

Core Faculty Members

Olga Kuchinskaya, PhD, University of California at San Diego

John Lyne, PhD, University of Wisconsin

James E. "Ted" McGuire, PhD, University of Western Ontario

Gordon R. Mitchell, PhD, Northwestern University

Supporting Core Faculty

Lynn E. Clark, PhD, Northwestern University

Donald B. Egolf, PhD, University of Pittsburgh

William Fusfield, PhD, University of Washington

Peter Machamer, PhD, University of Chicago

Brenton J. Malin, PhD, University of Iowa

Lester C. Olson, PhD, University of Wisconsin

Shanara Reid-Brinkley, PhD, University of Georgia

John Poulakos, PhD, University of Kansas

Barbara Warnick, PhD, University of Michigan

Ronald J. Zboray, PhD, New York University

Lisa Parker, PhD, University of Pittsburgh

For the most current list of faculty members, their areas of expertise, and recent books published by them, please visit www.comm.pitt.edu/faculty/index.html.

For more details and updated information about the Graduate Program in Communication at Pitt, visit www.comm.pitt.edu/graduate/index.html.

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Admissions Requirements

- A bachelor's or master's degree in communication or a related field
- Official transcripts from all universities and/or colleges attended
- Recent scores on the Graduate Record Examination (and, if not a native speaker of English, TOEFL)
- Article-length writing sample
- Personal statement
- Three letters of recommendation (preferably from former professors)

All applicants must apply online by January 2 for admission in the fall semester.

Financial Aid

The six or seven students admitted each year normally receive teaching assistantships and fellowships that include a full-tuition scholarship, medical insurance, free public transportation, and a stipend for teaching services or full-time research. First-year students with a master's degree in hand are eligible to apply for three \$3,000 summer research support grants.

Apply Online

For more information on the Graduate Program in Communication in the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, go to www.comm.pitt.edu/apply.html.

Contact

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UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

DEPARTMENT OF
Communication

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Graduate Program in Communication

Rhetoric of Science





The Graduate Program in Communication

in the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh is consistently identified as one of the top 10 programs in the country. Its faculty and graduates have provided leadership to the field and continue to shape the study of communication in significant ways.

The program offers **four areas of emphasis**: history, theory, and criticism of rhetoric; media and cultural studies; public argument and discourse; and rhetoric of science.

The **rhetoric of science** area is grounded in the assumption that rhetoric mediates the shape and influence of science.

Rhetorical analysis of scientific texts brings attention to the persuasive dimensions of scientific and technologically mediated cultural artifacts.

Critical study of science policy controversies looks to those public places where scientists, journalists, politicians, and others debate scientific issues.

Special resources are afforded by the University's world-famous program in history and philosophy of science and by its innovative program in bioethics and health law.

A Certificate in Rhetoric of Science may be completed as part of graduate work toward a doctorate in communication. Concurrent master's degrees may be sought in cognate departments, such as the Departments of History and Philosophy of Science, Philosophy, and Bioethics.

Course Work

Science and Its Rhetoric

This course explores the following questions through exemplary cases chosen from both the natural and human sciences.

What role, if any, do rhetorical interpretations play in the discourse of science?

Can the acceptance of scientific ideas be exhaustively explained in terms of epistemic criteria alone, or is there always necessarily recourse to rhetorical topoi?

What role does rhetoric play in the internal dialogues of science?

Can a hermeneutical approach to understanding illuminate its role in natural as well as social sciences?

What relations are there among historicism, rhetoric, and scientific change?

Seminar in Public Argument: Science and Culture

It is commonplace to define science in opposition to both ideology and rhetoric. This course aims to expose ideological and rhetorical "contaminants" in the very heartland of science. More specifically, we will argue for a cultural studies approach to science, one that employs materialist, feminist, and psychoanalytic tools of critique.

Rhetoric of Science Policy

This course will examine rhetorical dynamics of science policy controversies as they play out in public disputes over medical ethics. Case studies will include controversies concerning prenatal genetic counseling, direct-to-consumer genetic testing, and editorial independence of medical journals.

For more detailed course descriptions, visit www.comm.pitt.edu/graduate/courses.html.



One of the leading public research universities in the United States, the University of Pittsburgh is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities. To learn more about Pitt, visit www.pitt.edu.



Thriving amid the echoes of its industrial past, **Pittsburgh** is a vibrant urban center that is rich in history, ethnic tradition, and diverse religious cultures. For more information about Pittsburgh, visit www.coolpgh.pitt.edu.