

**Clayton F. Rosati**, Telecommunications,  
Bowling Green State University

### Candidate Biography

After two years at the University of Vermont as a lecturer in geography, I am now in my fourth year as an Assistant professor at Bowling Green State University, where I worked in our recently successful unionization effort. I teach in the Department of Telecommunications and the graduate programs of the School of Media and Communication and the American Cultural Studies Program.

Though I work in a media program, I am a geographer. Before I knew what geography was, I grew up in Linden, Virginia, played drums in a few bands, and occasionally showed paintings and drawings in local art shows. My academic studies appear to be rather nomadic but have always been focused on cities, culture, and economic development. I received my B.A. in African American Studies and Political Science from Syracuse University, interested in poverty, class politics and American race relations. After working for a literacy organization in Warrenton, VA for a year, I returned to Syracuse for a M.A. in Sociology, focusing on urban political economy, culture industries, and cultural theory. While back at Syracuse, I realized that geography pulled all of my interests together in innovative ways. In Geography, I studied political economy, globalization, urban culture industries, and particularly the role of technology and the built environment in the production of mass cultural forms.

Fundamentally, I am interested in issues of social justice and the ways in which relations of cultural production, through technology and industry, often work against justice projects. I have served in leadership positions for several anti-racist organizations and am also a musician, having worked in many community arts projects in the Syracuse and Washington, DC areas. I intend to bring this interest in justice to my position in the National AAUP Council, representing District 6.

### Candidate Statement

I am an active member of my recently organized AAUP collective bargaining chapter at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Prior to our successful election, I was heavily involved in our organizing committee, talking one-on-one with my colleagues about the benefits of collective bargaining, collaborating on pro-collective bargaining materials, and working to mobilize my colleagues to support a true independent faculty voice. I have seen how an organized faculty collective can create positive change, both at the local level and for the profession generally. At BGSU we are now an active and organized force to defend faculty interests against objectionable administrative policies. I attended the 2010 AAUP Summer Institute and CBC meetings and I have spent a great deal of time over the past two years learning about and championing AAUP principles and policies. Currently, I am serving on our local chapter's Salary Committee, Steering Committee, and I'm acting chair of our Membership Committee.

I have taught as a graduate student without health benefits, as a lecturer without job security, and now as a tenure-track faculty member struggling with popular profit-driven business models of the university. I have experience with the growing problems of our profession and work context firsthand. I have watched how public and political anti-intellectualism, hostility toward public investment in higher education, and the pressure toward a privatized consumerist model of higher education has become a massive threat to academic freedom. As a representative of District 6 on the National AAUP Council I intend to advance AAUP initiatives to increase investment in higher education as a public good. I also see the importance of consciousness raising about the threat to this public good from pressures for profit, the erosion of job security, and the long assault on academic freedom. I, further, intend to support initiatives for just and innovative solutions to the precariousness of life and academic freedom for non-tenure track faculty. Most importantly, my hope locally is to support the growing momentum for faculty collective bargaining and an independent faculty voice in District 6 and to support the development of that momentum in every way possible.