Course Design and Development (August-December, 2017)
24. How to Teach an Online Course and Still Have a Life Panel Discussion (10/20/2017)
25. LGBTQIA Allies Training (7/20/2015)
26. Faculty Learning Community on Globalization, Office of Academic Development and Assessment (2014-2015)
27. Adjunct Faculty Learning Community, Office of Academic Development and Assessment (January-May, 2014)
28. Multicultural Curriculum Transformation and Research Institute (5/20-24/2013)
29. Preparing Students for Socially Responsible Global Citizenship (5/14-15/2013)
30. Creating and Teaching an Online Course – 40 hours (2013)
31. Technology Integration Workshop – 80 hours (2013)
32. Teambuilding (10/10 & 7/2012)
33. Successfully Balancing Work and Life (5/30/2007)
34. QPR: Suicide Prevention Training (1/24/2007)
35. Seven Habits of Highly Effective College Students (2/18/2006)
36. Student Success and College Quality: What Really Matters (2/20/2006)
37. The College Student Mental Health Crisis: What Faculty and Staff Need to Know (2/24/2006)
38. The Millennial Generation: The Next Generation in College Enrollment (2/24/2006)
39. Technology Integration Workshop – 80 hours (2006)

<u>COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEER WORK</u>

- Secretary, San Marcos High School Girls Soccer Boosters (2025-2026)
- Member, Gifted and Talented Committee, San Marcos Independent School District (2023-2024)
- Secretary, Goodnight Middle School Choir Boosters (2022-2024)
- Organizer, National Day of Writing Annual Event at DeZevala Elementary School (2017-2019)
- Troop Leader, Girl Scouts of America (2015-2020)
- PTO Board Member, DeZevala Elementary School (2016-2020)
- Volunteer, Rising Star Writing Project Poetry Judge (2005)
- Volunteer, Texas Book Festival, Austin, Texas **(**2004-2005)
- Volunteer, San Marcos Public Library, San Marcos, Texas (2004-2005)
- Volunteer Teacher, Creative Writing in the Schools, Castroville and Salinas, California (2003)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE

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