David Beard is an assistant professor of rhetoric in the Department of Writing Studies at the University of Minnesota Duluth. He researches the history, theory and pedagogy of rhetoric as an interdisciplinary formation. His work draws upon traditions in composition, speech-communication and cultural studies to articulate the history and the theoretical boundaries of "rhetorical studies" across written, oral and media communication.

Dr. Beard has published in journals like the International Journal of Listening, Archival Science, Philosophy and Rhetoric, Southern Journal of Communication, Harlot and Enculturation, among other venues. Additionally, he has placed essays in What We Are Becoming: Developments in Undergraduate Writing Majors (USUP), Engaging Audience: Writing in an Age of New Literacies (NCTE), Coming of Age: The Advanced Writing Curriculum (Boynton/Cook) and the SAGE Handbook of Rhetorical Studies.

David believes that interdisciplinary contact is at the core of new knowledge in rhetorical studies in the 21st century, and so works to being scholars together. With Richard Enos, he edited Advances in the History of Rhetoric (Parlor Press). For four years, he edited the International Journal of Listening. And, he has assembled Forum sections for journals like the Quarterly Journal of Speech. Additionally, he has won over $30,000 in grants to support collaboration across the UM system in rhetorical studies through the Institute for Advanced Study, the Graduate School and other resources.

And a note: when David began his career at a branch campus of the UM system as a junior rhetorician, Mark Huglen was a model of the possibilities, and it's an honor to be with him for this event.