

Andrew J. Roback

Short-form Curriculum Vitae

Education

Ph.D. - Technical Communication

Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, 2017

- Dissertation: "Uncovering Motives for Social Networking Site Use at Nonprofit Organizations" [[read](#)]
- Research interests include social action in technical communication, Artificial Intelligence, history of communications technologies, human-computer interaction, and information visualization.

M.A. - English and American Literature

DePaul University, Chicago, 2008

- Graduated with distinction

B.A. - Liberal Arts and Sciences

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2004

- Double major in English and Rhetoric
- Student participant in the Ethnography of the University Initiative
- Illinois State Scholar, Dean's List

Conferences and Publications

Conference Talks

- Roback, A. (2015). "Should I say that?": Venting, Repercussions, and Self-Censorship on Social Media. *Computers and Writing*. May 28-31, University of Wisconsin -- Stout, Menomonie, WI, USA
- Roback, A. (2014). Make it with friends, break it yourself: Open-source software and DH research. *Illinois Institute of Technology Digital Humanities Speaker Series*. January 23, Chicago, IL, USA
- Roback, A. & Hemphill, L. (2013). How Constituents Lobby Members of Congress on Twitter. *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Convention*, August 29-September 1, Chicago, IL, USA

- Roback, A. (2012). Users, Data, and Theory: A Framework and Future Direction for Studying Productive Applications of Social Media / Social Networking Sites (Poster). GROUP '12, October 27-31, Sanibel Island, FL, USA.
- Roback, A. (2012). Creating a model of user behavior on social networking sites (Poster). Infosocial, October 12-13, Evanston, IL, USA. - also at - Social Networks and Innovation: A Conference on New Frontiers in Methods & Applications, November 1, 2013, Chicago, IL USA.
- Roback, A. (2010). The Impact of Emerging Literacies on Instant Messaging and Supplemental Writing Instruction. Computers and Writing Conference, May 20-23, West Lafayette, IN, USA.
- Roback, A. (2010). Open Source Tutoring: An examination of the Role of Service-Learning in the Writing Center. Chicagoland Writing Center Association Conference, February 6, Chicago, IL, USA.
- Friddle, L., Legleitner, R., Maloof, A., & Roback, A. (2009). Community, Collaboration, Cogitation: The Three "C's" of Tutor Training. Chicagoland Writing Center Association Conference, February 7, Chicago, IL, USA.

Publications

- Ortegón, N. & Roback, A. (2026). Technology integration: Creating a bridge between K-12 and higher education. ILASCD Quarterly
- Ortegón, N. & Roback, A. Back to the past: Regressive depictions of education and learning in contemporary science fiction. [working title]
- Hemphill, L. & Roback, A. (2014). Tweet Acts: How Constituents Lobby Congress via Twitter. 2014 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Collaborative Work and Social Computing, Feb 15-19, Baltimore, MD.
- Roback, A. (2013). Uncovering Motives for Social Networking Site Use Among Practitioners at Non-Profit Organizations. 2013 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Collaborative Work, Feb 23-27, San Antonio, TX.
- Roback, A. & Hemphill, L. (2013). "I'd have to vote against you": Issue Campaigning via Twitter (Poster). 2013 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Collaborative Work, Feb 23-27, San Antonio, TX.
- Roback, A. (2012). A Framework and Future Direction for Studying Productive Applications of Social Media / Social Networking Sites. Proceedings of GROUP '12, October 27-31, Sanibel Island, FL, USA.
- Dietz, L., Maloof, A., & Roback, A. (2009). The Decline of Writing? DePaul Magazine, Spring/Summer.
- Roback, A. & Maloof, A. (2009). Hot Topics in Writing [season one]. A podcast available on the DePaul Writing Center podcast page. All episodes written, recorded, edited, and produced by myself, Alexis Maloof, and Julie Glasier.

Teaching

Communications

COM 380: History and Culture of the 1990s Internet

Illinois Institute of Technology: Fall 2025

COM 421: Technical Communication

Illinois Institute of Technology: 2014-2025

COM 424/528: Document Design

Illinois Institute of Technology: 2018-2026

WRD 204: Technical Writing

DePaul University, Chicago: 2021-2023

WRD 202: Business Writing

DePaul University, Chicago: 2022-2023

COM 425: Technical Editing

Illinois Institute of Technology: Fall 2022, Fall 2023

COM 101: University Writing

Illinois Institute of Technology: Fall 2019

COM 581/381: Information Structure and Retrieval

Illinois Institute of Technology: Spring 2019

COM 601/380: Research Methods and Resources

Illinois Institute of Technology: Spring 2017

Literature

LIT 380: Vietnam War in Literature and Film

Illinois Institute of Technology: Fall 2016, Spring 2021, Fall 2024

LIT 339: Shakespeare in Film

Illinois Institute of Technology: 2010-2020

LIT 307: The Graphic Novel

Illinois Institute of Technology: 2011-2017

LIT 306: Science Fiction

Illinois Institute of Technology: Summer 2012, Summer 2017

LIT 309: Short Fiction

Illinois Institute of Technology: Spring 2010, Spring 2012

LIT 380: Hard Times

Illinois Institute of Technology: Spring 2011

LIT 315: The Novel

Illinois Institute of Technology: Spring 2011

Humanities

HUM 200: Science Fiction and Pop Culture

Illinois Institute of Technology: 2015-2023

HUM 106: Life Stories

Illinois Institute of Technology: 2009-2013

Service and other academic work

Service

- Chairperson: Village of Westchester 100th Anniversary Committee | 2024-2025
- Faculty Advisor: Illinois Tech Film Club | 2023-2025
- Graphic designer: St. Paul Lutheran School | Chicago, IL: 2018-20
- Judge (Short Fiction): IIT Annual Writing Contest | Chicago, IL: 2011-16, 2018-19
- Paper reviewer: Digital Culture and Society | 2019
- Paper reviewer: SAGE Open | 2018
- Invited talk: Researching Communication on the Internet - Oak Park and River Forest High School Summer Program | Oak Park, IL: June 2017
- Judge: Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium | Chicago, IL: April 2016
- Paper reviewer: International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM-16) | February 2016
- Paper reviewer: CHI 2016 | October 2015
- Invited talk: Social Media and Venting - Illinois Tech Global Leaders Program, Issues forum on social media | Chicago, IL: July 2015

- Paper reviewer: Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing Conference (CSCW 2016) | June 2015
- Invited talk: Social Media Planning Workshop - National Park Service / Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore | Gary, IN: June 2015
- Invited talk: Developing a Content Management Strategy for Your Small Business - Enhancing Technology for Small Business Program - Illinois Institute of Technology | Chicago, IL: 2014
- Judge: Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium | Chicago, IL: April 2014
- Student volunteer: Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing Conference (CSCW) | San Antonio, TX: February 2013
- Postsecondary outreach with Chicago Public School Students | Chicago, IL: 2006-2009
- April 2009: Volunteer at Emmet Project luncheon, a community outreach program that promotes college opportunities for CPS students (Loyola University)
- Spring 2008: Worked with CPS students in Gear Up on college applications (DePaul University)
- 2007-2008: Volunteer with BUILD at Kelvin Park High School, helping students with college application essays
- Winter 2006: Worked with students at Orr High School on the Hero's Journey Project, a personal essay telling students' personal journeys of achievement and loss (DePaul University)

Paid Academic Work

- Technical Writing Workshops for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), IIT Office of Professional Development | Cicero, IL: October 2019 and November 2023
- Business Writing Workshop, IIT Office of Professional Development | Wheaton, IL: March 2020
- Writing Successful Chemistry Lab Reports, an online learning module for the IIT Chemistry Department | Chicago, IL: August 2017
- Placement essay grader: IIT Writing Proficiency Placement Essays | Chicago, IL: 2012-2018
- Coordinator: IIT Writing Contest | Chicago, IL: April 2014

Tutoring

- Freelance Writing Consultant | 2008-Present
- Writing Center Tutor | Illinois Institute of Technology: Fall 2009
- Writing Consultant | DePaul University Center for Writing-based Learning: 2006-2008

Professional Experience

Business Manager

DePaul University Center for Writing-based Learning: August 2007- May 2009

Claims Adjuster, Independent Claims Adjuster

National Claims Services: September 2005-August 2006

Remote Storage Barcode Technician

University of Illinois Main Library, August 2002-May 2004

Data collection manager

Chicago Area Transportation Study (now Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning), May 2000-August 2002

Technical Proficiencies

Markup, Programming, and Version Control

- HTML5, XHTML, XML, Markdown
- CSS3
- JavaScript
- Ruby (and Watir)
- PHP
- MySQL
- Git and Github

Productivity Software

- Google (all Drive apps)
- MS Office (all apps) and Open/Libre Office
- LaTeX
- ChatGPT
- Gemini and Google AI Studio

Creativity Software

- Adobe CS: InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, Acrobat
- Scribus
- GIMP
- Audacity
- OpenShot
- OBS Studio
- HandBrake

- iMovie
- Podcasting via iTunes

Social Network Visualization

- Gephi
- NodeXL

Analysis

- Microsoft Excel (including analysis toolpack)
- Weka 3 (machine learning)
- TACIT (text analysis)
- SPSS
- Dataplot

Open Source Content Management

- Wordpress
- LimeSurvey
- WikkaWiki
- Drupal
- phpBB
- Moodle

Project Management

- Basecamp
- Clocking IT
- Redmine
- Toggl