

SHARON A. COTE
Curriculum Vitae
September 2024

James Madison University
Department of English
921 Madison Dr., MSC 1801
Harrisonburg, VA 22807

email: cotesa@jmu.edu
<http://educ.jmu.edu/~cotesa/>
phone: (540) 568-2510

EDUCATION

Ph.D.: University of Pennsylvania
Thesis: "Grammatical and Discourse Properties of Null Arguments in English," December 1996
Honors: Dean's Scholarship

MA: New York University
Field: Linguistics, 1986
Honors: University Scholarship

BA: State University of New York at Binghamton, Harpur College
Field: English Literature and Rhetoric, 1982
Honors: Phi Beta Kappa

POSITIONS HELD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LINGUISTICS
(2003 – Present) Department of English, James Madison University

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LINGUISTICS
(1998 – 2003) Department of English, James Madison University

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LINGUISTICS
(1997 – 1998) Department of English, James Madison University

RESEARCH AND CREATIVE INTERESTS

Pragmatics and Inference
Metaphor
Interrelationships between Syntax/Semantics and Discourse
Functions of English Syntax
Discourse Modeling
Differences between Spoken and Written uses of Language
Differences between Literary and Non-Literary Uses of Language
Speculative Fiction
Magic Realism in the United States
Poetry-writing

COURSES TAUGHT AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

ADVANCED STUDIES IN LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS: METAPHOR
CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO ENGLISH LINGUISTICS (*Graduate Course*)
GREAT WORKS: FICTION
GREAT WORKS: SPECULATIVE FICTION – HONORS
GREAT WORKS: SPECULATIVE FICTION
GREAT WORKS: SPECULATIVE FICTION & POETRY (*also taught as Honors sections and as supersection*)
GREAT WORKS: SPECULATIVE FICTION – BRIDGE PROGRAM, (*Co-taught with Clarke County HS teacher Kimberly Wilt in the pilot semester of the JMU Bridge Program*)
INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS (*Sometimes cross-listed as a graduate course*)
MATTERS OF SPECULATION (*Graduate Course*)
MODERN GRAMMAR: STRUCTURE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (*Sometimes cross-listed as a graduate course*)
SPECIAL TOPICS IN LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE: ENGLISH IN CONTEXT (*Cross-listed as a Graduate Course*)
SPECIAL TOPICS IN LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE: SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS
SPECIAL TOPICS IN LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE: MEANING AND METAPHOR
SPECIAL TOPIC SEMINAR: LINGUISTIC APPROACHES TO LITERATURE
SURVEY OF BRITISH LITERATURE I
SURVEY OF PROSE FICTION
TRADITIONAL GRAMMAR (*Sometimes cross-listed as a graduate course*)

INDEPENDENT STUDIES

HON450, WITH LUKE BIELNIK, ON VIOLENCE IN MUSIC METAPHORS, SP2023

DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDIES ON TOPICS IN SOUTHERN DIALECTS, GENDER DIFFERENCES AND CHANGES IN AMERICAN SLANG, MODELLING REFERENCE RESOLUTION, AND THEORIES OF SYNTAX

THESES SUPERVISOR/READER:

SUPERVISED HONORS THESIS BY ROWAN TICKLE, *A Novel Idea: The Creation of a World and a Story* (combined research and creative project, completed spring 2022),

READER FOR HONORS THESIS BY ELIZA SHOEMAKER (CS major), *Using Data Science to Detect Fake News* (Completed spring 2019).

READER FOR HONORS THESIS BY DAVID BLORE – *Freedom, Security, and Costumed Superheroes: Marvel Comics' Approach to the War on Terror*. (Completed spring 2010)

SUPERVISED UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS BY MARCUS HAMILTON – *After Lot's Wife: Reconciling the Humanist and the Skeptic in Kurt Vonnegut's Early Novels* (Completed spring 2009)

READER FOR MASTER'S THESIS BY MELISSA HURTER -- *Fractured Identities in Iain Bank's The Wasp Factory*. (Completed Spring 2009)

READER FOR HONOR'S THESIS BY JARED JESSUP- ON J. R. R. TOLKIEN (Completed 2008)

READER FOR MASTERS THESIS BY STEVEN CUMMINGS – CREATIVE WRITING PROJECT

SUPERVISED UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS BY ROBIN SMITH – *Long Live the Subjunctive: A Comparative Study of Modality and Mood Selection in English*. (Completed fall 2005)

THESES SUPERVISOR/READER, CONT.

SUPERVISED BACHELOR OF INDIVIDUALIZED STUDIES THESIS BY MICHAEL MORRISON – *Legends of Ryllia (Designing a fantasy role-playing world and game – Completed spring 2005)*

SUPERVISED MASTERS THESIS BY JEREMIAH FORSHEY – *William Gibson and the Fiction of Unreality (Completed spring 2004)*

READER FOR MASTERS THESIS BY REBECCA DEEL – CREATIVE WRITING PROJECT (Completed spring 2005)

READER FOR UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS BY BRIAN KIM – EXPERIMENTAL CREATIVE WRITING PROJECT (completed spring 2006)

EXTERNAL REVIEWING

External Reviewer for the tenure and promotion cases for Drs. Jennifer Lang-Rigal and Marianne Mason in JMU's Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Summer 2019

PAPER PRESENTATIONS, SESSION CHAIRING, AND PANEL PARTICIPATION AT REFEREED CONFERENCES

“The Whimsical Epic: Blending the Expected and the Unexpected in Mary Soon Lee’s *The Sign of the Dragon*,” ICFA 45, Orlando, FL at the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, March 13-16, 2024.

“Reconsidering the “Namshub” in the Novel: Neal Stephenson’s Snow Crash as Meta-Science-Fictional Representation of Community in the Science Fiction Genre,” ICFA 43: Fantastic Communities, Orlando, March 16-19, 2022.

Panelist. Fuzzy Set Speculative Poetry Discussion and Workshop. Trans/Inter/Cross: A Symposium on the Fantastic Between Genres, Media, and Cultures, IAFA, Orlando, FL. 1-3 October, 2021.

Moderator, Panel on Mediating the Past/Present and Local/Global, 10th Annual African, African American, and Diaspora Studies (AAAD). Interdisciplinary Conference, Harrisonburg, VA, February 21, 2020.

“Yes, There is Such a Thing as Speculative Poetry,” presented at the 50th Annual Conference of the College English Association, New Orleans, LA. (March 2019)

Moderator. Session on Reading all the Signs: Legible Cultural Texts. 50th Annual Conference of the College English Association. New Orleans, LA. (March 2019)

With Marina Favila. “The Bridge Between Metaphor and Magical Thinking,” presented at the Forty-eighth Annual CEA Conference, St. Petersburg, FL. (March 2018)

“There is No Island and Everybody is One,” presented at the Forty-Seventh Annual CEA Conference, Hilton Head Island, SC. (March 2017)

“Deliberateness and the Use and ‘Avoidance’ of Particular Conventional Metaphors in Cyberpunk Fiction,” 2014 Stockholm Metaphor Festival, Stockholm, Sweden. (August 2014)

“Inferable Paths and Metaphoric Potholes: Interactions between Inferential Processes for Containing Inferreds and Metaphoric References,” presented at Beyond Words 2: New Developments in Pragmatics, Leipzig, Germany. (May 2014)

PAPER PRESENTATIONS, SESSION CHAIRING, AND PANEL PARTICIPATION AT REFEREED CONFERENCES (CONT.)

“The Generic Speculative Baby in the Murky Bathwater: An Exploratory Study of How and Why We Recognize a Science Fiction Genre despite its Slippery Nature,” presented at the Forty-Fifth Annual CEA Conference, Baltimore, MD. (March 2014)

“Ellen Prince as Creative Theorist,” presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America, Special Symposium on Studies in the Discourse-Semantics Interface: In Memory of Ellen F. Prince, Portland, OR. (January 2012)

“‘It’s All Par for the Lifestyle, Kids’: Conventional Metaphors for Risk and Misfortune in Cyberpunk and Post-Cyberpunk Literature,” presented at the Forty-Second Annual CEA Conference, St. Petersburg, FL. (March 2011)

“Does the Left Brain Matter in the Literary Mind?” presented at the Fortieth Annual CEA Conference, Pittsburgh, PA. (March 2009)

Moderator: Panel on Grammar and Linguistics at the Fortieth Annual CEA Conference, Pittsburgh, PA. (March 2009)

Moderator: Panel on “The Love of Mother Nature: Seduction, Ecology, and Literature” at the Thirty-Ninth Annual CEA Conference, St. Louis (March 2008)

“Analogical Assumptions and Writing Errors,” presented at the Thirty-Ninth Annual CEA Conference, St. Louis, MO. (March 2008)

Moderator: Panel on Responses to Tragedy and Discrimination – Thirty-Eighth Annual CEA Conference, New Orleans (April 2007)

“What do You Know: Cognitive Re-modeling in Science Fiction,” presented at the Thirty-Eighth Annual CEA Conference, New Orleans (April 2007)

Moderator: Panel on Surreal Regions: Historical, Cultural, and Cognitive Regions of Science Fiction – Thirty-Seventh Annual CEA Conference, San Antonio (April 2006)

“The Rock and the Word: Metaphors for Science Fiction in Science Fiction” – presented at the Thirty-Seventh Annual CEA Conference, San Antonio (April 2006)

“Communicative Intentions and Discourse Structures: Speaker Imposed Interpretability Constraints” – Workshop on the Syntax-Pragmatics Interface, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. (April 2005)

“The Pragmatic Author: Comparing Pragmatic Constraints on Linguistic Choices in Everyday Language Use and in Literary Texts” – MLA Convention, Philadelphia, PA. (December 2004)

“On a ‘Need to Know’ Basis?: Communicative Intentions, Relevance, and Discourse Reference Resolution” – MLA Convention, New York. (December 2002)

“Lexical Conceptual Structure and Inferable Entities in Discourse” – Seventh International Pragmatics Conference, Budapest, Hungary. (July 2000)

“Teaching Modern Grammar to English Majors” – Thirty-First Annual CEA Conference, Charleston, SC. (April 2000)

PAPER PRESENTATIONS, SESSION CHAIRING, AND PANEL PARTICIPATION AT REFEREED CONFERENCES (CONT.)

“Inferable Entities in Discourse and in Narrative” – Linguaging 2000, University of North Texas, Denton, TX. (March 2000)

“Been there. Done that.!: Comparing Null Subject Use in Naturally-Occurring Utterances and Scripted or Literary Dialogue” – Linguaging 99, University of North Texas, Denton, TX. (March 1999)

“Elaborations: a Function and a Form” – 23rd Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society, Berkeley, CA. (1997)

“Discourse Constraints on Null Subject Utterances” – 71st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Chicago, IL (1997)

“Discourse Constraints on Implicit Arbitrary Objects in English” – 19th Penn Linguistics Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. (1995)

“Elaborations and Subjectless Sentences in Conversational English” – 69th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (1995)

“Arbitrary Null Objects in English and Pro-Arb” – 68th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (1994).

“Ranking of Forward-Looking Centers” – Workshop on Centering Theory in Naturally-Occurring Discourse (1993).

“Discourse Functions of Two Types of Null Objects in English” – 66th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (1992).

“Centering in Japanese Discourse” – 13th International Conference on Computational Linguistics – COLING-90, Helsinki, Finland (1990).

“Features in a Lexicalized Tree Adjoining Grammar For English” – First International Workshop on Tree Adjoining Grammars, Dagstuhl, Germany (1990).

“Certain' Adverbials and Non-Monotonicity in Natural Language” – 14th Penn Linguistics Colloq. (1990).

“Even/Still” – 11th Penn Linguistics Colloquium (1987).

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Invited Panelist: James Madison University Liberal Education Institute (LEI 2010), May 21st, 2010

“Speculation, Language, and Reality,” JMU Honors Symposium Series, January 2005

“Science Fiction and Mental Models of the World” – Brown Bag Talk sponsored by the JMU Honors Program, October 2002 (with Dabney Bankert)

“Teaching H.A.L. to Understand English: Natural Language Processing” – sponsored by the JMU Neuroscience Club, spring 1999

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

“There is No Island and Everybody is One” in *CEA Critic*, 79:3,2017

"The Flexibility of Inference in Triggers for Inferable Entities: Evidence for an Interpretability Constraint" in *Pragmatics and the Flexibility of Word Meaning*, Eniko Nemeth and Karoly Bibok (eds.), Elsevier Science Press, 2001.

"Lexical Conceptual Structure and Inferable Entities in Discourse" in *Selected Papers from the 7th International Pragmatics Conference*, 2001.

“Elaboration: A Function and a Form”, in *Proceedings of the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society*, 2000.

“Ranking Forward-Looking Centers”, in *Centering in Discourse*, Ellen Prince, Aravind Joshi, and Marilyn Walker (eds.), Oxford University Press, 1998.

“Japanese Discourse and the Process of Centering”, in *Computational Linguistics*, Vol. 20, No. 2, June 1994, (with Lyn Walker and Masayo Iida).

“A Lexicalized Tree Adjoining Grammar for English”, Technical Report, University of Pennsylvania, 1990, (with Anne Abeille’, Kathleen Bishop, Aravind K. Joshi, and Yves Schabes).

“Centering in Japanese Discourse” in *Papers Presented to the 13th International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING)*, 1990, (with Lyn Walker and Masayo Iida).

“Lexicalized TAGs, Parsing and Lexicons” in *Proceedings of the Speech and Natural Language Workshop*, Feb. 1989, (with Anne Abeille’, Kathleen Bishop, Aravind K. Joshi, and Yves Schabes).

“ ‘Certain’ Adverbials and Non-Monotonicity in Natural Language” in *The Penn Review of Linguistics*, Vol. 14, 1990.

“Even/Still” in *The Penn Review of Linguistics*, Vol. 11, 1987.

CREATIVE PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS

“Handcrafting,” *Sparked Literary Magazine*, June 2021, <https://sparkedlitmag.com/june-2021-issue/>

“We’re Not Ghosts.” *Sparked Literary Magazine*, June 2021, <https://sparkedlitmag.com/june-2021-issue/>

“All the Difference.” *Star*Line*, 44:2 2021.

“Ghost Dancer (Attempts to Communicate),” *Songs of Eretz Poetry Review*, spring 2020 (Fantasy & Fairy Tale issue), http://www.songsoferetz.com/2020/03/march-2020-fantasy-fairytale-issue_14.html.

“The Imp and the Bottle.” *Star*Line*, 43.2 spring 2020, 18-19. (*Nominated for a Rhsyling Award*)

“What Is Not Lost.” *Rattle Ekphrastic Challenge*, *Artist’s Choice Award*, October 2018, published and archived on Rattle.com, November 22, 2018 (also emailed to all *Rattle* email subscribers).

“The Sanity of the Lonely Body.” *Songs of Eretz Poetry Review*, Science Fiction Issue. June/July 2019.

CREATIVE PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS, CONT.

“A Leaf Fairy Feels Under-Appreciated.” *Star*Line*, 41:2, 2018.

“Polychordance.” *Strange Poetry*, 2017

“The Limits of Metamorphosis.” *Deep Water Literary Journal*, Issue 1, 2016.

(Hiaku). *The Weekly Avocet*, #187, July 16, 2016.

“Cherry Blossoms.” *The Weekly Avocet*, #174, April 17, 2016.

“The Education of a Kid.” *Avocet: A Journal of Nature Poems*, 2016.

“The Old Well in the Front Yard.” *The Four Seasons*, A. J. Huffman and April Salzano, eds., Kind of a Hurricane Press, 2015.

“For my Friends, While It’s Still Chilly.” *The Four Seasons*, A. J. Huffman and April Salzano, eds., Kind of a Hurricane Press, 2015.

“Under the Tree.” *And the Tail Wagged On*, Lost Tower Poetry, 2015.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

“LLAMA (Linguistics Labs And Multimedia Activities) - Syntax” : a JAVA program used for pedagogical purposes in the Modern Grammar course (Fall 1997 w/ David Bernstein [applet form] , revised with David Bernstein, Summer 2013)

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Paper Referee: LSA Organized Session in Memory of Ellen F. Prince: Information Structure and Discourse. (Fall 2011 for LSA Annual Meeting, January 2012)

Proposal Reviewer: National Science Foundation linguistics grant proposal, Spring 2009

Paper Referee: *Discourse Processes*, 2002

Paper Referee: Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 2000

Paper Referee: *Centering Theory in Discourse*, 1998

Editor: *The Penn Review of Linguistics*, Vol. 12, 1988

Abstract Referee: Eastern States Conference on Linguistics, 1988

SERVICE

HONORS LIASON

Honors College (fall 2024-)

CAL CAREER READINESS CONFERENCES COMMITTEE (2023-2024)

FACULTY ADVISOR FOR SIGMA TAU DELTA, PSI CHAPTER

English Department, (fall 2021-present)

CHAIR, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE (Founded by myself and Dabney Bankert)

English Department (2005-fall 2013 and fall 2014-spring 2022, co-chaired w/Dabney Bankert through 2008, stayed on as member to spring 2023)

VOTING MEMBER, SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY POETRY ASSOCIATION (20

FOUNDER AND ORGANIZER, ENGLISH ALUMNI CAREER TALKS

English Department (fall 2011-spring 2015)

CHAPTER SECRETARY, PHI BETA KAPPA, XI CHAPTER OF VIRGINIA

James Madison University (November 2011 – November 2013)

ENGLISH REPRESENTATIVE, FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

College of Arts and Letters (Fall 2012-Fall 2013, Fall 2014-2015)

AD HOC APPEAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

College of Arts and Letters (Fall 2012)

PHI BETA KAPPA COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS IN COURSE

James Madison University (spring 2012 and spring 2013)

PHI BETA KAPPA COMMITTEE ON HONORARY AND ALUMNI MEMBERS

James Madison University (2011-2012)

PHI BETA KAPPA RESEARCH MINI-GRANT COMMITTEE

James Madison University *2011-present)

JUDGE/READER FOR THE PHI BETA KAPPA/PHI KAPPA PHI BEST THESIS AWARDS (annually)

TREASURER OF THE FACULTY SENATE and STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER

James Madison University (2007-2008)

CO-CHAIR, CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

English Department (2007 – 2008)

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

James Madison University (2008-2009)

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

(2007-2009)

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW

English Department (2007-2008)

CHAIR, AFRICAN-AMERICANIST SEARCH COMMITTEE

English Department (2004 –2005)

SERVICE (CONT.)

CHAIR, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE, HONORS PROGRAM, JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY (2003 – 2004)

CHAIR, PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC), ENGLISH DEPARTMENT (2004 –2005)

CHAIR, MEDIEVALIST SEARCH COMMITTEE
English Department (2003 – 2004)

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROGRAM STRUCTURE (INTERNAL REVIEW)
English Department (1998, 2007-2008)

FACULTY SENATOR
James Madison University (fall 2000-spring 2002, 2005- 2006 as alternate, 2007-2008)

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE
Faculty Senate, James Madison University (2007-2008)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
English Department (fall 1999-2000, fall 2005–2009 & representative to College C & I committee 2009, Fall 2022-spring 2024)

LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE
English Department (2005-2008)

WEBSITE COMMITTEE
English Department (Spring 2005 – 2009)

PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)
English Department (fall 1998-spring 2000, fall 2002-spring 2005, substitute spring 2022)

FACULTY CONCERNS COMMITTEE (fall 2001-spring 2002)
Faculty Senate, James Madison University

FACULTY/STUDENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Faculty Senate, James Madison University (fall 2000-spring 2001)

IDLS ENGLISH SEARCH COMMITTEE
English Department, (fall 2000-spring 2001)

ADVISING/TRANSFER ADVISING/ HEAD OF ADVISING
English Department, James Madison University(Advising 1998-present, Head/transfer advising spring 1999-2001)

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL STUDIES REVISION/STEERING COMMITTEE
School of Arts and Letters, James Madison University (January 2000-April 2001)

ARTS AND SCIENCES ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE TEACHER EDUCATION UNIT
(1998-1999)

COMMITTEE(S) TO CREATE AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE
James Madison University (intermittent 1998-2006)

SERVICE (CONT.)

HONORS PROGRAM COMMITTEE

James Madison University (fall 2001-spring 2006)

FACULTY ADVISOR – Science Fiction and Fantasy Guild

James Madison University (fall 1999-spring 2007)

GENERAL EDUCATION CLUSTER TWO INSTITUTE

James Madison University (June 2006)

PARTICIPANT IN ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSES, CHOICES, AND ASSESSMENT
EVENTS