



SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Illinois State University

GRADUATE FACULTY PROFILES

2020-2021

John Baldwin (Ph.D., Arizona State University) is Professor of Communication at Illinois State University. He teaches communication theory and intercultural communication at graduate and undergraduate levels. His research and teaching interests include domestic and international diversity (e.g., interethnic and intercultural communication, cultural adjustment), especially issues of group difference and prejudice. He has published journal articles and book chapters in intercultural communication books on a variety of issues including prejudice, intercultural ethics, and the history of intercultural communication. He co-edited a book that analyzes the notion of “culture” from several different disciplinary perspectives and wrote an undergraduate intercultural communication textbook. He is also interested in the social construction of “gender,” “race,” and national identity in Latin America, including their construction through Brazilian popular music. He is conversational in Spanish and Portuguese.

Joseph Blaney (Ph.D., University of Missouri) has a Ph.D. in Communication with a scholarly expertise in image restoration. His dozens of publications include articles in *International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics*, *Public Relations Review*, *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, *Communication Quarterly*, *Political Communication*, and *Journal of Radio and Audio Media*, as well as seven books: *Campaign '96*, *The Clinton Scandals and the Politics of Image Restoration*, *Technological Issues in Broadcast Education*, *The Rhetoric of Pope John Paul II*, *Screaming for Change*, *Repairing the Athlete's Image*, and *Putting Image Repair to the Test*. He is the past editor of the *Journal of Radio and Audio Media*. Dr. Blaney has taught campaign message design, mass communication theory and effects, media criticism, media and society, introduction to media, media writing, radio production, broadcast announcing, freedom of speech and press, and several different graduate seminars. His professional background includes radio stints in St. Louis, Boston, Providence, Chicago, and suburban Chicago. Dr. Blaney currently serves as Associate Dean of ISU's College of Arts and Sciences.

Lauren Bratslavsky (Ph.D., University of Oregon) is an Assistant Professor of Mass Communication. She received her doctorate from the University of Oregon and her dissertation about the history of archiving television won the best dissertation award from the Broadcast Education Association in 2014. Among her conference papers and publications are topics such as radio and television history, representations of class in contemporary sitcoms, feminist approaches to media, and satirical news. She is a research associate with the Library of

Congress's Radio Preservation Task Force and is currently participating in planning the next conference. Broadly, her research interests include broadcast history, media literacy, television studies, political economy of communication, media ecology, and the theory and practice of archives. Her professional background includes times at public access television, community media, and non-profit communication work.

Caleb T. Carr (Ph.D., Michigan State University) is an Associate Professor at Illinois State University, where he studies and teaches computer-mediated communication and organizational communication. He has taught both on-ground and online courses in many subject areas, including communication, media history and effects, telecommunication, and management. His research into mediated intrapersonal and interpersonal communication--specifically the development, maintenance, and perception of identity online--has been published in several outlets, including the *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, *Human Communication Research*, and *Communication Research*; several book chapters; and regular presentations at meetings of the International and National Communication Associations. His current projects focus on how online identity cues affect employers' and self-perceptions.

Phil Chidester (Ph.D., University of Kansas) received both the Conboy Leadership Award and the Giffin Research Award as the top student researcher in his department in his doctoral program. He earned a bachelor's degree in communication at Southern Utah University in 1990 and a master's degree in communication studies at the University of Kansas in 2002. Prior to his enrollment in graduate school, Phil served as a reporter and staff writer at a daily regional newspaper and as a lecturer of communication and director of advancement relations at Southern Utah University. Phil's academic research interests area includes individual and social identity, in relation to race and class, as they are created and reinforced by media artifacts; he is also actively engaged in research on song as a communication system, on contemporary myth and on the formation of modern publics through a shared fandom of various media texts. He has also presented his work at numerous conferences of the National Communication Association, the International Communication Association, the Central States Communication Association and the Conference on Race at Harvard University, and has received top competitive paper awards from both the NCA and the CSCA.

Byron B. Craig (Ph.D., Indiana University) is an Assistant Professor who likes to identify himself as a non-traditional Black and gay scholar. He returned to school later to complete his degrees, but while away from academia worked and participated in different types of activism including AIDS/HIV protests, working against redlining and other forms of marginalization done to African Americans specifically in the south, etc. Probably one of the most tragic events that shaped his current interests is the case of missing and murdered African American children in Atlanta, GA in the early 80s. As a student living in Atlanta at the time, he saw firsthand how black bodies were (mis)treated by the government. This continues to feed his research interests in examining how black bodies are rhetorically constructed in media representations, in the arts and culture, in politics, and in policy making practices. His current work examines the criminalization of black and brown bodies, the intersection of race and capitalism, blackness and queerness, film and media representations of black and brown bodies, and memory and spaces of racialization. He has two upcoming publications, one on Beyoncé and the rhetoric of black celebrity and the other on the rhetoric of Uber/Race/Universal Guaranteed Income. His other

publication is on the visual vernacular of black bodies concentrating on the body of Mike Brown and violent policing that relies on tropes of black bodies. Currently he is working on three essays—one on filmic representations of black bodies in the film *The Green Book*, one on memory and race that examines the Lynching Memorial as a non-narrated site, and finally one on the rhetoric of the *Erotique Noire* focusing on the body of performer Grace Jones.

Mary Beth Deline (Ph.D., Cornell University) is an Assistant Professor in the School of Communication at Illinois State University. She is interested in information avoidance, how change campaigns are implemented in organizations and communities, and how resistance to these changes occurs. This requires intersecting strategic, organizational and environmental communication, using methods ranging from qualitative interviews to surveys to content analyses. She has obtained grants for her work ranging from the Social Sciences and Humanities Council to the Mellon Foundation, and has presented this research at conferences including AEJMC, NCA and IECA. She typically situates her work in applied contexts, ranging from earthquake risks to water pollution to energy conservation. Her professional background has ranged from crisis communication to social marketing. At Illinois State she teaches courses in environmental and organizational communication, research methods, and public relations.

Jack Glascock (Ph.D., Michigan State University) focuses his research and teaching on visual communication and media content. He has taught courses in photojournalism, graphics, publication and Web design. He also teaches a graduate course in quantitative research methods. Before returning to academia to pursue an advanced degree Dr. Glascock worked as a photo/graphics editor for a mid-sized daily newspaper in Michigan. Dr. Glascock's recent publications have included content analyses of gender roles on primetime network television and newspaper coverage of the AT&T breakup. Most recently his focus has been on verbal aggression in media content as well as its association with TV exposure. He has published in various mass communication and communication journals such as the *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*, *Communication Research Reports*, *Communication Studies*, *Sex Roles and Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*. Dr. Glascock regularly presents his research at national conferences and has received top paper awards from the Broadcast Educators Association (BEA) and most recently the Association for Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC).

Ashley R. Hall (Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh) is an Assistant Professor in the School of Communication at Illinois State University, where she studies and teaches African American rhetoric. She earned a bachelor's degree in Communication Studies at Christopher Newport University in 2010 and a master's degree in Speech Communication at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, in 2012. Most notably, Dr. Hall is the 2016 recipient of the National Communication Association's African American Communication and Culture Division Outstanding Dissertation Award for her dissertation, *Theorizing Rival Rhetoric(s) of Black Maternities: Imagining Reproductive Life in Social Death*. Her research examines the rhetorical significance and power of historical and contemporary rhetoric(s) of Black people, generally, and Black women specifically. Her current research interests focus on questions of agency, voice, and power as it intersects with issues concerning Black women's mothering, reproduction, sexual trauma, spirituality, and radical self-care. Dr. Hall's teaching interests include public

communication, African American rhetoric, rhetorical criticism, Black rhetorical theory, Black feminist theory, and (mis)representations of Blackness in U.S. popular culture.

Rebecca A. Hayes (Ph.D., Michigan State University) is an Associate Professor at Illinois State University and her research interests lie in the uses and effects of social media, both for brands and individuals. Specifically, she focuses on how certain features, such as Liking and commenting, on social media platforms are used and drive engagement with brands and other users. Prior to attaining her Ph.D., Dr. Hayes worked in public affairs for both the federal government and the State of Michigan, and has taught advertising, public relations, and crisis communication courses at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan-Flint. At Illinois State, she teaches courses in public relations campaigns and crisis communication while maintaining active connections with industry.

John Hooker (Ph.D., Purdue University) received his Ph.D. in Media, Technology and Society from Purdue University in 2010. His research interests include basic communication course pedagogy and administration, communication education, instructional communication, assessment, and the effects of the use of technology in the classroom. Dr. Hooker teaches courses in quantitative research methods, the assessment of pedagogy and training programs, and other courses in communication education. Dr. Hooker co-directs Communication 110; Communication as Critical Inquiry. His duties include supervising graduate teaching assistants who deliver the course, serving as their mentor, and teaching the Com 110 course as well.

K. Megan Hopper (Ph.D., University of Missouri) has a doctoral degree in communication with a focus on media effects. Her research focuses on the sexual objectification of the female body in the media, the training and experiences of journalists, and the use and impact of new media. Hopper's teaching interests include introduction to mass communication, media and society, mass media theory and effects, reporting for the mass media, and media convergence. Before entering graduate school, she served as a print journalist for *The Pantagraph*. Dr. Hopper continues to freelance for print and online news sources in her spare time.

Stephen K. Hunt (Ph.D., Southern Illinois University) serves as Professor of Communication and Executive Director of the School of Communication at Illinois State University. He recently completed an assignment serving as Chair of Illinois State's American Democracy Project. As a American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Civic Fellow for Political Engagement, he helps lead national efforts to sharpen the political and civic leadership skills of today's college students. Hunt is the author of over 30 scholarly articles, many focused on civic and political engagement, and is co-author of a public speaking textbook focused on critical thinking and civic engagement that is used by several communication departments. Hunt earned his Ph.D. in instructional communication from Southern Illinois University in 1998.

John Huxford (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania) is a former journalist from Britain whose experience in the profession spans nearly 20 years. His work at various local and regional newspapers encompassed news and feature writing, theater and movie reviews, and editing and graphic design. In 1996 he was offered a scholarship to study at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, where he completed his Doctorate. He later joined the faculty at Villanova University in Philadelphia where he designed, established and

supervised a journalism program that covered print, broadcast and on-line media, as well as teaching classes in both mass communication and journalism theory and practice. John's research focuses on the visual and textual construction of news, with recent papers exploring journalism's role in economic recession, the use of visual symbolism in broadcast news, and the links between news images and community ritual.

Lance Lippert (Ph.D., Southern Illinois University) is a Professor of Communication at Illinois State University. He received his Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale in organizational and health communication. His research interests include civic engagement & political learning pedagogy, humor use, workplace relationships, and health care relationships. He primarily teaches in the areas of organizational communication, health communication, leadership communication, and training & development. Lance is currently the program coordinator for Communication Studies in the School of Communication.

John P. McHale (Ph.D., University of Missouri) has earned degrees at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and Columbia College. Dr. McHale has published several pieces in the area of political communication and also studies religious discourse. McHale is the co-author of *Campaign 2000: A functional analysis of presidential campaign discourse* (2003), *The primary decision: A functional analysis of presidential primary debates, 1948-2000* (2001), and is the author of *Communicating for Change: Strategies of Social and Political Advocates* (2004). He is the Chair for the Mass Media Division of the Central States Communication Association as well as an award-winning documentary film producer and director. He teaches Media Writing and Presentation, Documentary Film, and Social and Political Movement Communication in the School of Communication at Illinois State University. Dr. McHale earned degrees at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and Columbia College. He is the Vice Chair Elect for the Mass Media Division of the Central States Communication Association as well as an award-winning documentary film producer and director. Dr. McHale has published several pieces in the area of political communication and also studies religious discourse. He will teach Media Writing and Presentation in the Department of Communication in the Fall.

Kevin R. Meyer (Ph.D., Ohio University) researches instructional communication, communication education, graduate teaching assistant training programs, health communication campaigns, and sports apologia and image repair. His research projects focus mostly on quantitative methods but have also involved qualitative methods and rhetorical analysis. In particular, Dr. Meyer is intrigued by research projects that explore student silence and graded participation. He has taught courses in communication theory, small group, persuasion, quantitative research methods, argumentation and debate, public speaking, and the senior capstone for undergraduate Communication Studies majors.

Aimee E. Miller-Ott (Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln) is an Associate Professor of Communication and current Graduate Coordinator in the School of Communication. Her overarching research interest focuses on how people in romantic and family relationships manage their private information and identities. She has published numerous articles on the role of cell phones in romantic, family, and platonic relationships and how these devices impact attentiveness and face needs in interactions. She also studies relationships (e.g., foster families, families with parents with Alzheimer's Disease, families who use surrogates, work spouses) that

rely on their discourse (communication) to define, explain, and defend their relationships as legitimate. She was recently awarded the Outstanding University Teaching Award and the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding College Teaching Award. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in interpersonal communication, family communication, research methods, the dark side of interpersonal communication, and communication and aging.

Brent Simonds (Ed.D., Illinois State University) completed his Ed.D. in post-secondary education with an emphasis in arts technology at Illinois State University. His interests include media ecology, visual communication, and digital filmmaking (documentary, training, & education). He has won Telly and Aurora Awards and his productions have also been recognized by the Broadcast Education Association, the National Broadcasting Society, and the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters. Before his academic career, Dr. Simonds spent several years as a producer/director at local television stations (NBC & Fox Affiliates, Independents). Two of his grant-funded educational films are currently being distributed by "Films for the Humanities & Sciences." His most recent documentary, *Sweet Dreams Do Come True*, has been publicly exhibited eight times at film and music festivals. It has won three awards including an Award of Excellence from the Broadcast Education Association and is currently streaming on Amazon Prime and Vimeo VOD.

Cheri Simonds (Ph.D., University of Oklahoma) conducts research in Communication Education. Her interests include teacher clarity, challenge behavior, portfolio assessment, and evaluation fidelity. In addition to publishing articles on these topics, Dr. Simonds has produced several instructional videos and has co-authored textbooks in Classroom and Intercultural Communication, and Public Speaking. She is also interested in teaching courses in Communication Pedagogy, Instructional Communication, and Communication Assessment. Dr. Simonds is currently the Co-Director of Communication as Critical Inquiry. As such, she trains and supervises the graduate assistants in teaching this course, serves as mentor, and teaches the course as well. Most recently, Dr. Simonds has committed to provide training for Basic Course Directors across the country as no such formal training opportunities exist.

Roth Smith (Ph.D., University of Texas, Austin) is an Assistant Professor in the School of Communication at Illinois State University. He earned a bachelor's degree in electronic media at the University of South Carolina Upstate, and an MA in Communication Technology and Society from Clemson University. Prior to enrolling in graduate school, he worked in local television news for five years. Roth is interested in organizational communication with a specific emphasis in how communication facilitates or constrains the organizing processes of informal collectives. His dissertation research investigated how loose groupings of BMX bikers communicate to build and maintain semi-public bicycle dirt jump courses. As a researcher skilled in qualitative methods, Roth has conducted interviews, observation, participant observation, focus groups, and photo-elicitation techniques in settings ranging from healthcare clinics and fire departments, to mountain bike trails and public leisure spaces.

Pete M. Smudde (Ph.D., Wayne State University) moved to academia in 2002 after 16 years of industry experience and completing master's and doctoral degrees. He is also accredited in public relations (APR) through the PRSA. Dr. Smudde is Professor and Associate Executive Director of the School of Communication, Coordinator of the public relations program, and

Director of the study-abroad program in the Netherlands. Dr. Smudde is most interested in several areas of study in public relations, all based on his unique combination of industry and academic experiences. First, he studies public relations' synergy with corporate strategy, including performance management. Second, he examines corporate message design, especially in cases of managing corporate reputations. Third, he is interested in internal public relations (a.k.a. employee relations) in combination with leadership and management matters for organizations. Fourth, he explores pedagogical approaches to public relations that meet academic and industry demands. Fifth, he studies religion and spirituality in the workplace, and he has his sights on selected topics in the PR field. Specific orientations for his work have included rhetoric, linguistics, interpersonal communication, intercultural communication, semiotics, composition studies, and business management. Dr. Smudde favors the methodologies of rhetorical criticism and discourse analysis, and he is comfortable working with other approaches that are qualitative or quantitative.

Lindsey J. Thomas (Ph.D., University of Iowa) joined the School of Communication faculty in the fall of 2017. She studied Interpersonal and Health Communication at the University of Iowa, earning her Ph.D. in 2015, and served as a visiting assistant professor at University of Puget Sound prior to coming to Illinois State University. Her multi-method research centers on studying interpersonal/family communication processes and their intersections with health, culture, and policy, particularly in at-risk populations. Most recently, her work has focused on the contexts of foster care and family estrangement. Dr. Thomas has taught qualitative and quantitative research methods, communication theory, interpersonal communication, and introductory rhetoric courses.

Andrew Ventimiglia (Ph.D., University of California, Davis) is Assistant Professor in the School of Communication with a focus on media law and ethics. His research explores the history and cultural effects of intellectual property law. His first book, *Copyrighting God: Ownership of the Sacred in American Religion* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2019. He has articles published or forthcoming in outlets including the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Cultural Critique*, *Enterprise & Society*, and *KNOW: A Journal on the Formation of Knowledge*. Dr. Ventimiglia was formerly a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the TC Beirne School of Law at University of Queensland. He was awarded his PhD in Cultural Studies from University of California – Davis in 2015, during which he worked at the Center for Science and Innovation Studies and the Science and Technology Studies program, taught across disciplines including American Studies, Cinema and Digital Media, and Religious Studies, and worked as Director and Associate Director of the Davis Feminist Film Festival from 2010 to 2013. Dr. Ventimiglia additionally holds a Master of Arts in Cinema Studies and a Certificate from the Culture and Media Program from New York University.

Joseph P. Zompetti (Ph.D., Wayne State University) received his Ph.D. in 1998, after finishing his dissertation on the rhetorical strategies of Cesar Chavez. He taught at Mercer University in Macon, GA, prior to coming to Illinois State in the Fall of 2003. His research interests include the areas of rhetoric, cultural studies, and civic/political engagement. He is most comfortable with critical approaches to these areas, including neo-Marxist rhetorical theory, postmodernism and poststructuralism, postcolonialism, semiotics, cultural studies, and critical pedagogy. Dr. Zompetti's teaching interests include argumentation, rhetorical theory & criticism,

communication and social issues, political communication, and intercultural communication. His current research projects involve examining the polarization of political rhetoric, neo-Marxist critique of capitalist rhetoric, and the rhetoric of magic. He has received Fulbright grants to study and/or teach in Sri Lanka, Brazil and Kyrgyzstan, and he has traveled to nearly 60 countries.