Justin W. Kirk

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Communication Studies Department

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

## Publications

Rowland, R. C., Kirk, J. W., & Eisenstaedt, M. (forthcoming). Public Address in a Time of Crisis. In Public Communication in the Time of COVID-19; Disciplinary Perspectives on the Pandemic, Lanham: Lexington Books.

Kirk, J. W. (forthcoming). Local Symbols as Grounds for Policy Change in Mass Shooting Eulogies. In Local Theories of Argument, Taylor and Francis.

Kirk, J. W. (2018). Mitt Romney at Hofstra: Surface Arguments and Substantive Failure. In E. Hinck (Ed.) Televised Presidential Debates in a Changing Media Environment, Volume 1. Santa Barbara: Praeger, 185-202.

Kirk, J. W. (2018). Barack Obama’s Mass Shooting Eulogies: Tucson, Newtown, and Charleston as moral guideposts for a nation in crisis (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses. (Accession No. 10813762)

Kirk, J. W. (2016). Mitt Romney in Denver: “Obamacare” as ideological enthymeme. Journal of Argumentation in Context, 5, 227-248.

Kirk, J. W. (2015). Mitt Romney and Ideological Enthymeme in Denver: ‘Obamacare’ and its Functions. In Garssen, B.J., Godden, D., Mitchell, G. & Snoeck Henkemans, A. F. (Eds.). Proceedings of the 8th International Conference of the International Society for the Study of Argumentation. Amsterdam: Sic Sat, 679-689.

Kirk, J. W. (2013). Ideology and Argument: Mitt Romney and the GOP in the 2012 Election (Master’s Thesis). Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses. (Accession No. 1545702)

## Presentations

A Proposed Extension of the Time Format for NFA-LD Debate. Top Paper, Argumentation and Forensics Division. National Communication Association, Indianapolis, November 19-22, 2020.

Public Speaking Skills and Mentorship. Presentation to the Center for Academic Success and Transition at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. September 29, 2020

Obama argues for peace at Hiroshima. 6th Tokyo Conference on Argumentation, August 2020, Chiba, Japan.

Obama in Charleston: Eulogistic jeremiad and the limits of persuasive appeals. National Communication Association, Baltimore, November 14-17, 2019.

Local Symbols as Grounds for Policy Change in Mass Shooting Eulogies. Alta Argumentation Conference, Alta, Utah, August 1-4, 2019.

Newtown and Obama's Deliberative Eulogy: The limits of rhetoric in a context of extreme polarization. Top Paper, Argumentation and Forensics Division. Central States Communication Association, Omaha, April 2019.

Barack Obama and Eulogy: value affirmation as argument for gun control. Department Colloquium, February 6, 2019.

Value affirmation as argument: President Obama's major gun violence eulogies. 9th International Society for the Study of Argumentation Conference, Amsterdam, July 3-6, 2018.

Tucson: Obama’s first significant mass shooting eulogy. Southwestern Communication Association Conference, Phoenix, AZ, April 7, 2018.

Myths and Narratives as Strategies in Public Relations Campaigns. Guest lecture for PR 555 - Public Relations Campaigns and Cases at Pepperdine University, Dr. Soo Kwang Oh, February 13, 2018.

Logically Incomplete but Persuasive Appeals to Ideology in the Second Presidential Debate of 2012. Top Student Papers Panel in Argumentation and Forensics. National Communication Association, Dallas, November 16-19, 2017.

Lessons from the early years of debate at UT-Dallas. National Communication Association, Dallas, November 16-19, 2017.

Presentation Skills for Economics Students. Guest lecture for Econ 321 - Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory at Pepperdine University, Dr. Julia Norgaard, September 7-8, 2017.

Argument Hacking: How Artificial Intelligence undermines Argumentative Certainty. Alta Argumentation Conference, Alta, Utah, July 20-23, 2017.

Argumentation as Life. What is Life? Conference, Portland, Oregon, April 6-8, 2017.

Essential Counterplans and their Uses against China Affirmatives: Topic Counterplans for the 2016-2017 High School Debate Season. Jayhawk Debate Coaches Institute, June 2016.

Cincinnatus in the Making - George Washington is Eulogized. Rhetoric Society of America, Atlanta, May 26-29, 2016.

 Mitt Romney in Early Primary Debates: The Argument from Authority. Top Student Papers Panel in Argumentation and Forensics, National Communication Association, Las Vegas, November 19-22, 2015.

The Risk of Terrorism and United States/European Union Relations: Topic Disadvantages for the 2015-2016 High School Debate Season. Jayhawk Debate Coaches Institute, June 2015

John Neal and Zarathustra: A Burkean Interlude. Central States Communication Association, Madison, April 15-19, 2015.

Washington’s Farewell: Dissonant Definition and Foreign Policy. Central States Communication Association, Madison, April 15-19, 2015.

The Fourth Persona and Rhetorical Hermeneutics: V for Vendetta, Lana Wachowski, and Transgender Identity. National Communication Association, Chicago, November 20-23, 2014.

Oslo 1994: Framing Conflict as Opportunity for Cooperation. National Communication Association, Chicago, November 20-23, 2014.

Mitt Romney and ideological enthymeme in Denver: ‘Obamacare’ and its functions. International Society for the Study of Argumentation, Amsterdam, July 1-4, 2014.

## Awards

November 2020 Top Paper in Argumentation and Forensics

 National Communication Association, Indianapolis, Indiana

April 2019 Top Paper in Argumentation and Forensics

 Central States Communication Association Conference, Omaha, Nebraska

May 2018 Honors – Dissertation Defense

November 2017 Finalist – Top Student Papers in Argumentation and Forensics

National Communication Association Conference, Dallas, Texas

May 2016 Wil Linkugel Departmental Research Award

 Communication Studies Department, University of Kansas

May 2016 Kim Giffin Departmental Research Award

 Communication Studies Department, University of Kansas

May 2016 William A. Conboy Outstanding Graduate Student Award

 Communication Studies Department, University of Kansas

November 2015 Finalist – Top Student Papers in Argumentation and Forensics

 National Communication Association Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada

December 2014 Honors – Comprehensive Exam Defense

## Service

September 2020 – Present Member, Faculty Grievance Committee, Department of Communication Studies

May 2020 – Present Member, NFA-LD National Committee, National Forensics Association

November 2019 – Present Member, By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee, Argumentation & Forensics Division, National Communication Association

August 2019 – Present Member, Undergraduate Committee, Department of Communication Studies

December 2018 – Present Member, Academic Credentialing in Science Communication Committee

May 2018 – Present Reviewer, Western Journal of Communication

April 2018 – Present Reviewer, Public Address Division, National Communication Association Conference

August 2017 – July 2018 Spiritual Mentor for Undergraduate Students at Pepperdine University

September 2017 Faculty Volunteer – Step Forward Day, Pepperdine University

August 2013 – May 2018 Graduate Student Mentor, University of Kansas

## Courses Taught

**Rhetoric of the American Presidency 1 Semester**

Lecture course on rhetorical approaches to the American Presidency. Includes a historical survey of American Presidential rhetoric from Washington to Trump. Uses generic criticism, argumentation studies, and political communication studies to examine presidential discourse in the campaign for and the issuance of the presidential office. Most recently taught in Fall 2020.

**Rhetorical Theory 1 Semester**

Capstone course. Seminar format. The course examined major strains of thought in rhetorical history. Readings included Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Quintilian, Campbell, Whately, Nietzsche, Toulmin, Perelman, Weaver, Burke, Foucault, Derrida, Fisher, Rowland, Lacan among other essential thinkers in rhetoric. Most recently taught in Fall 2017.

**Rhetoric and Social Influence 5 Semesters**

Large lecture course with 80-90 students. Discussion leader and senior graduate teaching assistant for the course. Also taught as a 25-30 student discussion and lecture format. Developed online version of the curriculum to be implemented in future semesters. This course focused on the analysis and evaluation of rhetorical strategy as a tool to overcome attitudinal, societal, and audience barriers while maximizing advantages. Special focus was given to strategy types including rational argument, narrative, credibility, aesthetic, and confrontation strategies, and the use of values, needs, and symbols as persuasive tools. Most recently taught in Spring 2018.

**Rhetorical Criticism 2 Semesters**

Discussion format. Writing heavy course focused on a survey of methods for rhetorical criticism. Most recently taught in Fall 2020.

**Introduction to Debate 6 Semesters**

Faculty director for COMS 220 at UNL. Discussion format. Small groups and teams. This course focused on the study of public debate, argumentation and refutation. Special consideration was given to ethical conduct of speech and debate in a free society. Focus on debate resolutions, construction of affirmative and negative cases, evidence production and research, policy debate format, and debating skills including refutation, cross examination, and rebuttal construction. Most recently taught in Fall 2019.

**Civic Engagement and Public Advocacy 2 Semesters**

Discussion and lecture format. Focus on small groups and teams working together on projects for civic betterment. Introduction to fundamentals of public deliberation, advocacy, and civic engagement in a democratic society. Develop civic engagement campaigns using the resources of the rhetorical tradition. Most recently taught in Spring 2020.

**Sustainability and Communication 1 Semester**

Seminar format. This course examined the linkages between communication theory broadly and the principles and practices of sustainability. Students examined varied media including television, film, popular press books, journal articles, journalism, art, and photography concerning the potentials and problems of sustainability. Students developed a presentation for the Pepperdine Climate Calling event. Most recently taught in Spring 2018.

**Persuasive Speaking 1 Semester**

Discussion and lecture format. This course offered guided experiences in the preparation and presentation of discourse intended to influence outcomes of human interactions in various speaker-audience situations. Course focused on advanced persuasion and research techniques and offered multiple public speaking opportunities for developing this skill set. Special emphasis on speech styles in influencing thought, attitudes, and behavior. Most recently taught in Fall 2016.

**Cases in Persuasion 2 Semesters**

Discussion and lecture format. Online course one semester. This course explored basic principles that explain the effect and effectiveness of the arts of persuasion currently practiced in American society. The class explores incidents leading to the discovery of principles and theories that explain them. Most recently taught in Spring 2017.

**Communication Research Methods 1 Semester**

Discussion and lecture format. An examination of research methodologies used in the study of communication. Emphasis was placed on locating, reviewing, and evaluating research studies; the nature of inquiry in the human and social sciences; formulating research questions; designing studies; gathering and analyzing qualitative and quantitative research data; and writing research reports. Most recently taught in Spring 2018.

**Public Speaking and Rhetorical Analysis 13 Semesters**

Discussion and lecture format. An introduction to the principles of public and speaking and rhetorical analysis of public discourse. Practice in the preparation and delivery of speeches with an introduction to rhetorical theory and criticism. Application of the theory of public discourse to representative speaking situations. Most recently taught in Spring 2020.

## Education

Ph.D. (2018) Communication Studies, University of Kansas

Dissertation: Barack Obama’s Mass Shooting Eulogies: Tucson, Newtown, and Charleston as moral guideposts for a nation in crisis

Committee: Robert C. Rowland (dissertation advisor), Donn W. Parson, Beth Innocenti, Frank Farmer, Brett Bricker

M.A. (2013) Communication Studies, University of Kansas

Thesis: Ideology and Argument: Mitt Romney and the GOP in the 2012 Election

Committee: Scott Harris (advisor), Robert C. Rowland, Beth Innocenti

M.A. (2007) Arts and Humanities, University of Texas-Dallas

B.A. (2004) Government and Politics, University of Texas-Dallas