

Dr. Allegra W. Smith

Assistant Professor, Georgia Institute of Technology
School of Literature, Media, and Communication

Email: allegra [at] gatech [dot] edu

Office: Skiles Classroom Building, Room 324
686 Cherry Street, Atlanta, GA 30332-0165

Phone: 404-894-2730



Research and Teaching Interests

Dr. Allegra W. Smith studies how intersecting facets of users' identities (e.g., age, disability, race, class, gender, sexuality, religion, etc.) mediate their experiences with technology, and how in turn that affects how those users communicate with technology. Her current book project investigates the experiences of older adults aged 65+ with computers and the internet (*Older Adults, Aging, and Technical Communication*, under contract with SUNY Press).

As an award-winning teacher, Dr. Smith prepares learners not just for success at writing in their professions, but also to knowledgeably and ethically navigate communication technologies throughout their lives. She develops curricula that respond to humanities students' career needs through the twin concepts of 1) high-impact teaching practices, namely community-based collaborative projects; and 2) authentic assessment, which asks students to apply knowledge in scenarios that mirror or simulate real-world situations. Her work focuses on the following areas:

- Age Studies
- Communication and Culture
- Community-Based Learning (CBL)
- Content Strategy
- Digital Rhetorics
- Disability and Accessibility
- Information Design
- Internet Studies
- Internships
- Online Writing Instruction
- Rhetoric of Health and Medicine
- Social Media
- Technical and Professional Communication (TPC)
- User Experience (UX)

Education

2021 PhD, Rhetoric and Composition, Purdue University

📄 **Dissertation, *Digital age: A Study of Older Adults' User Experiences with Technology*, received the 2022 Computers & Composition Hugh Burns Best Dissertation Award**

2015 MA, Digital Rhetoric and Professional Writing, Michigan State University


2013 BA, Professional Writing, Women's & Gender Studies, Michigan State University

📄 **Valedictorian and Commencement Speaker**

Selected Publications

Student co-authors indicated with an underline.

- Johnson, Gavin P., & **Smith, Allegra W.** (2025). "Against the reading response: Digital meaning making through social annotation and authentic content genres." In *2025 IEEE International Professional Communication Conference (ProComm)* (pp. 288–295). IEEE.
<https://doi.org/10.1109/ProComm64814.2025.00062>.
- Rogers, Kailyn Shartel, Yerace, Marisa, Giles, Danielle, Deptula, Adrianna, Berchtold, Jess, **Smith, Allegra W.**, Weech, Shelton, & Dilger, Bradley. (2025). "Recursive, horizontal, distributed, networked: Iterating transdisciplinary models of mentorship in the humanities." In Symposium on Intergenerational Graduate Mentorship, Gaillet, Lynée Lewis, Ridolfo, Jim, Micciche, Laura, & Young, Morris (Eds.), *Rhetoric Review*, vol. 44, no. 3, 18–27.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07350198.2025.2526870>.
- Smith, Allegra W.**, & Valluri, Natasha. (2025). "Community-based learning meets design thinking: Tracing collaboration with nonprofits in technical and professional communication classes and a student social impact organization." In *Proceedings of the 43rd ACM International Conference on Design of Communication* (pp. 17–25). ACM SIGDOC.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3711670.3764615>.
- Smith, Allegra W.** (2024). "Bridging the classroom and workplace: The high-impact practices of a technical and professional communication studio course." In *2024 IEEE International Professional Communication Conference (ProComm)* (pp. 186–193). IEEE.
<https://doi.org/10.1109/ProComm61427.2024.00042>.
- Smith, Allegra W.**, & Ray, Courtney D. (2024). "17 students, 1 project: Design thinking pedagogy for a large-scale UX community/classroom partnership." *Communication Design Quarterly*, 12(3), 20–30. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3658422.3658430>.
- Smith, Allegra W.** (2023). "Designing Feminist Methodologies: Foregrounding gender, positionality, and justice in communication design research." In *Proceedings of the 39th ACM International Conference on Design of Communication* (pp. 39–48). ACM SIGDOC.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3615335.3623008>. 🏆 **Honorable mention (short-list nominee) for best paper award**
- Smith, Allegra W.**, Canzonetta, Jordan N., Fedewa, Kate, & Birdsall, Kate. (2023). "Building and sustaining undergraduate English internship programs during and after the COVID-19 pandemic." *Journal of University Teaching and Learning Practice*, 20(2), 1–17.
<https://doi.org/10.53761/1.20.02.13>.
- Smith, Allegra W.** (2022). "Everyone is always aging: Glocalizing digital experiences by considering the oldest cohort of users." *Technical Communication*, 69(4), 64–78.
<https://doi.org/10.55177/tc674376>. 🏆 **Special issue of *Technical Communication* on "Localized usability and agency in design" won the 2024 Best Original Collection of Essays in Technical or Scientific Communication Award from the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC)**

- Smith, Allegra W.**, Baniya, Sweta, & Ranade, Nupoor. (2021). "Local users, global takeaways: Methodological considerations for audience advocacy through mixed-method approaches." In *Proceedings of the 39th ACM International Conference on Design of Communication* (pp. 269–276). ACM SIGDOC. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3472714.3474387>.
- Smith, Allegra W.**, Chernouski, Libby, Batti, Bianca, Karabinus, Alisha, & Dilger, Bradley. (2021). "People, programs, and practices: A grid-based approach to designing and supporting online writing curriculum." In Jessie Borgman & Casey McArdle (Eds.), *PARS in Practice: More Resources and Strategies for Online Writing Instructors* (pp. 83–96). Fort Collins, CO: WAC Clearinghouse. <https://doi.org/10.37514/PRA-B.2021.1145.2.05>
- Smith, Allegra W.** (2020). "Language and access: World Englishes, Universal design for learning, and writing pedagogy." *Journal of Global Literacies, Technologies, and Emerging Pedagogies*, 6(2), 1144–1161. http://jogltep.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2.-language_and_access_article_9_29_2020.pdf.
- Smith, Allegra W.** (2019). "User experience design for older adults: Experience architecture and methodology for users aged 60+." In *Proceedings of the 37th ACM International Conference on Design of Communication* (pp. 1–9). ACM SIGDOC. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3328020.3353952>.
- Smith, Allegra W.** (2017). "'Can you hear me now?': Revaluing listening's role in user research practice." In *Proceedings of the 35th ACM International Conference on Design of Communication*. ACM SIGDOC. <https://src.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/src/2018/allegra-w.-smith.pdf>.
-  **1st place, Student Research Competition (SRC) sponsored by ACM and Microsoft**