

Background

Rebecca Agosta is a lecturer in the University Writing Program at UNC Charlotte, where she earned her MA in English with an emphasis on composition and rhetoric. She teaches process-focused writing, inquiry, and research, particularly encouraging reflective learning and critical thinking. Since 2010, she has blogged at *The Plus Side of Me*, commenting on fatshion, fat studies and body acceptance. Her teaching and research impacts are broad, and include communicating with compassionate and adversarial publics, blogging communities, digital activism, identity construction, and digital publishing.

Research

Rebecca's graduate research project explored body acceptance and identity in a study titled, *From Fat Ass to Fat Activist: Recasting and Co-constructing Identity in the Figured World of the Fat-O-Sphere*. She writes that, "My research is primarily situated in rhetoric and composition studies, and I am particularly interested in how women and girls engage in digital activism and radical body acceptance and celebration in online community spheres. I focus on community narratives, identity construction, and ways of writing."

Relevance

Much of her research relates to the W+GRA's mission by "investigating how women and girls do this work online, engaging with this community as a participant myself, and advocating for the importance of safe online spaces. This work can make a difference for women and girls by bringing to the forefront the narrativized aspect of identity development and performance, notions of health and well-being, and studied ways of current civic and political engagement."