

Editor's Introduction and Welcome

Jen Wingard

I want to welcome everyone to *Peitho* 19.1, the Fall/Winter 2016 issue. I am very excited to build from the excellent work of the previous editors, Pat Sullivan and Jenny Bay. This issue in particular represents a collaboration among us. Most of the pieces in the issue were finalized during my transition, but were ushered through the review process by Pat and Jenny. So please do enjoy this issue. It represents a true collaboration between editorial teams.

As I transition into my position as editor, I will guide *Peitho* with a vision similar to that of the Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition. The Coalition celebrated twenty-five years last year, and as any good twenty-something does, it began to take stock of its own commitments, as well as feminist scholarship in our field. I am pleased to be joining the conversations over the next several years to make *Peitho* and the Coalition more representative of the many types of feminism and varied histories in the field of rhetoric and composition.

Through building alliances, showcasing a variety of feminist work, and committing to rigorous and inventive scholarship, the Coalition and *Peitho* are poised to become a site for feminist dialogue and inquiry during a cultural moment when such voices are desperately needed. It is my goal as the editor of *Peitho* to explore not only the intersections of history and current feminist concerns, but to create a scholarly journal where history is understood as fundamental to understanding and interpreting current political and cultural trends. As we all move forward through the next years, it is essential that we build coalitions across difference, and that we look to our multi-faceted feminist histories to do so.

Part of assuming the editorship was naming a new Editorial Board. The board I have selected will be instrumental in helping me develop a lasting and diverse vision for *Peitho*, and I am looking forward to working with them over the next few years. Additionally, there are several people whose help has made my transition to editor much smoother than it could have been. Thank you to Pat Sullivan, Jenny Bay, and all the editorial team at Purdue University; Lisa Mastrangelo, Lindal Buchanan, Cheri Lemieux Speigal, Jenn Fishman, and Patricia Fancher. And I would like to give special thanks to Wendy Sharer, *Peitho's* Associate Editor. She has been an excellent partner to work with, and I appreciate all of her time and support.

Finally, I would like to end my welcome with a statement written and endorsed by the Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and

Composition's Advisory Board. This statement represents the values and commitments of the Coalition and *Peitho*. And it is in the spirit of this statement that *Peitho* will continue to develop its scholarly identity.

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Coalition of Feminist Scholars Statement of Solidarity

"In 2016, the Coalition changed its name to reinforce the organization's longstanding commitment to critical feminist work and to better reflect the diversity of its membership, where "diversity" is not always marked by stark or traditional distinctions. After the 2016 general U.S. election, we wish to reaffirm our commitment to the values of inclusion and gender justice on which our organization was founded; to recognize and bring attention to the unique challenges involved in feminist writing, teaching, scholarship, and leadership in the current political climate; and to reiterate our support for our members.

Historically, work in rhetoric and composition and feminist methodologies has always been political. Drawing on the past for fortitude in the present and inspiration for the future, the leadership of the Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition adds its collective voice to those calling for solidarity. In doing so, we join colleagues in two of our closely affiliated professional organizations that have also recently made statements:

The Council of Writing Program Administrators, which issued "The CWPAs Statement on Supporting a Diverse and Inclusive Environment," (found here: <http://wpacouncil.org/node/7535>);

The Council of Writing Program Administrators People of Color Caucus, which issued the "CWPA POCC Statement of Solidarity" (found here: <https://cwpapocc2014.tumblr.com/post/154427635590/cwpa-pocc-statement-of-solidarity>);

and

The Conference on College Composition and Communication, which issued "The CCCS Statement on Language, Power and Action" (found here: <http://www.ncte.org/cccs/language-power-action>)

In addition to supporting these initiatives from our fellow organizations, we will continue working toward inclusion and solidarity in multiple ways, starting with conversations about balancing work and life at the 2017 CCCS. In addition, the theme for the 2017 Feminisms and Rhetorics conference is

"Rhetorics, Rights, Revolutions," and promises to create spaces and opportunities for both dialogue and action at the upcoming conference.

We welcome you to participate. Join us at both of these events and subsequent events for both sustained and sustaining conversation. We welcome your ideas and would like to hear your needs. The Coalition is poised to collaborate with others to create just spaces in which feminist research, teaching, and learning are possible for all."

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I am excited to be the editor of one of the few feminist-focused peer reviewed rhetoric and composition journals at this time. I can think of no other time where smart and thorough feminist research and scholarship needs to be circulated as a means of building community and preparing for action. We are in a historical moment where many feminist voices need to come together so that we can begin to build coalitions across our differences, rather than in spite of them, and it is my goal that *Peitho* can serve as a place where that thinking can happen. In the next few years, I will strive to bring together historical, cultural, and activist feminist voices in each issue. And through the collection of articles, it is my hope that history, identities, and current events can begin to speak with one another.

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