

E.E. LAWRENCE

Department of Library & Information Science
Rutgers University School of Communication & Information
4 Huntington Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
he/him | e.e.lawrence@rutgers.edu | comminfo.rutgers.edu/lawrence-ee
ORCID: 0000-0001-5726-8460

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ph.D. in Library & Information Science; May 2019.

Dissertation: “Reading for Democratic Citizenship: A New Model for Readers’ Advisory.”

Committee: Emily Knox (chair), Allen Renear, Kate McDowell, Jonathan Furner.

University of Maryland, College Park

M.L.S. with specialization in Information & Diverse Populations; December 2012.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

A.B. *summa cum laude* in Comparative Literature and Russian (with high honors);

minor in Anthropology; April 2008. Phi Beta Kappa.

POSITIONS HELD

Rutgers University School of Communication & Information (SC&I)

Assistant Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, 2019-present.

National Library of Medicine

Technical Information Specialist, Reference & Web Services, 2012-2014.

Library Technician, Bibliographic Data Unit, 2009-2012.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Project

Lawrence, E. (in press). *The Myth of the Sovereign Reader: Reimagining Readerly Autonomy*. Cambridge Elements: Publishing & Book Culture series. Cambridge University Press.

Journal Publications (Refereed)

- Lawrence, E.** and M. Stone. (in press). Cultivating a critical disposition in Readers' Advisory pedagogy & practice. *Library Trends*.
- Lawrence, E. (2025). The hermeneutical work of anti-gender book challenges. *Journal of Intellectual Freedom & Privacy* 10(2), 9-21.
- Lawrence, E.** and V. Sharpe. (2024). Readers' advisory vs. reference: A difference of stance. *Journal of Documentation* 80(6), 1442-1457.
- Lawrence, E. (2024). Literary vs. non-literary people: Rhetorical strategies of derogation in the sensitivity reading debate. *Information & Culture* 59(2), 125-160.
- Lawrence, E. (2024). Of acquisitions & interference: Accounting for systemic threats to the freedom to read. *Journal of Documentation* 80(2), 277-297.
- Lawrence, E. (2022). What's so special about appeal?: Drawing the aesthetic/non-aesthetic distinction in Readers' Advisory. *Library Quarterly* 92(4), 405-418.
- Lawrence, E.** and D. Floegel. (2022). Creating award winners in the library: An account of reprizing. *Library Quarterly* 92(1), 39-67.
- Lawrence, E. (2021). The trouble with diverse books, part II: An informational pragmatic analysis. *Journal of Documentation* 77(1), 181-197.
- Lawrence, E. (2020). Category romances, cozy mysteries, and civic virtues: Justifying the promotion of popular fiction in the public library. *Library Quarterly* 90(4), 493-514.
- Lawrence, E. (2020). The trouble with diverse books, part I: On the limits of conceptual analysis for political negotiation in Library & Information Science. *Journal of Documentation* 76(6), 1473-1491.
- Lawrence, E. (2020). On the problem of oppressive tastes in the public library. *Journal of Documentation* 76(5), 1091-1107.
- Lawrence, E. (2020). Is sensitivity reading a form of censorship? *Journal of Information Ethics* 29(1), 30-44.
- Lawrence, E.** and V. Sharpe. (2016). Content blocking and the patron as situated knower: What would it take for an Internet filter to work? *Library Quarterly* 86(4), 403-418.
- Lawrence, E. (2015). Everything is a recommendation: Netflix, altgenres and the construction of taste. *Knowledge Organization* 42(5), 358-364.

Lawrence, E. (2013). Loud hands in the library: Neurodiversity in LIS theory & practice. *Progressive Librarian*, 41, 98-109.¹

Journal Publications (Edited)

Lawrence, E. (2017). Is contemporary Readers' Advisory populist?: Taste elevation and ideological tension in the *Genreflecting* series. *Library Trends* 65(4), 491-507.

Conference Proceedings (Refereed)

Lawrence, E. (2019). We need them, but what are they?: A conceptual analysis of diverse books. *Proceedings of the Association for Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference: ALISE 2019*, 111-115.

Lawrence, E. (2017). The ethics of contemporary Readers' Advisory. *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science & Technology* 54(1), 731-733.

Bloch, B. and **E. Lawrence**. (2015). What's your epistemology?: Quiz design as a pedagogical tool in library and information science doctoral education. *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science & Technology* 52(1), 1-3.

Papers in Progress

Lawrence, E. (in preparation). Practicing feminist curiosity in Readers' Advisory.

Lawrence, E. (in preparation). Information work as craft.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Paper Presentations (Refereed)

Lawrence, E. (September 2025). "The Trouble with Diverse Books." NORMalize @ ACM Conference on Recommender Systems, Prague, Czechia.

Lawrence, E. (July 2025). "Reconfiguring Readerly Autonomy: In Defense of a Relational Account." The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) Conference, University of Rochester, NY.

Lawrence, E. (June 2024). "From Sovereign Consumer to Self-Governing Reader." Researching the Reading Experience in the Digital Age, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, DE.

¹ Lawrence, E. (2014). Manos ruidosas en la biblioteca. (S. Plaza & E. Civalero, Trans.). *Bitácora de un Bibliotecario*. Retrieved from <https://bibliotecaceu.wordpress.com/2014/01/15/manos-ruidosas-en-la-biblioteca-la-neurodiversidad-en-la-teoria-y-la-practica-de-lis/>.

- Lawrence, E. (June 2024). "Theorizing Reading Constraints Under Conditions of Oppression." Gender and Sexuality in Information Studies Colloquium, Princeton, NJ.
- Lawrence, E. (June 2023). "Of Acquisitions & Interference: Accounting for Systemic Threats to the Freedom to Read." The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) Conference, University of Otago, NZ.
- Lawrence, E. (November 2022). "Literary vs. Non-Literary People: Rhetorical strategies and aesthetic futures in the sensitivity reading debate." Small Press Network Independent Publishing Conference, University of Melbourne, AU.
- Lawrence, E. (July 2022). "Rhetorical strategies in the sensitivity reading debate." The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) Conference, Amsterdam, NE.
- Lawrence, E. (July 2021). "From Reprizing to Deprizing: Reimagining literary awards in the library." The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) Conference, July 2021. *Individual presentation on panel organized with Diana Floegel.*
- Lawrence, E. (March 2020). "Oppressive Tastes in the Public Library: An Eatonian Intervention." American Society for Aesthetics (ASA) Pacific Meeting, Berkeley, CA. *Full paper conference with commenters; cancelled due to COVID-19.*
- Lawrence, E. (September 2019). "We Need Them But What Are They?: A conceptual analysis of diverse books." Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Annual Conference, Knoxville, TN.
- Lawrence, E. (April 2019). "Should the Public Library Promote Popular Fiction?" Popular Culture Association National Conference, Washington, DC.
- Lawrence, E. (March 2018). "Promoting Romance and Improving Taste." Popular Culture Association National Conference, Indianapolis, IN.
- Lawrence, E. (April 2017). "Appeal Data and the Ethics of Readers' Advisory." Information Ethics Roundtable, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Lawrence, E. (May 2016). "A Family Archive in Podcast Form." Personal Digital Archiving Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Lawrence, E.** and B. Bloch. (January 2016). "What's Your Epistemology? Quiz design as a pedagogical tool in LIS doctoral education." Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Annual Conference, Boston, MA.
- Lawrence, E. (May 2015). "Everything is a Recommendation: Netflix, altgenres, and the discursive construction of personal taste." 3rd Milwaukee Conference on Ethics in Knowledge Organization, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, WI.

Lawrence, E. and V. Sharpe. (October 2014). “Pornography, Bomb Building, & Good Intentions: What would it take for an Internet filter to work?” Gender and Sexuality in Information Studies Colloquium, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.

Lawrence, E. (June 2012). “Internet Access: Not quite a human right.” Technoscience as Activism Conference, Rensselaer Polytechnic University, Troy, NY, June 2012.

Lawrence, E. (April 2012). “Epistemic Privilege and the Reification of Natural Kinds in the Radical Feminist Blogosphere.” Theorizing the Web Conference, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

Panel Presentations (Non-Refereed)

Lawrence, E. (June 2025). “The State of RA Today.” American Library Association (ALA) Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

Lawrence, E. (September 2021). “Library Signage as Policy.” Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Annual Conference.

Lawrence, E. (February 2021). “Receiving and Responding to (Un)Constructive Criticism.” Doctoral Colloquium, Rutgers University.

Lawrence, E. (October 2019). “SC&I Research in Race, Class, and Gender.” Doctoral Proseminar, Rutgers University.

Invited Talks (Non-Refereed)

Lawrence, E. (April 2024). “Sovereign Consumers Aren’t Yet Free Readers.” iSchool Research Symposium, University of Washington.

Lawrence, E. (February 2022). “The Trouble With Diverse Books.” Department of Information Studies Colloquium, UCLA. *Cancelled due to medical reasons.*

Lawrence, E. (September 2021). “Sensitivity Reading & Intellectual Freedom.” BANNED: A Virtual Banned Books Read-Out & Discussions on the Freedom to Read, Rutgers University.

Lawrence, E. (September 2019). “A Conceptual Analysis of Diverse Books.” New Faculty Colloquium, Rutgers University.

Lawrence, E. (April 2016). “A Family Archive in Podcast Form.” Center for Informatics Research in Science and Scholarship (CIRSS) Seminar, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL.

Lawrence, E. (April 2015). “Pornography, Bomb Building, & Good Intentions: What would it take for an Internet filter to work?” Research Showcase, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL.

Lawrence, E. (July 2013). "Loud Hands in the Library: Neurodiversity in LIS theory and practice." Recorded for the Progressive Librarians Guild.

Guest Lectures (Non-Refereed)

Lawrence, E. (January 2025). "From Sovereign Consumer to Autonomous Reader." Adult Reader Services in the Public Library (Master's Course), University of Washington.

Lawrence, E. (November 2024). "Research Agenda & Sensitivity Reading." Theories & Issues in Library Studies (PhD Seminar), Rutgers University.

Lawrence, E. (February 2024). "Information Worlds." Human Information Behavior (PhD Seminar), Rutgers University.

Lawrence, E. (November 2022). "Researching Sensitivity Reading: Rhetorical Strategies & Aesthetic Exploitation." Young Adults, Reading, and Literacy (Master's Course), Rutgers University.

Lawrence, E. (September 2022). "Ethics & Principlism in the Information Professions." Human Information Behavior (Master's Course), Rutgers University.

Lawrence, E. (November 2021). "Research Program & Upcoming Projects." Communication, Media, and Information (PhD Proseminar), Rutgers University.

Lawrence, E. (October 2021). "Ameliorative Analysis as Research Methodology." Theories & Issues in Library Studies (PhD Seminar), Rutgers University.

Lawrence, E. (April 2021). "Oppressive Tastes & the Freedom to Read: Critical Readers' Advisory Practice." Adult Reader Services in the Public Library (Master's Course), University of Washington.

Lawrence, E. (March 2020). "Reimagining Readers' Advisory." Reference Sources & Services (Master's Course), Rutgers University.

Lawrence, E. (March 2020). "A Conceptual Analysis of Diverse Books." Critical Research Methods (PhD Seminar), Rutgers University.

Lawrence, E. (December 2019). "Interrogating Oppressive Tastes in LIS." Theories & Issues in Library Studies (PhD Seminar), Rutgers University.

Lawrence, E. (November 2019). "Research on Gender, Race, & Class." Communication, Media, and Information (PhD Proseminar), Rutgers University.

Lawrence, E. (October 2019). "The Future of Readers' Advisory." Reference Sources & Services (Master's Course), Rutgers University.

- Lawrence, E. (July 2018). "Popular Romance and its Readers." Adult Popular Literature (Master's Course), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Lawrence, E. (April 2018). "Popular Romance and its Readers." Adult Popular Literature (Master's Course), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Lawrence, E. (July 2017). "Solove on the 'Nothing to Hide' Argument." Information Ethics (Master's Course), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Lawrence, E. (September 2016). "An Introduction to Bibliography." Libraries, Information, and Society (Master's Course), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Lawrence, E. (March 2011). "Creating a Feminist Bioethics Subject Guide." Seminar in Feminist Bioethics, Georgetown University, Washington, DC.

Posters

- Dixon, D., Gorbunova, M., and **Lawrence, E.** (June 2025). "Creative Cataloging: Developing a Classification for the Pride Center of New Jersey." American Library Association (ALA) Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Lawrence, E. (October 2017). "The Ethics of Contemporary Readers' Advisory." Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T), Arlington, VA.
- B. Bloch and **Lawrence, E.** (November 2015). "What's Your Epistemology? Quiz design as a pedagogical tool in LIS doctoral education." Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T), St. Louis, MO.

TEACHING

Curricular Development

- Spring 2027: Reference Sources & Services, Rutgers University, MI program
(75% new material; revised course structure, content, and assessment mechanisms for asynchronous delivery)
- Fall 2026: Reading Interests of Adults, Rutgers University, MI program
(50% new material; revised assignments with addition of service learning opportunity)
- Spring 2024: Reading Interests of Adults, Rutgers University, MI program
(75% new material; revised course structure, content, and assessment mechanisms for synchronous delivery)

Fall 2023: Gender & Technology, Rutgers University, ITI program
(75% new material; revised course structure, content, and assessment mechanisms)

Fall 2021: Planning Outreach Services, Rutgers University, MI program
(consulted on major revision)

Fall 2021: Issues in Social Justice & Information Institutions, Rutgers University, MI program
(100% new material; designed special topics course)

Spring 2021: Information Literacy Learning & Teaching, Rutgers University, MI program
(75% new material; revised course structure, content, and assessment mechanisms)

Fall 2020: Reading Interests of Adults, Rutgers University, MI program
(adapted for asynchronous delivery)

Spring 2020: Reading Interests of Adults, Rutgers University, MI program
(90% new material; revised course structure, content, and assessment mechanisms)

Spring 2018: Libraries, Information & Society, University of Illinois, MSLIS program
(75% new material; revised course structure and assessment mechanisms)

Fall 2017: Reading Romance in the Library, University of Illinois, MSLIS program
(100% new material; designed special topics course)

Courses Taught

Rutgers University (Fall 2019 — present)

Instructor, Master of Information (MI) Program

Human Information Behavior

On-campus: Fall 2019; Spring 2020

Online/Asynchronous: Fall 2020; Spring 2022; Spring 2024; Spring 2025; Fall 2025;
Spring 2026

Information Literacy, Learning, & Teaching

Online/Synchronous: Spring 2021

Issues in Social Justice & Information Institutions

Online/Synchronous: Fall 2021; Fall 2022; Fall 2024

Reading Interests of Adults

On-campus: Spring 2020

Online/Synchronous: Spring 2024; Fall 2025

Online/Asynchronous: Fall 2020; Spring 2021; Fall 2021; Spring 2022; Fall 2022; Fall 2023;
Fall 2024; Spring 2025; Spring 2026

Instructor, Information Technology & Informatics (ITI) Undergraduate Program

Gender & Technology

On-campus: Fall 2023

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Fall 2015 — Spring 2019)

Instructor, MS in LIS Program [all synchronous online]

Reading Romance in the Library (Fall 2017; Fall 2018)

Libraries, Information & Society (Spring 2018)

Teaching Assistant, MS in LIS Program [all synchronous online]

Information Organization and Access (Fall 2015; Spring 2016; Spring 2019)

Libraries, Information & Society (Fall 2016)

ADVISING

Dissertation Committees, Rutgers

Alex Pucciarelli. *Counter-Mapping Memory: Jewish Belonging, Boundaries, and the Afterlives of Violence in Squirrel Hill*. [Proposal defended in summer 2026.]

Juliana Mestre. *A Post Structuralist Approach to Informational Being, Knowing, and Caring*. [Proposal defended in spring 2025.]

Christopher Walsh. *"Bringing Back to Life the Dead Arts": Reconstructing the Past and Building the Present in the Book Culture of Historical European Martial Arts*. [Proposal defended in spring 2025.]

Lara El Balaa. *Arabic Calligraphy in Contemporary Design Culture: Beirut as a Global Site of Knowledge Construction, Transmission, and Meaning-Making*. [Proposal defended in fall 2024.]

Nathan Graham. *American Literary Magazines in Transition, 1995-2004*. [Proposal defended in spring 2024.]

Laura Costello. *Reference in Discovery*. [Dissertation defended in spring 2025.]

Qualifying Exam Committees, Rutgers

Kaitlyn Rich (2026)

Serita Sargent (2026)

Alex Pucciarelli (2024)

Juliana Mestre (2023)

Christopher Walsh (2023)

Supervision, Rutgers

Independent Studies

Supervisor — Literary Awards & Representing Transgender Experience — Spring 2023

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Lightning Seed Grant for “Against (Mere) Visibility: Toward an Account of Anti-Oppressive Library Collections,” Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing (2021-22)
Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Beta Phi Mu (2017)
Illinois Distinguished Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2014-17)

HONORS

Annual Faculty Service Excellence Award, Department of Library & Information Science, Rutgers University School of Communication & Information (2026)
Annual Faculty Teaching Excellence Award, Department of Library & Information Science, Rutgers University School of Communication & Information (2021)
Berner-Nash Memorial Award, School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2019)
Teacher Ranked as Excellent, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Fall 2017; Spring 2018; Fall 2018)
McAlister Travel Award, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2014)
Miriam Braverman Memorial Prize, Progressive Librarians Guild (2013)
Summa cum laude, University of Michigan (2008)
Phi Beta Kappa, University of Michigan (2007)
James B. Angell Scholar, University of Michigan (2004-2006)

SERVICE

Library Quarterly Editorial Board (2026-present)
Journal of Librarianship & Information Science: Ad Hoc Reviewer (2020-present)
Library Quarterly: Ad Hoc Reviewer (2018-present)
Library Trends: Ad Hoc Reviewer (2025-present)
Poetics: Ad Hoc Reviewer (2023-present)
iConference: Reviewer (2026)
SC&I/LIS Department Scholarship Committee: Member (2026)
SC&I/LIS Department Mission/Goals/Outcomes Task Force: Member (2025)
AAUP-AFT Disability Justice Working Group: Member (2024-present)

NJLA Equity & Justice Mentorship Task Force: Member (2024-2025)
Pride Center of New Jersey: Library Volunteer: Library Trustee (2023-2025)
SC&I/LIS Department Research Development Committee: Member (2023-24)
Research as Revolution Speaker Series: Moderator / Workshop Facilitator (2022)
Beta Phi Mu (BPM) Omicron Chapter: Faculty Advisor (Interim: 2022; Regular: 2023-present)
Pride Center of New Jersey: Library Volunteer (2021-present)
AAUP-AFT Rutgers Name Change Policy Committee (2021-22)
LIS Works-in-Progress Workshop: Organizer / Facilitator (2021)
TEMPO — An Early Modern Conference: Session Chair (2021)
Center for Social Justice Education & LGBT Communities: Advocate/Liaison (2020-present)
SC&I Diversity Committee: Member (2020-22)
SC&I/LIS Department Mentoring Committee: Member (2020-21)
Rutgers Connection Network Mentoring Program: Peer Mentor (2020-21)
SC&I MI Colloquium on Diverse Books & Social Justice: Co-Organizer/Moderator (2020)
SC&I Doctoral Winter Writing Workshop: Faculty Mentor (2020)
Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA): Conference Reviewer (2020; 2022)
Information Ethics Roundtable - Data & Ethics: Conference Organizing Committee (2017)
ALA/ACRL/Women & Gender Studies Section: Core Books Contributor (2014-2021)
ALA/Committee on Professional Ethics: Intern (2014-15)

AFFILIATIONS

Adult Reading Round Table (ARRT)
American Library Association (ALA)
 Public Library Association (PLA)
American Society for Aesthetics (ASA)
Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE)
 Information Ethics & Policy Special Interest Groups
Beta Phi Mu (BPM) — Alpha Chapter
New Jersey Library Association (NJLA)
Rutgers / Center for Cultural Analysis / Art & Aesthetics Working Group
Rutgers / SC&I / Power & Inequality in Media & Technology Working Group
Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing (SHARP)