

about the categories

In case you were wondering (and even if you were not), here are some descriptions of my categories. I recently (**January, 2012**) revised these categories by streamlining some and adding/deleting others.

BESIDE/S: In this newly developed category (as of January, 2012), I post blog entries that enable me to experiment with being beside/s. Being beside/besides is a concept and practice that I find extremely compelling for working with and through readings, ideas, understandings, and experiences; it was the central organizing principle for my essay and **blog posts on living and grieving beside Judith** and for my **queering ethics course** last spring.

Having ideas or things beside each other is to see them as next to each other. Literally, beside is a reminder of the material spaces that we inhabit. This might mean being aware of how books that you are reading/researching reside next to each other or how multiple tabs, with the various posts you are processing, are open at the same time. Conceptually, ideas or things beside (next to) each other indicates that you are reading them together, sometimes through each other, sometimes against each other, but always in ways that recognize that the various ideas/concepts/things that you are engaging with influence and shape each other. These ideas don't necessarily fit together (and they don't have to), but, taken together they influence how you read, interpret, understand, and produce your own ideas. To put ideas and things beside each other is to put them into conversation with each other. The process of putting them into conversation is a form of exciting and challenging work that involves much more than sitting alone and staring painfully at a blank screen.

Beside also means besides, that is, in addition to or instead of. Besides can involve the labor of thinking about and being open to alternatives to the ideas that one is reading. It can also mean de-centering one's own perspective or the perspective of any one idea as the Idea and considering how multiple ideas/theories/experiences outside of ourselves can provide new insights and new understandings. Embracing that which is besides enables us to be, albeit temporarily, beside (not quite outside of) ourselves.

ENGAGING: This newly named category (as of January, 2012) combines 3 previous categories: Things I'm Reading, Things I'm Watching and Things I'm Hearing. I decided to put them altogether in order to reduce the number of categories that I have *and* so I could think about the various posts on books, podcasts, videos that I am encountering and processing in a broader sense; I'm not *just* reading or watching or listening, I'm engaging with the various ideas, voices, practices of trouble/making that these different forms embody. I really like the term engaging/engagement. Check out what **I wrote** about it this past August.

EXPERIMENTS: I like to use this blog as a place to experiment with new ways of writing, engaging, processing, thinking, creating, and teaching. Entries filed under this category are all experimental attempts at trying out new techniques, strategies, approaches, like **blog mash-ups** or **versions 1 2 3**.

FEMINIST TECHAGOGIES: Feminist pedagogies in conversation/ beside online technologies, especially blogging = feminist techagogies. I originally thought about titling it "tech ed," but I didn't think that quite captured the types of entries I'm filing here. Entries found in this category include discussions of how feminist pedagogy and technology intersect and/or should/can be put into conversation with each other.

GRIEF/LIFE: I started this blog back in May of 2009 and wrote most of my first entries during a trip to my parent's house when my mom was entering the final phase of dying from pancreatic cancer. She died in September of that same year. Not all of my writing on this blog explicitly addresses my painful experiences of living and grieving beside her, but her life and death surely haunts and inspires much of what I write. I have, however, devoted some attention to my experiences with personal grief and life during and after loss and they are filed in this category. I like this title, "grief/life," because it visually represents how grief and life exist beside each other, yet can be in tension with each other. Grief/life are central to how I imagine trouble and troublemaking (and they are a central concern for one of my biggest troublemaking influences, Judith Butler).

GUEST BLOGS: So far, I only have one guest blog filed under this category. I'm planning to have a few more soon and hope to make a bigger effort to solicit other bloggers in the spring.

OH BOTHER!: This category includes anything that I find particularly reprehensible, repulsive, or just plain annoying. The term, bother, has been one that I have adopted as of late in order to stop saying f**k (which is a favorite word of mine) in front of my highly impressionable kids (who are 3 and 6). Any resemblance to Winnie the Pooh's catchphrase is purely coincidental. (Don't get me wrong, I really like classic Winnie the Pooh. But, somehow, I don't think Pooh meant "oh bother" in the same spirit that I do.) Like I said, I started uttering "oh bother" about a year ago when my kids got old enough to understand and repeat inappropriate words. It seems rather fitting to use this phrase in relation to making/staying in trouble. After all, to be bothered by something is another way of being troubled by it, right? To bother someone is to trouble them, right? To be in a state of botherment (is this a word?) is to be in a state of trouble. This category is different from my other categories. The "oh bother" examples are meant to be analyzed by you,

dear reader, and not me. I want to know what you think about these examples. Perhaps the “oh bother” is a request or a command—as in, (won’t you please) bother these examples for me because I can’t or don’t want to.

PEDAGOGY: While this category may have some overlap with my “feminist techagogies” category, I’ve decided to separate posts that explicitly deal with online technologies and feminist/queer pedagogy (filed under “feminist techagogies”) from posts that more generally speak to pedagogical issues (filed here, under “pedagogy”). I’ve just created this category this morning (January 31, 2012) and I’m hopeful it can be a space for me to work through/articulate my teaching philosophy and to explore how my pedagogy extends beyond the academy and classroom teaching.

QUESTIONS: description coming soon

SOCIAL MEDIA: description coming soon

TEACHING RESOURCES: This category includes **lectures**, **workshops**, **assignments**, **advice**, **sources**, and **syllabus** prep.

TERMS: While writing in this blog, I may come across terms that need some clarification or explanation. Perhaps they are loaded (with theoretical baggage) terms. Perhaps they come off as too jargony and inaccessible. Perhaps they are rich with meaning and require some unpacking. For whatever reason, I will devote an entry to explaining/reflecting on a term that requires additional consideration and file it under this category. Right now I am experimenting with how best to engage with (and explain/reflect on) these terms. As part of this experiment, I’ve started filing my recent lecture posts in this category.

THE PROCESS: description coming soon

TROUBLE ROLE MODELS: description coming soon

WHAT IS TROUBLEMAKING: Entries filed under this category are intended to explore, theoretically, what troublemaking is (or often, what it isn't). As I write more of these entries, they will enable me to clarify what I mean by making/being in/staying in trouble. They will also hopefully give you, the reader, some other ways (beyond Dennis the Menace or Bart Simpson) to envision what troublemaking is and why it might be a productive and transformative approach to seeing and being in the world.

WRITING PROJECTS: I decided to add this category when I couldn't figure out how and where to file my **entry** on a FEAST presentation. This category will include any entries that are focused on my "formal"/offline writing projects: presentations, manuscripts, book proposals, etc.