



SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Illinois State University

GRADUATE FACULTY PROFILES

2017-2018





John Baldwin, Ph.D., Arizona State University

Dr. Baldwin 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 multiple journal articles as well as book chapters in intercultural communication readers. He co-edited a book that analyzes the notion of “culture” from several different disciplinary perspectives, and recently published an undergraduate intercultural communication textbook. He is also interested in the social construction of “gender” and “race” in Latin America, including their construction through Brazilian popular music. He is conversational in Spanish and Portuguese.

Sample Publications

- Buddenhagen, R., & Baldwin, J. R. (2012). Performing communicative functions in development projects: An exploratory study of development practices in Tanzania. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 36, 418-429.
- Chidester, P. J., & Baldwin, J. R. (2013). Shattering myths: Brazil’s *Tropicália* movement. In L. Shaw (Ed.), *Song and social change in Latin America* (pp. 27-48). Lanham, MD: Lexington.



Joseph Blaney, Ph.D., University of Missouri

Dr. Blaney received his Ph.D. at the University of Missouri in mass communication and political communication. His many scholarly 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 immediate 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.

Sample Publications

- Blaney, J. R. (2016). Differences between Democrats and Republicans: In their own words. In N. S. Lind, E. T. Rankin, and G. Harris (Eds.). *Today’s economic issues: Democrats and Republicans*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Greenwood.
- Twork, J., & Blaney, J.R. (2013). Reputation differences between mortification-only and mortification/corrective action strategies following a transgression by a professional athlete. In J.R. Blaney, L. R. Lippert, and J.S. Smith (Eds.). *Repairing the athlete’s image: Studies in sports image restoration*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.



Lauren Bratslavsky, Ph.D., University of Oregon

Dr. Lauren Bratslavsky 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.

Sample Publications

Bratslavsky, L. (2015). The archive and disciplinary formation: A historical moment in defining mass communications. *American Journalism*, 32(2).

Bratslavsky, L., & Wasko, J. (2012). What is television? Special issue. *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, 36(4).

Caleb T. Carr, Ph.D., Michigan State University

Dr. Carr 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

Dr. Chidester recently completed a doctorate degree in communication studies at the University of Kansas, where he was the recipient of both the Conboy Leadership Award and the Giffin Research Award as the department's top student researcher. 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.



Jeffrey L. Courtright, Ph.D., Purdue University

Dr. Jeff Courtright (Ph.D., Purdue University, 1991) has 10 years of experience in commercial and public radio and 26 years (full-time) in academia. This is his 16th year at ISU. He is teaching COM 475, Seminar in Public Relations Theories, this fall, on the subject of Organizational Rhetoric as Reputation Management.

"Dr. C" also teaches 300-level electives that can be taken for graduate credit, one offered in Spring 2017: COM 355, International Public. Dr. C's research focuses on corporate identity, message design, and rhetorical criticism, in the contexts of environmental and international affairs. In addition to publications earlier in his

career, he has co-edited one book and co-authored another, written six articles, and contributed eight book chapters with Dr. Pete Smudde since 2007.

Sample Publications

Hearit, K. M., & Courtright, J. L. (2003). A social constructionist approach to crisis management: Allegations of sudden acceleration in the Audi 5000. *Communication Studies*, 54, 79-95. doi:10.1080/10510970309363267

Courtright, J. L., & Smudde, P. M. (2012). Spokesperson for the planet: Environmental leadership and Yann-Arthus Bertrand's *Home*. In D. R. Gallagher (Ed.), *Environmental leadership: A reference handbook* (Vol. 1, pp. 356-363). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.



Daniel Cochece Davis, Ph.D., University of Southern California

The primary thread underlying most of Dr. Davis' research, theory development, and teaching interests is understanding why humans communicate in the ways they do, especially neurologically (i.e., the neuro-cultural dialectic). To this end, he has researched and/or taught in the areas of interpersonal, small group, persuasion, organizational, leadership, and intercultural communication. His own educational background was far more diverse, with course work in neuroscience, psychology, culinary arts and nutrition, ancient philosophy, anthropology, theatre, and electronic technology. He believes education is not a race, but a process of learning how to learn. At ISU, he teaches in the organizational and leadership communication and research methods areas.

Sample Publications

- Hall, J., & Davis, D. C. (2016). Proposing the communicate bond belong theory: Evolutionary intersections with episodic interpersonal communication. *Communication Theory*, 27(1), 21-47. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/comt.12106>
- Davis, D. C., & Scaffidi, N. M. (2016). Virtual teams: Conflict and communication challenges for leaders. In A. H. Normore, M. Javidi and L. Long (Eds.), *Handbook of Effective Communication, Leadership and Conflict Resolution* (pp. 196-209). Hershey, PA: IGI Global. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4018/978-1-4666-9970-0.ch011>



Rebecca A. Hayes, Ph.D., Michigan State University

Dr. Hayes is an Assistant Professor at Illinois State University and her research interests lie in the political and brand uses of social media. Specifically, she focuses on how political campaigns and brands using social media platforms to connect with voters and consumers, and how voters and consumers respond to these efforts. 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 organizational 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.

Sample Publications

- Hayes, R. A., Carr, C. T., & Wohn, D. Y. (2016). One click, many meanings: Interpreting paralinguistic digital affordances in social media. *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*, 60, 171-187. doi:10.1080/08838151.2015.1127248
- Hayes, R. A. & Smudde, P. M. (2015). The Incident: Not just another organizational disruption. *Journal of Public Relations Research*, 27, 416-430. doi:10.1080/1062726X.2015.1086652



John Hooker, Ph.D., Purdue University

Dr. Hooker 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.

Sample Publications

Hooker, J. F. & Denker, K. J. (2014). The learning loss scale as an assessment tool: An empirical examination of convergent validity with performative measures. *Communication Teacher* 28(2), 130-143. doi:10.1080/17404622.2013.865765

Hooker, J. F. & Simonds, C.J. (2015). From the outside looking in: Employers' view of the basic course. *Basic Course Communication Annual*, 27, 102-116.



K. Megan Hopper, Ph.D., University of Missouri

Dr. Hopper received her Ph.D. at the University of Missouri 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.

Sample Publications

Hopper, K. M., & Aubrey, J. S. (2016). Bodies after babies: The impact of depictions of recently post-partum celebrities on non-pregnant women's body image. *Sex Roles*, 74, 24-34.

Hopper, K. M., & Huxford, J. (2015). Gathering emotion: Examining newspaper journalists' engagement in emotional labor. *Journal of Media Practice*, 16, 25-41.



Stephen K. Hunt, Ph.D., Southern Illinois University

Dr. Stephen Hunt 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 Carnegie 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 throughout the country. Hunt earned his Ph.D. in communication education from Southern Illinois University in 1998.

Sample Publications

Hunt, S. K., & Woolard, C. E. (2016). Service learning and innovative pedagogies. In P. L. Witt (Ed.), *Handbooks of Communication Science: Vol. 16. Communication and Learning* (pp. 527-552). Berlin, Germany: DeGruyter Mouton.

Simonds, C. J., & Hunt, S. K. (2016). The internal marginalization of basic course scholarship. *Basic Communication Course Annual*, 28, 1-10.



John Huxford, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Huxford 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.

Sample Publications

Huxford John (2012) "Reporting On Recession: Journalism, Prediction, And The Economy." *International Business & Economics Research Journal*, 11, 3, pp.343-356.

Hopper, K. Megan & Huxford, John (2015) "Gathering emotion: examining newspaper journalists' engagement in emotional labor." *Journal of Media Practice* 16, 1, pp. 25-41.



Jong G. Kang, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts

Dr. Kang's research interests include broadcasting/cable programming, broadcasting/cable management, electronic media policy & implication, broadcasting & new media education, television socialization & enculturation, and functions of new media technology. He teaches such courses as Broadcasting in America, Broadcasting and Cable Programming, Broadcasting and Cable Management, Television Production, Electronic Media Research, Electronic Media and Society, and Seminar in Mass Communication: Media Effects.



Lance Lippert, Ph.D., Southern Illinois University

Dr. Lippert is an Associate Professor of Communication. He received his Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale in organizational and health communication. His research interests include civic engagement pedagogy, humor use, workplace relationships, health care relationships, leadership-follower communication, and instructional pedagogy. 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

Dr. McHale 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

Dr. Meyer's research interests include 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. He currently serves as Graduate Coordinator for the SoC.

Sample Publications

- Meyer, K. R., & Hunt, S. K. (2011). Rethinking evaluation strategies for student participation. *Basic Communication Course Annual*, 23, 93-126. Available at <http://www.americanpresspublishers.com/BCCA.html>
- Meyer, K. R., Hunt, S. K., Hopper, K. M., Thakkar, K. V., Tsubakopoulos, V., & Van Hoose, K. J. (2008). Assessing information literacy instruction in the basic communication course. *Communication Teacher*, 22, 22-34. doi:10.1080/17404620801926925



Aimee Miller-Ott, Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Dr. Miller-Ott joined the faculty at Illinois State University in 2014 as an Assistant Professor. Since earning her Ph.D. in Communication Studies from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, in 2007, she has taught numerous graduate and undergraduate courses. These courses include interpersonal communication, family communication, research methods, the dark side of interpersonal communication, health communication, and managing interpersonal and organizational tensions. Her research interest focuses on how people in romantic and family relationships manage their private information and identities. She has examined this dynamic

primarily in parent-child and other family relationships. She also has a current line of research on cell phone communication in romantic and family relationships.

Sample Publications

Miller-Ott, A. E., & Kelly, L. (2016). Competing discourses and meaning-making in talk about romantic partners' cell phone contact with non-present others. *Communication Studies*, 67, 58-76. doi:10.1080/10510974.2015.1088876

Miller-Ott, A. E., & Kelly, L. (2015). The presence of cell phones in romantic partner face-to-face interactions: An expectancy violation theory approach. *Southern Communication Journal*, 80, 253-270. doi:10.1080/1041794X.2015.1055371



Maria Moore, Ed.D., National Louis University in Chicago

Dr. Maria Moore is an Associate Professor of Communication at ISU. A graduate of National Louis University in Chicago, she has twenty-five years of senior broadcast media management experience. Her teaching interests are in Mass Media Law and Ethics and her research focuses on the role of whistleblower sources for investigative journalists. She taught at the Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University and at Columbia College Chicago. She served on the executive boards for the Sundance Film Festival and the National Association of Television Program Executives. She is an accomplished journalist

and producer of television programs and is the recipient of numerous awards, including one from the National Association of Governors for Best Outreach Program in America.

Sample Publications

Moore, M. A., Huxford, J. H. & Bethmann, J. (2017). Whistleblowers and Journalists: A dangerous dance of truth-finding and truth-telling. In *Corruption, Scandal, and Accountability: Consequences for U.S. Politics*, Nancy S. Lind and Cara Rabe-Hemp, editors. Emerald Insight Publishers.

Moore, M. A., Pucek, P., Kennett, R., McField, A., & Vincent, K. (Producers) (2016). *Free Speech on campus, Spring 2016, a documentary*. [Video/DVD] Normal, IL: Illinois State University.



Brent Simonds, Ed.D., Illinois State University

Dr. Simonds completed his Ed.D. in post secondary education with an emphasis in arts technology at Illinois State University. His interests include visual communication, media ecology, interactive media, and digital filmmaking (training, education, & documentary). 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). He has produced more than 60 training and educational films for the United States Postal Service, Prentice Hall, Houghton-Mifflin Co., and St. Martin's Press. Two recent grant-funded films are currently being distributed by "Films for the Humanities & Sciences."

Sample Publications

Simonds, B.K. (2016). Documentary. *Sweet Dreams Do Come True*.

- Approximately 90-minute feature documentary about Nashville songwriter
- Currently in final edit and licensing photos/music

Simonds, B.K. (2013). Video. *PiCS Theoretical Rationale*. Normal, IL: Institute of Education Sciences Grant.

- Commissioned/Reviewed/Funded by \$855,000 IES Grant, "Parent-Implemented Social-Pragmatic Communication Intervention for Young Children with Developmental Disabilities." (Co P.I.s Meadan, Angell, and Stoner from Special Education).
- 2013 Winner of the National Broadcasting Society's professional video competition in the Instructional, Corporate, or Training Category.



Cheri Simonds, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma

Dr. Simonds 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.

Sample Publications

Hunt, S. K., Wright, A. M., & Simonds, C. J. (2014). Securing the future of Communication Education: Advancing an advocacy and research agenda for the 21st Century. *Communication Education, 100th Anniversary Issue*, 449-461.

Simonds, C., Meyer, K., Hunt, S., & Simonds, B. (2009). Speech evaluation assessment: An analysis of written speech feedback on instructor evaluation forms in the basic communication course. *Basic Communication Course Annual, 21*, 65-90.



Pete M. Smudde, Ph.D., APR, Wayne State University

Dr. Smudde's career path did not follow that of a traditional academic. He 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 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). Fourth, he examines leadership and management matters for organizations, especially linked to internal PR. Fifth, he explores pedagogical approaches to public relations that meet academic and industry demands. Dr. Smudde also recently started investigating spirituality in the workplace, and he has his sights on selected topics in the PR field. Specific orientations for his work have included Kenneth Burke, Michel Foucault, Karl Weick, and those from the fields of linguistics, 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.

Sample Publications

- Smudde, P. M. (2015). *Managing public relations: Methods and tools for achieving solid results*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Smudde, P. M. (2011). *Public relations as dramatic organizing: A case study bridging theory and practice*. Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press.



Lindsey J. Thomas, Ph.D., University of Iowa

Dr. Thomas 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.

Sample Publications

- Thomas, L. J., Jackl, J. A., & Crowley, J. L. (2017). "Family? . . . Not just blood": Discursive constructions of "family" in adult former foster children's narratives. *Journal of Family Communication, 17*, 238-253. doi:10.1080/15267431.2017.1310728
- Thomas, L. J., & Scharp, K. M. (2017). "A family for every child": Discursive constructions of "ideal" adoptive families in online foster-adoption photolistings that promote adoption of children from foster care. *Adoption Quarterly, 20*, 44-64. doi:10.1080/10926755.2016.1263261



Joseph P. Zompetti, Ph.D., Wayne State University

Dr. Zompetti 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 and Brazil, and he has traveled to over 50 countries.

Sample Publications

Zompetti, J. P. (2006). The role of advocacy in civil society. *Argumentation*, 20, 167-183. doi:10.1007/s10503-006-9002-2

Zompetti, J. P. (2012). The cultural and communicative dynamics of capital: Gramsci and the impetus for social action. *Culture, Theory and Critique*, 1-18. doi:10.1080/14735784.2012.721628