

Writing & Rhetoric Across Borders

Ecological Rhetorics *in vivo/in situ*: Precarity Infrastructure Across Borders



Dr. Jennifer Clary-Lemon

Dr. Clary-Lemon is Associate Professor at the University of Waterloo. Her research areas are primarily in rhetorics of the environment, new material and posthuman rhetorics, research methodologies, and writing studies. She is the author of *Planting the Anthropocene: Rhetorics of Natureculture* (2019), and *Network: New Material Rhetorics for Precarious Species* (forthcoming) as well as co-editor of several volumes. Her published work has appeared in *Rhetoric Review*, *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, *Discourse and Society*, *Composition Studies*, *enculturation*, and *College Composition and Communication*, among others.

This talk discusses how humans and nonhumans are affected by one another, and how they are persuaded by one another—or not!—through the capacities of built objects. While conventional rhetorical study may be tied traditionally to texts, more expansive, new material rhetoric imagines rhetoric *in vivo/in situ*—in living bodies and on site. This talk turns to cross-border cases of *precarity infrastructure*, or required material and structural interventions used by governments in the cases of animal species at risk. Dr. Clary-Lemon examines two rhetorical ecologies guided by migratory nonhumans and their disappearance across two country borders. The first, in the case of the barn and bank swallow, examines artificial swallow gazebos built in Ontario, Canada and Paris, France. The second examines the case of artificial burrows built for the Western burrowing owl in Phoenix, Arizona and Manitoba, Canada. Such examinations allow rhetorical scholars to explore relations that function at the border between nature, cultural tension and human loss. Too, they speak to the inability of human borders and human infrastructure to communicate clearly to nonhuman others, opening up possibilities to shape conservation action in future.

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4:30–6:00 PM

McGowan South 105



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