

# Andrew Pilsch

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## EDUCATION

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<b>PhD, English</b>	<b>Pennsylvania State University</b>	<b>May 2011</b>
Research Interests	Rhetoric of Science, New Media, Technical Communications, Cybernetics, Postmodern Culture, Science Fiction.	
Dissertation	<i>Transhumanism: Evolutionary Logic, Rhetoric, and the Future</i> My project follows the rhetorical history of transhumanism through a wide range of cultural texts and argues that this ongoing discussion of humanity as an object of evolutionary processes can be understood in terms of a rhetorical trope I call “evolutionary futurism”. Evolutionary futurism is any discussion of humanity in terms of what it might become in the future through natural selection. In tracing this trope beginning in the philosophical explorations of life, power, and evolution during modernism, I suggest that transhumanism renders the twentieth-century as an ongoing attempt to imagine futures in which humanity becomes something beyond the limits imposed by Cartesian humanism. While the contemporary movement calling itself “Transhumanism” sees this evolutionary change being brought about by technological and chemical enhancement of the body, I use a broad definition of “evolution” (including mental and spiritual enlargement) to show that discourses such as schizoanalysis, theosophy, psychedelics, and science fiction contribute to the transhuman project. In doing so, I reveal that transhumanism and the rhetoric of evolutionary futurism provide a central organizing principle for much of twentieth and twenty-first century thought.	
<b>MA, English</b>	<b>Pennsylvania State University</b>	<b>May 2007</b>
<b>BS, Computer Science</b>	<b>Georgia Institute of Technology</b>	<b>May 2005</b>
<b>BS, Science Technology &amp; Culture</b>	<b>Georgia Institute of Technology</b>	<b>May 2005</b>

## AWARDS & GRANTS

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**Wilma Ebbitt Graduate Award in Rhetorical Studies**, 2010 (Penn State)

**Philip Young Memorial Endowment in American Literature**, 2006. (Penn State)

## PUBLICATIONS

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**“Revising Tomorrow: the Historical Present, Telecommunications, and Global Capitalism in *Nova* and *Neuromancer*.”** Forthcoming in *Annals of Scholarship* (publication anticipated in 2011).

**Review of *The Breakup 2.0* by Illana Gershon.** Forthcoming in *Information Society*.

**“Contagious Narratives: Towards a Global Epidemiology in Priscilla Wald’s *Contagious*.”** Review Of *Contagious: Cultures, Carriers, and the Outbreak Narrative* by Priscilla Wald. *BioSocieties*, 4.2-3 (2009): 326-328.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED TALKS

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**“Becoming Object: Facebook, Life Writing, and Tool-Being”** *The Conference on College Composition and Communication*, St. Louis, MA, 2012 (Accepted)

**“As Study or As Paradigm?: Humanities and the Uptake of Emerging Technologies,”** *127th MLA Annual Convention*, Seattle, WA, 2012. (Accepted)

**“Remixing ‘Technical Communication’: Design, Techné, and the Production of Documents,”** *The Conference on College Composition and Communication*, Louisville, KY, 2010.

**“He Called It ‘Utopia’: Jameson’s Social and Vedic Transhumanism,”** *The Society For Literature, Science, and the Arts 2009 Conference*, Atlanta, GA, 2009.

**“Utopia.com: Fredric Jameson and Piracy Online,”** *The Society For Literature, Science, and the Arts 2007 Conference*, Portland, ME, 2007.

**“Revising Tomorrow: the Historical Present, Telecommunications, and Capitalism in *Nova* and *Neuromancer*,”** *Samuel Delany: A Critical Symposium*, University at Buffalo (State University of New York), 2006.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE (16 SECTIONS; 5 COURSES; 536 STUDENTS)

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**Rhetoric & Composition** (*6 Sections; 144 Students*) – This first-year composition option at Penn State introduces students to college writing, critical thinking, and basic rhetorical theory.

**Effective Writing: Technical Writing** (*5 Sections; 120 Students*) – Advanced composition class for students in science and engineering fields. Focus on document design, readability, and technologies of communication.

**Effective Writing: Business Writing** (*2 Sections; 48 Students*) – Advanced composition class for students in business fields. Focus on effective and ethical communication, document design, and branding.

**Science Fiction** (*2 Sections; 200 Students*) – Course focusing on the history of science fiction in the 20th and 21st centuries. This large lecture class, composed mostly of non-majors, highlights the ongoing relationships between science, literature, and imagined futures.

**Introduction to Critical Reading** (*1 Section; 24 Students*) – Introductory class focusing on

research methods and critical approaches within the English major. Specifically, instruction focused on media theory and critical appraisal of cultural texts.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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**PhD Representative**, *EGO: The English Graduate Organization*, 2007 – Organized the first Statement of Purpose writing workshop for MA students applying internally to the PhD.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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**The Modern Language Association**

**The Society for Science, Literature, & the Arts**

## RELEVANT SKILLS

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**Computer Programming** – Thorough knowledge of multiple computer programming languages such as C, Java, Ruby, PERL, and LISP. Significant experience in building websites using advanced technologies such as PHP, MySQL, Ruby on Rails, and Apache.

## REFERENCES

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**Richard Doyle**

Professor of English  
The Pennsylvania State University  
mobius@psu.edu

**Mark Morrisson**

Professor of English  
Department Head  
The Pennsylvania State University  
mxm61@psu.edu

**Jeffrey Nealon**

Liberal Arts Research Professor of English  
The Pennsylvania State University  
jxn8@psu.edu

**Paul Youngquist**

Professor of English  
Associate Chair of Graduate Studies  
The University of Colorado  
Paul.Youngquist@Colorado.edu

Dossier available upon request.