

Ryan Mitchell
Program in Writing and Rhetoric
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Research interests

Ryan Mitchell is a rhetorical theorist and critic. His scholarship engages with the vernacular construction and transhistorical circulation of health risks, drawing on interdisciplinary theories from the rhetoric of health and medicine, critical rhetorical history, public sphere theory, queer theory and criticism, and body studies. His current work focuses on the medical imaginaries that surround popular appraisals of sexual health and safety, with particular attention paid to the rhetorical force of sensation and feeling.

Qualifications

PhD, Carnegie Mellon University
2014 → 2020

Master, Carnegie Mellon University
2013 → 2014

Bachelor, St. Edward's University
2009 → 2013

Employment

Assistant Professor

Program in Writing and Rhetoric
Stony Brook University
Sep 1 2023 → present

Assistant Professor of English

Lafayette College
United States
Jan 1 2020 → Jan 1 2023

Research outputs

A Reflection on Archival Liberation and Power

George, A., Graban, T. S., Arnold, L., Bridges, D., Chen, C., Cho, S., Gindlesparger, K., Gittens, R., Gunnells, A., Issak, T., Lauer, J., McIntosh, R., Mitchell, R., Pendleton, A., Stone Watt, S., Tague, N. T. & Turner, S., Jan 31 2025, In: Journal for the History of Rhetoric. 27, 3, p. 385-396

Archives, Criticism, and Care: Tending to Archival Work in the Rhetoric of Health & Medicine

Homchick Crowe, J. & Mitchell, R., 2025, In: Peitho: Journal of the Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric & Composition. 27, 2

Reckoning with Asymptomatic Illness: Visceral Certainty and the Limits of Communicating Risk

Mitchell, R., 2025, In: Rhetoric Society Quarterly. 55, 3, p. 277-292 16 p.

Vernacular Policies of Feeling: Sensuous Presence and the Emergence of an AIDS-Era Sexual Health Ethic

Mitchell, R., 2024, In: POROI. 18, 2

A Dialogue on Un/Precedented Pandemic Rhetorics

Mitchell, R., Crowe, J. H., Dicaglio, S., Detora, L., Fitzsimmons, B., Hooker, T. B., Keränen, L., Klein, M., Nicolas, M. & Sastry, S., Nov 3 2023, In: Rhetoric of Health and Medicine. 6, 3, p. 335-364 30 p.

"Whatever happened to our great gay imaginations?": The invention of safe sex and the visceral imagination
Mitchell, R., 2021, In: Quarterly Journal of Speech. 107, 1, p. 26-48 23 p.

Decoupling sex and intimacy: the role of dissociation in early AIDS prevention campaigns
Mitchell, R., 2019, In: Argumentation and Advocacy. 55, 3, p. 211-229 19 p.