

Michael J. Klein, Ph.D.

Professor of Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies
Affiliate Professor of Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication
James Madison University
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Current Academic Appointments

James Madison University, Harrisonburg VA

- Professor, Department of Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies, 2023–present
- Affiliate Professor, School of Writing, Rhetoric & Technical Communication, 2023–present
- Founding Coordinator, Cross-disciplinary Medical Humanities Minor, 2015–present

Past Academic Appointments

James Madison University, Harrisonburg VA

- Professor, School of Writing, Rhetoric & Technical Communication, 2021–2023
 - Associate professor, 2013–2021; Assistant professor, 2007–2013
- Director, The Cohen Center for the Humanities, 2017–2023
- Interim associate dean, The Graduate School, 2017–2018
- Director of graduate studies, School of Writing, Rhetoric & Technical Communication, 2012–2017
- Instructor, Writing and Rhetoric Program, 2004–2006

University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington NC

- Visiting instructor, Department of English, 2006–2007

University of Virginia, Charlottesville VA

- Adjunct instructor, Program in Science, Technology & Society, 2006

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond VA

- Adjunct instructor, Department of English, 2003–2004

Complementary Experience

- Member, CHCI Health and Medical Humanities Network Steering Committee, 2022–present
- Invited member, Advisory Board for Health and Medical Communication Program, LA Tech University, 2019–present
- Invited member, WAC Clearinghouse Publications Review Board, 2018–present
- Co-editor, *Science Fiction Research Association Review*, 2013–2014
- Nonfiction editor, *Science Fiction Research Association Review*, 2011–2014
- Madison Research Fellow, Evolution Group, 2009–2010
- Madison Teaching Fellow, Teaching and Technology Group, 2005–2006

Education

Ph.D., Science and Technology Studies (focus on Politics and Policy Studies of Science),
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

M.S., Technical Communication, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

M.A., English (focus on Rhetoric, Composition, and the Teaching of English), University of Arizona

B.A., Creative Writing, and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (honors in English), University
of Arizona

Professional Development

IMPACT³ Leadership Development Program, James Madison University, 2016–2017

Graduate Certificate, Higher Education Assessment Specialist, James Madison University, 2014

JMU Center for Assessment and Research Studies (CARS) Fellow, 2012

Publications

Edited Volumes

Klein, Michael J. (ed.). *Effective Teaching of Technical Communication: Theory, Practice and Application*. WAC Clearinghouse/U. Press of Colorado, 2021.

Frana, Philip and **Michael J. Klein** (eds.). *Encyclopedia of Artificial Intelligence: The Past, Present, and Future of AI*. ABC-CLIO, 2021.

Refereed Book Chapters

Klein, Michael J., and Lisa DeTora. “Introduction. The Rhetoric of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Health Literacy and Disease Knowledge.” *COVID Communication: Exploring Pandemic Discourse*, edited by Douglas Vakoch, John C. Pollock, and Amanda Caleb, Springer, 2023, pp. 1-15. doi:10.1007/978-3-031-27665-1_1

Klein, Michael J. “Cross-Disciplinary Vaccine Education through a Campus-Community Partnership.” *Composing Health Literacies: Undergraduate Writing Courses, Programs, and Extensions*, edited by Michael Madson, Routledge, 2023, pp. 89-102. doi:10.4324/9781003316770-7

DeTora, Lisa, **Michael J. Klein**, and John C. Pollock. “Introduction. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the Media: Issues and Opportunities.” *COVID-19 in International Media: Global Pandemic Perspectives*, edited by John C. Pollock and Douglas Vakoch, Routledge, 2021, pp. 1-19.

Klein, Michael J. “Body Talk: A Cross-Disciplinary Course on Embodiment and Graphic Memoir.” *Graphic Embodiments: Perspectives on Health and Embodiment in Graphic Narratives*, edited by Lisa DeTora and Jodi Cressman, U. of Leuven Press, 2021, pp. 75-86. doi:10.2307/j.ctv1ccbg8p.9

Klein, Michael J., and Kristi L. Shackelford. “‘Hey Sammy, We’re not in Kansas Anymore’: The Frontier Motif in Supernatural.” *Undead in the West*, edited by Cynthia Miller and A. Bowdoin Van Riper, Scarecrow Press, 2012, pp. 19-31.

Klein, Michael J. “Modern Myths: Science Fiction in the Age of Technology.” *Frontiers of Cyberspace*, edited by Daniel Riha, Rodopi, 2012, pp. 259-83, doi:10.1163/9789401208581_013

Klein, Michael J., and Kristi L. Shackelford. “Beyond Black on White: Combining Document Design with MLA Style in the Writing Classroom.” *Writing Spaces: Readings on Writing, volume 2*, edited by Charlie Lowe and Pavel Zemliansky, Parlor Press, 2011, pp. 333-49.

Klein, Michael J. “Incorporating Science Fiction into a Scientific Rhetoric Course.” *Practicing Science Fiction: Critical Essays on Writing, Reading, and Teaching the Genre*, edited by Karen Hellekson, Craig Jacobsen, Patrick Sharp and Lisa Yaszek, McFarland and Co., 2010, pp. 24-36.

Klein, Michael J. “Beholding the Uncanny: Replicants, Cyborgs and Clones in Science Fiction.” *Humanity in Cybernetic Environments*, edited by Daniel Riha, Inter-Disciplinary Press, 2009, pp. 137-145.

Klein, Michael J. “Reconsidering the Lay-Expert Audience Divide.” *Handbook of Research on Virtual Workplaces and the New Nature of Business Practices*, edited by Kirk St.Amant and Pavel Zemliansky, IGI Global, 2008, pp. 692-701, doi:10.4018/978-1-59904-893-2.ch050

Refereed Journal Articles

Mitchell, Ryan, Julie Homchick Crowe, Sara DiCaglio, Lisa DeTora, Brynn Fitzsimmons, Tristin Hooker, Lisa Keränen, **Michael J. Klein**, Melissa Nicolas, and Shaunak Sastry. “A Dialogue on *Un/Precedented* Pandemic Rhetorics.” *Rhetoric of Health and Medicine*, vol. 6, no. 3, 2023, pp. 335-364. doi:10.5744/rhm.2023.3005

Chiu, Katherine A., Dayna S. Henry, and **Michael J. Klein**. “Provision of Advanced Care Planning Information by Public Institutions of Higher Education in the U.S.” *American Journal of Health Studies*, vol. 36, no. 1, 2021, pp. 41-49. doi:10.47779/ajhs.2021.637

DeTora, Lisa and **Michael J. Klein**. “Invention Questions for Intercultural Understanding: Situating Regulatory Medical Narratives as Narrative Forms.” *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication*, vol. 50, no. 2, 2020, pp. 167-186. doi:10.1177/0047281620906134

Klein, Michael J., Scott Lunsford, and Cindy Chiarello. “Embracing the Messy Business of Learning: Serving Multiple Stakeholders in a Technical Communication Internship.” *Present Tense*, vol. 3, no. 2, 2014.

Other Publications

Klein, Michael J. "IP Caucus Roundtable: Students' Rights to Their Writing and the Writing of Others." *NCTE Inbox*. August 23, 2011, cccc.ncte.org/cccc/committees/ip/ipreports/roundtable.

Awards

Best Original Collection of Essays in Technical or Scientific Communication: Conference on College Composition and Communication, 2022, for *Effective Teaching of Technical Communication: Theory, Practice, and Application*, WAC Clearinghouse, 2021.

Excellence in Technical Communication, International Awards Competition: Society for Technical Communication, 1997 for "Lighting Answers: T5FT Lamps and Ballasts." *Lighting Answers*, vol. 3, no. 1, April 1996.

Grants and Fellowships

External

- George Mason 4-VA Collaborative Research Grant, 2017 (\$16,500)

Internal (James Madison University)

- JMU Academic Institutes and Centers Interdisciplinary Scholarship Project, 2022 (\$5,000)
- JMU Academic Institutes and Centers Summer Student Research Program, 2021 (\$5,000)
- JMU 4-VA Collaborative Research Grant, 2018 (\$1,643)
- Provost Summer Research Grant, 2016 (\$3,900)
- Digital Humanities and Social Sciences Institute, 2015 (\$400)
- Center for Assessment and Research Studies Fellowship, 2012 (\$2,500)
- Office of Diversity IDEA Grant, 2010 (\$1,000)
- Madison Research Fellowship, 2009-2010 (\$1,000)
- Madison Teaching Fellowship, 2005-2006 (\$1,000)
- Center for Instructional Technology Online Course Development, 2005 (\$1000)

Invited External Talks

"Designing and Delivering Transdisciplinary Content." Keynote panelist, Transdisciplinary Learning Conference, Virginia Tech, March 2020. *Unable to deliver; meeting cancelled due to COVID-19.*

"Using a Writing Rubric to Improve Assignments" and "Teaching Science-Based Writing." Instructor, SACSCOC Quality Enhancement Project, New College of Florida, August 2010.

Conference Activity

Conferences Organized

Virginia Colloquium on the Rhetoric of Health and Medicine (VCRHM), June 2018.

Seminars Organized

Health and Embodiment: Narrative and Visual Cultures. American Comparative Literature Association Conference, March 2019.

Panels Organized

“What Role Should Humanities Centers Play in the 21st Century?” Virginia Humanities Conference, March 2020. *Unable to deliver, meeting cancelled due to COVID-19.*

“Navigating the Min(d)field: Rhetoric, Neuroimages and Publics.” 17th Biennial Rhetoric Society of America Conference, May 2016.

“Neuroscience and Its Discontents: The Promise and Peril of fMRI.” Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology and Medicine, May 2016.

“Medical Imaging and Images: The Visual Culture of Healthcare.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, March 2015.

Conference Presentations (Selected)

Klein, Michael J., and Philip Frana. “A Model for Levels of Autonomy in Technical Communication.” Teaching Technical Communication and Artificial Intelligence Online Symposium, March 2024.

Klein, Michael J. “Teaching AI in a Cultural Context to Humanities and STEM Students.” 13th Annual Symposium on Communicating Complex Information, March 2024.

Frana, Philip, and **Michael J. Klein**. “Teaching AI and Ethics in the Interdisciplinary Humanities Classroom.” 24th Annual Conference on Ethics Across the Curriculum, October 2023.

Kenzie, Daniel, Mary McCall, and **Michael J. Klein**. “Workshop on Course Design and Pedagogy for Healthcare Writing Courses.” Association of Teachers of Technical Writing, June 2023.

Klein, Michael J. “Teaching about Race in a Medical Communication Course.” Inaugural Conference on Teaching Writing in the Health Professions, June 2022.

Klein, Michael J. “Teaching the Twin Pandemics: Race and Healthcare in the Time of COVID.” Symposium for the Rhetoric of Health and Medicine, September 2021.

Conley, Shannon, Philip Frana, **Michael J. Klein**, Brad Tabas, and Brenda Trinidad. “Uncanny Simulacra: Pedagogy and Student Artwork as Tools for Interrogating Post-human Worlds.” Northeast Modern Language Association, March 2021.

Klein, Michael J. “Cross-disciplinary Vaccine Education through a Campus-Community Partnership.” 9th Annual Symposium on Communicating Complex Information, February 2020.

- Klein, Michael J. "A Cross-disciplinary Inquiry into the Opioid Crisis: Formulating a Campus-Community Partnership." Symposium for the Rhetoric of Health and Medicine, September 2019. Unable to deliver, cancelled due to Hurricane Dorian.
- Klein, Michael J. "The Dramatic Spectacle of fMRI: Brains on Trial as Narrative Inquiry." American Comparative Literature Association Conference, March 2019.
- De Hertogh, Lori Beth, **Michael J. Klein**, and Cathryn Molloy. "Moved by the Stories of Illness." Symposium for the Rhetoric of Health and Medicine, September 2017.
- Klein, Michael J. "Text, Lies and Imaging: fMRI, Deception Detection and Arguments in the Public Sphere." 17th Biennial Rhetoric Society of America Conference, May 2016.
- Klein, Michael J. "Debating Deceit: The Controversy of Using fMRI as a Lie Detection Device." Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology and Medicine, May 2016.
- Klein, Michael J. "Generic Differences: Reconciling Competing Claims about fMRI as Lie Detector." Symposium on Discourses of Health & Medicine, September 2015.
- Klein, Michael J. "Mind Reading Made (Un)Easy: Debating fMRI Research and Scholarship." Conference on College Composition and Communication Convention, March 2015.
- Klein, Michael J. "From Text to Screen: Changing Themes in the Frankenstein Mythos." Joint Eaton/Science Fiction Research Association Conference, April 2013.
- Klein, Michael J.**, and Kristi Shackelford. "'Hey Sammy, We're not in Kansas Anymore': The Frontier Motif in *Supernatural*." Western Literature Association Conference, November 2012.
- Klein, Michael J. "'City with a Soul': Bellona as Protagonist in Samuel R. Delaney's *Dhalgren*." Science Fiction Research Association Conference, June 2012.
- Klein, Michael J. "From Writing Workshop to Workplace Writing: Socialization in the Medical Communication Internship." Conference on College Composition and Communication, April 2012.
- Klein, Michael J. "Writing (and Experiencing) the Health Sciences: Building Academy-Industry Partnerships through Community-based Learning." Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication, October 2011.
- Klein, Michael J. "Leveling the Playing Field: Post-Apocalyptic Cinema and the New Global Frontier." Eaton Science Fiction Conference, February 2011.
- Klein, Michael J. "A New Moral Compass: The Ascendency of Science Fiction Films." Science Fiction Research Association Conference, June 2010.
- Klein, Michael J. "Leon Kass, Repugnance, and a Brave New World." Association for the Rhetoric of Science and Technology, May 2010.

Klein, Michael J. "Mirror Images: An Analysis of the Western and Science Fiction Film Genres." 67th World Science Fiction Convention, August 2009.

Gunnels, Jen, and **Michael J. Klein**. "Past is Prologue: Asimov's Psychohistory and Agent-Based Models." International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, March 2009.

Klein, Michael J. "Expanding the Boundaries: Incorporating Science Fiction into a Rhetoric of Science Class." Science Fiction Research Association Conference, July 2008.

Klein, Michael J. "Beholding the Uncanny: Replicants, Cyborgs and Clones in SF." 3rd Global Conference on Visions of Humanity in Cyberculture, Cyberspace, and Science Fiction, July 2008.

Klein, Michael J. "Shaping Discussion, Constructing Perception: The Rhetoric of Metaphor in Cloning Discourse." Conference on College Composition and Communication Convention, April 2008.

Klein, Michael J. "Deciphering the Code: Science Fiction Literature and the Human Cloning Debate." Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference, November 2007.

Participant/Discussant (Selected)

- Panel Discussion on AI, 2nd Annual Beitzel Symposium, September 2023.
- Graphic Medicine and the Rhetoric of Health, Rhetoric Society of America Summer Seminar, May 2023.
- STS Across the Commonwealth Workshop, May 2022.
- STS as Critical Pedagogy Workshop, June-July 2021.
- Pandemic Rhetorics, Rhetoric Society of America Summer Workshop, June 2021.
- Symposium on Discourses of Health & Medicine, September 2013, September 2020.
- Virginia Colloquium on the Rhetoric of Health and Medicine, April 2019.
- Rhetorics of Scientific Objects, Rhetoric Society of America Summer Workshop, May 2017.
- "Enhancing Faculty Diversity." IMPACT³ presentation made to JMU Leadership, February 2017.
- Narrative Medicine across Genres and Media, Project Narrative Summer Institute, The Ohio State University, July 2016.
- Images and Texts in Medical History Workshop, National Institutes of Health, April 2016.
- Rhetoric and Science, Rhetoric Society of American Summer Seminar, June 2015.
- Research Network Forum, Conference on College Composition and Communication, March 2015.
- "Students' Rights to Their Own Writing—and the Writing of Others," Intellectual Property Caucus Roundtable, Conference on College Composition and Communication Convention, April 2011.

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate Courses Developed/Redesigned and Taught, James Madison University

- HON 300. Rhetoric of Science and Science Fiction
- WRTC 200. Introduction to WRTC Studies
- WRTC 358/HON 300. Writing about Science and Technology/The Zombie Course
- WRTC 358/HON 300. Writing about Science and Technology/More Human Than Human: Cultural and Scientific Perceptions of Androids, Cyborgs and AI
- WRTC 416/SCOM 465. Rhetoric of Environmental Science and Technology
- WRTC 426. Special Topics in WRTC/Plague Rhetoric
- WRTC 426/HON 300. Special Topics in WRTC/Body Talk: Conceiving the “Normal” Body
- WRTC 426/MHUM 200. Special Topics in WRTC/COVID-19 in Perspective (with faculty in the sciences and humanities) (online)
- WRTC 458. Scientific and Medical Communication/The (Re)productive Body
- WRTC 458/HON 300. Scientific and Medical Communication/Twin Pandemics: COVID-19 and Racism (online)
- WRTC 488/HON 300. Writing in the Health Sciences (f2f and online)

Undergraduate Courses Taught, James Madison University

- ISAT 131. Technology, Science and Society
- TSC 210. Introduction to Technical and Scientific Communication (also course coordinator)
- TSC 430. Medical Writing
- UNST 102. JMU Teach Development
- UNST 103. JMU Teach Facilitation
- WRTC 103. Rhetorical Reading and Writing
- WRTC 201. Theory and Methods in WRTC
- WRTC 314. Writing in the Public Sphere (online)
- WRTC 316. Research Methodologies in WRTC
- WRTC 331. Technology and Writing (f2f and online)
- WRTC 350. Science and Technology in Literature
- WRTC/SCOM 351. Visual Rhetoric (f2f and online)
- WRTC 454. Publication Management

Undergraduate Courses Taught, University of North Carolina, Wilmington

- ENG 204. Introduction to Professional Writing
- ENG 310. Theory and Practice of Editing
- ENG 312. Writing for Business
- ENG 313. Writing about Sciences

Undergraduate Courses Taught, University of Virginia

- STS 200. Topics in Technology and Society/ Science Fiction, Science Fact, and Culture

Undergraduate Courses Taught, Virginia Commonwealth University

- ENGL 101. Writing and Rhetoric Workshop I
- ENGL 200. Writing and Rhetoric Workshop II
- ENGL 303. Writing in the Workplace

Graduate Courses Developed/Redesigned and Taught, James Madison University

- WRTC 560. Scientific Rhetoric
- WRTC 595. Special Topics in WRTC/Advanced Environmental Rhetoric
- WRTC 595. Special Topics in WRTC/Workplace Writing
- WRTC 615. Document Design
- WRTC 644. Health and Medical Rhetorics
- WRTC 648. Rhetoric of Science and Technology

Graduate Courses Taught, James Madison University

- TSC 620. Science Writing
- WRTC 510. Seminar in Technical and Scientific Communication (online)
- WRTC 530. Research Methods in WRTC
- WRTC 545. Ethical and Legal Issues in WRTC (online)
- WRTC 635. Medical Writing
- WRTC 695. Internship in WRTC

Thesis/Practicum/Capstone Advising

Master's Thesis, WRTC—Committee Member, James Madison University

- Bret Zawilski (2011)
- Justin Grandinetti (2015)
- Eric LaFreniere (2012)
- Erin Rider (2016)

Master's Practicum, WRTC—Adviser, James Madison University

- Lindsay Deliman (2010)
- Katy Lovin (2012)
- Nicole Lee (2011)
- Cindy Chiarello (2012)
- Ilis Mooring (2011)

Master's Practicum/Internship, WRTC—Committee Member, James Madison University

- Suzanne Tice (2009)
- Lisa Shea (2013)
- Christine Neidley (2009)
- Emily Diamond (2017)
- Lelia Graham (2012)
- Juliana Garabedian (2017)

Capstone Project, Honors College—Committee Member, James Madison University

- Katherine Chiu and Kat Topf (2019)

Bachelor of Individualized Study Capstone, Adult Degree Program—Director, James Madison University

- Eric LaFreniere (2010)
- Kira Lander (2016)

JMU Teach, University Studies—Faculty Instructor, James Madison University

- Laura Lorenz (2012)

Senior Project, Integrated Science and Technology—External Member, James Madison University

- Jessica Fox (2011)

Service

Profession

- Manuscript reviewer: *Journal of Medical Humanities*, *Programmatic Perspectives*, *Rhetoric of Health & Medicine*, *Written Communication*, Routledge and MIT Press
- Member, Program Committee, Council for Programs in Technical Communication, 2011–present
- Graduate Committee Member, Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Symposium, 2017, 2019

University

- Member, Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, 2023–present
- Member, Science and Technology in Society Minor Steering Committee, 2011–present
- Member, Honorary Degrees Nomination Committee, 2022–2023
- Member, Holocaust Awareness Week Committee, 2021–2022
- Interviewer, Fulbright Committee, 2019, 2020, 2022
- Member, Provost’s Committee on Distinguished Speakers and Honors, 2018–2022
 - Chair, 2021–2022; Interim Chair, Fall 2019
- Member, Engagement for the Public Good Conference Task Force, 2018, 2020
- Member, Provost’s Task Force on Gender and Sexuality, 2018–2019
- Member, Perceptual Analysis/Attitudinal Study Team, Strategic Review Plan, 2018–2019
- Member, Minor in Environmental Humanities Steering Committee, 2013–2016
- Facilitator, Center for Faculty Innovation jmUDESIGN, July 2013
- Member, Minor in Environmental Studies Steering Committee, 2011–2016
- Application Editor, SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award, September 2010, 2011, 2013
- Chair, PREFACE Text Selection Committee, 2010–2011
- Developer, First Year Reading Guide, June-July 2009
- General Education Conference panel moderator, October 2008, 2010
- Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement application editor, August 2010
- Designer, SACS Reaffirmation Website, August 2010
- Facilitator, First Year Reading, August 2007, 2009
- Facilitator, Conversation with Professors, August 2007, 2009

Arts and Letters College

- Chair, Digital Social Sciences and Humanities Faculty Search Committee, 2021–22
- Member, Virginia Humanities Conference Planning Committee, 2020
- Member, College of Arts and Letters Curriculum & Instruction Committee, 2013–2014
- CAL Representative, Center for Faculty Innovation jmUDESIGN, 2011–2012
- Member, Honors Program Council, 2008–2009

IDLS Department

- Member, APR Committee, 2023–present

WRTC Department

- Member, Graduate Faculty, 2008–present
- Member, Undergraduate Curriculum and Assessment Committee, 2022–2023
- Member, Graduate Academic Program Review Committee, 2021–2023
- Chair, Faculty Search Committee, 2020–2021
- Member, Steering Committee, 2013–2017
- Coordinator, Departmental Program Assessment, 2012–2014
- Member, Academic Program Review Committee, 2012–2013
- WRTC Faculty Liaison, Study Group Program, 2011–2013
- Member, Faculty Search Committee, 2007–2008, 2011–2012
- Chair, Outreach and Engagement Committee, 2010–2012
- Adviser, Graduate Student Symposium, 2009–2012
- Member, Curriculum Committee, 2005–2006; 2008–2009; 2011–2013
- Member, Departmental Transition Committee, February–August 2008
- Chair, Technology Committee, 2005–2006; 2007–2010