

McKinley Keener

Ph.D. Candidate, NC State University
Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media

keener.mckinley@gmail.com
336.520.0779

Education

North Carolina State University Raleigh, NC

- Aug. 2022–present: Ph.D., Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media (CRDM)
- Aug. 2020–May 2022: MA, English & Film Studies

Guilford College Greensboro, NC

- August 2016–May 2020: BA, English

Pratt Institute Brooklyn, NY

- August 2015–May 2016
-

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Keener, McKinley and Jess Derr. “‘It Makes Them Feel Like People’: Humanity Through Hauntology in *Severance*.” *The Work Is Mysterious and Important: Critical Perspectives on Severance*, edited by Vera Cuntz-Leng and Ruth Knepel, Marburg, Büchner Verlag, forthcoming.

Presentations

Panel: “When the Moving Image Breaks” with T. R. Merchant-Knudsen
CRDM Symposium Raleigh, NC March 2026

“They Mourn Therefore They Are: Derrida’s Disruption of the Severed Worker”
Triangle Film Salon Chapel Hill, NC March 2026

“It Makes Them Feel Like People’: Humanity Through Hauntology in *Severance*”

with Jess Derr

Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Philadelphia, PA Nov. 2025

“A New Class of Terrifying: The Uncanny Experience of the Technological Glitch”

Literature/Film Association Savannah, GA Sept. 2025

“Overcoming Loneliness Through Posthuman Metamorphosis in Ildikó Enyedi’s *On Body and Soul* and Oz Perkins’s *The Blackcoat’s Daughter*”

Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Atlantic City, NJ Nov. 2024

“Agreeing to Let Go: Exploring Player Empathy with NPCs”

Literature/Film Association York, PA Sept. 2024

“Techno-Teaching philosophies as immersive storytelling” with Dr. Fernanda Duarte, Shawna Sheperd, Luke C. LeGrand, Shirin Maleki, Skyler Meeks, Jaekuk Lee, and Bee Rinaldi

Digital Pedagogy Institute Virtual Aug. 2024

“American Narrator: Un/Ethical Unreliability in Errol Morris’s *American Dharma* and Bart Layton’s *American Animals*”

Northeast Modern Language Association Boston, MA March 2024

“Tree-E-Os and Sea-E-Os: Feminist TV in Post-She-E-O #Girlboss Feminism”

Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Philadelphia, PA Nov. 2023

“Trauma Before the Traumatic: The Ethics of Witness in Arundhati Roy’s *The God of Small Things*”

NC State Assoc. English Graduate Students Raleigh, NC April 2021

“Art as Assuagement: Sexuality and Personality in *But I’m a Cheerleader*”

NC State Graduate Research Symposium Raleigh, NC April 2021

“Authenticity in Immigration Cinema at the Turn of the 21st Century: A Look at the Dardennes’ *La Promesse* and Stephen Frears’s *Dirty Pretty Things*”

Guilford Undergraduate Symposium Greensboro, NC April 2020
(cancelled due to COVID-19)

Poetry & Fiction Publications

“Eden and What Comes After”	<i>The Greenleaf Review</i>	May 2020
“Molting”	<i>The Greenleaf Review</i>	May 2020
“Oatmeal”	<i>Typishly</i>	June 2019
“Bed-Stuy”	<i>Eunoia Review</i>	Oct. 2018
“35mm”	<i>Eunoia Review</i>	Oct. 2018
“Ahab’s Daughter”	<i>The Greenleaf Review</i>	May 2018
“An Elegy for Pathetic Adoration”	<i>The Greenleaf Review</i>	May 2017
“Elizabeth, Part I & II”	<i>In Parentheses</i>	April 2016
“52 hertz”	<i>Poetry Quarterly</i>	Dec. 2015
“Separation”	<i>One Sentence Poems</i>	Oct. 2015
“Magnolias”	<i>Juked</i>	May 2015

Teaching Experience

Instructor	NC State University	Fall 2023–present
• ENG 282: Introduction to Film		Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026
• COM 267: Electronic Media Writing		Fall 2025
• ENG 376: Women & Film		Spring 2025

Teaching Assistant NC State University Fall 2026
Shadowed professor Dr. Nathaniel Isaacson for ENG 492 Special Topics: Eastern Westerns in the film department.

Teaching Assistant NC State University Spring 2026
Shadowed film professor Dr. Marsha Gordon for ENG 378: Women & Film.

Instructor Guilford College Fall 2024
• THEA 161: Masterpieces of the Cinema

Guest Lecturer Guilford College Spring 2021
Guest lectured for Chad Phillip’s THEA 162: Masterpieces of the Cinema II course on the contemporary film movement post-horror.

Teaching Assistant Guilford College Spring 2018–Spring 2020

Worked closely with film & video professor Chad Phillips on various tasks including proofreading student papers, adapting syllabi, and tutoring students if requested.

Service to the Profession

CRDM Spring Social

NC State University Spring 2026

Planned, organized, and executed the annual Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media Spring Social, held at NC State.

CRDM Annual Symposium: Circuit Breakers

NC State University Spring 2026

Assisted in planning, organizing, and sourcing content for the Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media Annual Symposium.

(Y)Our Health at the Movies: Food and Water

NC State University March 2024

Served as film panelist for an event with the Global One Health Academy's series *(Y)Our Health at the Movies*, promoting interdisciplinary approaches to global health solutions.

Wolfpack Pictures Collective

NC State University Spring 2021–Spring 2022

Organized and executed NC State's first graduate film series, including choosing a yearly theme, picking relevant films, and inviting speakers. Primary responsibilities included design for all promotional materials (logo, posters, etc.)

Lab Assistant for NC State's Film Department

Raleigh, NC Aug. 2020–May 2022

Managed NC State's film lab including distributing and exchanging DVD/Blu-Ray rentals, overseeing new orders, and cataloging & reorganizing film collection.

The Guilfordian

Guilford College Fall 2017–Spring 2019

Worked as a Staff Writer for Guilford College's newspaper, approximately 2–3 articles per month. Features included local festival and theater reviews, campus film events, and an interview with NC short film director Glenn Pack.

Work Experience

Freelance Proofreader for *Attractions Dining & Value Guide*

Greensboro, NC

Summers 2015–2023

Proofread and copyedited advertisements for businesses in the VA-NC-SC-GA area.

Assistant Editor for *ANNA Magazine*

Virtual

June 2016–August 2017

ANNA is an online lifestyle magazine founded by NYU grad and Editor Lauren Moriarty. Assistant responsibilities included scheduling posts, recruiting writers, generating topics, and creating content for both the blog and social media platforms. Featured writing included film reviews, personal essays, and commentary on contemporary American culture, including an interview with political analyst Liz Plank.

Freelance Manuscript Editor under John Fox of *Bookfox*

Virtual

Feb. 2016–March 2017

Worked with freelancer John Fox on editing manuscripts for grammar and sentence structure while he edited for content and clarity.

Affiliations

Literature/Film Association

August 2024–present

Member

Popular Culture Association

August 2023–present

Member

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

November 2023–present

Member

CRDM Student Association

Fall 2022–present

Member, Cohort Rep (2025–2026)

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

Chapter 033

Inducted May 2022

Member

Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society	Member
Iota-Beta	Inducted April 2019
Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority	Member, Secretary (Spring 2016)
Eta Phi	Inducted Sept. 2015

Awards

Literature/Film Association

Graduate Student Paper Prize Fall 2025

Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association

Walden Award for Graduate Student Writing Fall 2024

NC State University

Provost Graduate Fellowship Fall 2022

Guilford College

Dorothy Lloyd Gilbert Award Spring 2020

Dean's Writing Award for Creative Nonfiction Spring 2020

Sherwood Anderson Creative Writing Scholarship Spring 2019

George I. Alden Excellence Scholarship Spring 2017

Jeff Jeske Memorial Scholarship in English Spring 2017

Eugene H. Thompson Merit Scholarship Fall 2016

Skills

Software

Very proficient in Google Drive, Microsoft Office, CapCut, Discord, Procreate, Canva, Adobe Acrobat, Photoshop, InDesign, Typekit, and Premiere Pro CC

Working knowledge of Notion, OpenAI, DaVinci Resolve, Squarespace, WordPress, RPG Maker, HTML, basic CSS, Adobe Audition, Lightroom, and After Effects

Citation Styles

Experienced in Modern Language Association, Chicago Notes & Bibliography,
Chicago Author-Date, and Associated Press

References

Dr. Marsha Gordon	NC State University	marsha_gordon@ncsu.edu
Dr. Helen Burgess	NC State University	hjburses@ncsu.edu
Dr. Andrew Johnston	NC State University	arjohn14@ncsu.edu
Dr. James W. Hood	Guilford College	jhood@guilford.edu