

Paul Elliott Johnson
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EDUCATION

University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

Department of Communication Studies

M.A.: March 2008

Certificate from the Project of the Rhetoric of Inquiry Fall 2009

PhD: August 2013

Imagining American Democracy: The Rhetoric of New Conservative Populism

Advisor: David Hingstman, Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Public Advocacy. Committee: Isaac West, Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Public Advocacy, Jeffrey Bennett, Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Public Advocacy, Mark Andrejevic, Associate Professor of Media Studies, David Wittenberg, Associate Professor, English and Comparative Literature.

Wake Forest University Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Masters Work: August 2005-May 2007

Masters work focused on cinema, surveillance, resistance, political theory, and post-structuralism. Thesis unfinished.

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

B.S. Political Science: May 2005

Professional Appointments

University of Pittsburgh, Department of Communication, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Assistant Professor of Deliberation and Civic Life (Fall 2015-Present)

Lecturer and Associate Director of Debate (Fall 2013-Spring 2015)

Visiting Instructor and Associate Director of Debate (Winter 2011-Winter 2013)

University of Iowa, Department of Communication Studies, Iowa City, Iowa

Assistant Debate Coach (Fall 2007-Spring 2010)

Teaching Assistant (Fall 2007-Fall 2010)

Wake Forest University, Department of Communication Studies, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Assistant Debate Coach (Fall 2005-Spring 2007)

RESEARCH

Double Blind, Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Johnson, P.E. (2021) Fear of a Black City: Gender and Postracial Sovereignty in *Death Wish* (2018). *Women's Studies in Communication* 44.3.

Johnson, P.E. (2017) The Art of Masculine Victimhood: Donald Trump's Demagoguery. *Women's Studies in Communication* 40.3.

Johnson, P. E. (2017) Walter White(ness) Lashes Out: *Breaking Bad* and Male Victimage. *Critical Studies in Media Communication* 34.1.

Johnson, P.E. (2017) Deactivating the State of Exception: Imagining a Popular Trial for Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. *Argumentation and Advocacy*, 53.1.

Von Burg, R. & **Johnson, P. E.** (2009). Yearning for a Past that Never Was: Technological Anxiety and the Performance-Enhancement Controversy in Baseball. *Critical Studies in Media Communication* 26(4), 351-371.

Peer-Reviewed Publications in Conference Proceedings

Johnson, P.E. (2017) "Morning in America:" Ronald Reagan's Legacy of Population as Argument. Presented at the biannual meeting of the Alta Conference on Argumentation, 2019.

Johnson, P.E. (2011) Sarah Palin and the Populist Deductive. In R. C. Rowland, (ed.), *Selected Papers from the 17th Biennial Conference on Argumentation*, Alta.

Johnson, P. E. (2010). Accidental Image Events and Overidentification: The Boston Mooninite Scare. In D. S. Gouran, M. A. Aakhus, J. A. Aune, R. Asen, J. M. Dallinger, S. M. Ketrow, S. L. Kline, R. C. Rowland, and H. M. Weger Jr., (eds), *Selected Papers from the 16th Biennial Conference on Argumentation* (226-232). Alta.

Essays in Collected Volumes

Johnson, P.E. (2022) "Two Modes of Corporate/Neoliberal Masculinity: *The Founder* and *Silicon Valley* in *The Gender and Affect Reader* ed. Reeser, T.

Johnson, P.E. (2021) "Right Wing Populist Melancholy" in *Populist Rhetoric* eds. Villadsen and Kock. **Forthcoming.**

Johnson, P.E. (2019) "The Debt Ceiling Debacle: Presidentialism as Cruel Optimism" in *Reading the Presidency: Advances in Presidential Rhetoric*. Eds. Stuckey, M. and Heidt, S. Peter Lang.

Manuscripts in Progress

Johnson, P. E. | The People: The Rhetoric of Modern Conservative Populism. **In production, December 2021.**

Book Reviews

Johnson, P.E. (2019) The Branding of Right-Wing Activism: The News Media and the Tea Party, *International Journal of Communication*, 13.

Johnson, P.E. (2019) Reality Bites: Rhetoric and the Circulation of Truth Claims in U.S. Political Culture, *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 105:3.

Johnson, P.E. (2019) The Politics of Resentment: A Genealogy, *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, 22:2.

Johnson, P.E. (2016) Creating Conservatism: Postwar Words that Made an American Movement, *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, 19:2.

Awards

Type Two Summer Research Grant (2021) Dietrich School Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh.

Central Research Development Fund, University of Pittsburgh (July 2018), Funds to facilitate archival research.

Outstanding Essay of the Year (October 2017) from American Studies Division of the National Communication Association for "The Art of Masculine Victimhood: Donald Trump's Demagoguery" in *Women's Studies in Communication*.

Outstanding Essay of the Year, (September 2017) from Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies Division of the National Communication Association for "Walter White(ness) Lashes Out: *Breaking Bad* and Male Victimage" in *Critical Studies in Media Communication*.

Type One Summer Research Grant (2016), Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh.

Top Dissertation (November 2014) from Argumentation and Forensics Division of the National Communication Association, for *Imagining American Democracy: The Rhetoric of New Conservative Populism*

Competitive Fellowship for Writing in the Disciplines Program, University of Pittsburgh (January 2014). Funds to facilitate development of in-class writing pedagogy.

School of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Fellowship, University of Iowa, 2011.

Conference Presentations

- Johnson, P.E.** (2019 November) Freedom Is and Possessive Individualism. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Baltimore, MD.
- Johnson, P.E.** (2019 November) Public Things: Theorizing Against Polarizing Antagonism. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Baltimore, MD.
- Johnson, P.E.** (2018 November) White Masculinity's Postracial *Death Wish* (2018), Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Johnson, P.E.** (2018 November) The Year of the Angry White Male: Newt Gingrich and the Republican Revolt of 1994, Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Johnson, P.E.** (2018 November) Racism as Play, Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT. **Spotlight Panel**
- Johnson, P.E.** (2018 November) The New Humanism of the X Article: Fighting a Cold War with a Consumerist Subject, Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Johnson, P.E.** (2018 June) The Challenge of Asymmetric Polarization: Teaching in the Classroom in a Time of Liberalism in Crisis. Presented at the bi-annual meeting of the Rhetoric Society of America, Minneapolis, MN.
- Johnson, P.E.** (2018 June) Both More and Less than Leviathan: Foucault's State-Phobia and Modern Conservative Populism. Presented at the bi-annual meeting of the Rhetoric Society of America, Minneapolis, MN.
- Johnson, P.E.** (2018 March) When is a Death Wish Not a Death Wish? When It Is *Death Wish*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Communication Association, Nashville, TN.
- Johnson, P.E.** (2018 March) The Legacy of the Moynihan Report: Thinking the Trauma of Slavery and the Present of Identity Politics. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Communication Association, Nashville, TN.
- Johnson, P.E.** (2017 November) I, the People: The Rhetoric of Modern Conservative Populism. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Dallas, TX.
- Johnson, P.E.** (2017 November) The Debt Ceiling Debacle: Presidentialism as Cruel Optimism. Presented at the "Advances in the Study of Presidential Rhetoric" panel at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Dallas, TX.

Johnson, P.E. (2017 July) "Morning in America:" Ronald Reagan's Legacy of Populism as Argument. Presented at the biannual meeting of the Alta Conference on Argumentation.

Johnson, P.E. (2016 November) Donald Trump's Demagoguery: Vulnerable Masculinity. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Johnson, P.E. (2015 November) The Common Good as Common Threat: Michel Foucault's "What is Critique?" Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Johnson, P.E. (2015 November) Grubergate: A Case Study in Expertism and Populism. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association Conference, Las Vegas, NV

Johnson, P. E. (2014 November) The Haunting Presence of Social Movement Rhetoric: The Past, Present, and Future of Theorizing Frames for Social Change. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Johnson, P. E. (2014 November) Richard Weaver and Conservative Collectivism. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Johnson, P. E. (2014 November) "A Time for Choosing:" Ronald Reagan, Affective Conflation, and the New Conservative Populism. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Johnson, P.E. (2013 May) Attitudes Towards Democracy: Comic and Tragic Views of Populism. Presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Pittsburgh, PA.

Johnson, P. E. (2013 November) Prospects for the Psychoanalytic Presidency. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association Conference, Washington, D.C.

Johnson, P. E. (2012 November) Obama's Economic Messaging: Framing the Economy in the 2008 Election. Presented at the annual National Communication Association Conference. Orlando, Florida.

Johnson, P. E. (2012 November) Alinsky's Legacy: James O'Keefe and the Conservative Appropriation of *Rules for Radicals* in the Service of Conservative Victimhood Politics. Presented at the annual National Communication Association Conference. Orlando, Florida.

Johnson, P. E. (2012 November) Tragic and Comic Populisms: Examining the Angry "People" in *Right America Feeling Wronged*. Presented at the annual National Communication Association Conference. Orlando, Florida.

Johnson, P. E. (2012 November) "Changing the Game: How the Tea Party Made 'Occupy' Possible." Presented at the annual National Communication Association Conference. Orlando, Florida.

- Johnson, P. E.** (2012 May) "White Victimage: *Breaking Bad* and Structures of Feeling in Tea Party Politics. Presented at the biannual Rhetoric Societal of America Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Johnson, P. E.** (2011 November) "The Real Silent Majority:" Rick Santelli's Outburst and the Catalyst of Popular Conservatism. Presented at the annual National Communication Association Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Johnson, P. E.** (2011 August) Sarah Palin and the Populist Deductive. Presented at the biennial Alta Conference on Argumentation.
- Johnson, P. E.** (2010 November). Gender in Debate: The Changing Landscape of Debate Argumentation. Presented at the annual National Communication Association Convention. San Francisco, California.
- Johnson, P. E.** (2010 May) Including Bare Life in the *Polis*: Imagining A Civilian Trial for Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. Presented at the biennial Rhetoric Society of America conference. Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Johnson, P. E.** (2009 November) The Radical Prospects for Destitutive/Unintelligible Rhetorics. Paper presented at the annual National Communication Association Convention. Chicago, Illinois.
- Johnson, P. E.** (2009 August) Accidental Image Events and Overidentification: The Boston Mooninite Scare. Paper presented at the biennial Alta Conference on Argumentation. Alta, Utah.
- Johnson, P. E.** (2008 November) *Antigone* and Agency: Rhetoric as Radical Destruction of Intelligibility. Paper presented at the annual National Communication Association Convention. San Diego, California.
- Johnson, P. E.** (2008 May) The Life and Times of Kenneth Burke in Pittsburgh, PA. Paper presented at the annual Eastern Communication Association Convention. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- Johnson, P. E.** (2008 May) On Partiality and Totality: The Death Drive and Tragic Framing in the Work of Slavoj Zizek. Paper presented at the annual Eastern Communication Association Convention. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Johnson, P. E.** (2007 November) The Tragic and the Comic in Lacanian Psychoanalysis. Paper presented at the annual National Communication Association Convention. Chicago, Illinois
- Johnson, P. E.** (2006 November) Terministic Screens and Recounting Histories of the First World War. Paper presented at the annual National Communication Association Convention. San Antonio, Texas.

Invited Presentations

- Johnson, P.E.** (April 2018) The Specific Pathologies of American Populism. Invited talk at Georgetown University, Doha, part of the Democracy Contra Liberalism workshop.

Johnson, P.E. (April 2017) The Art of Masculine Victimhood: Donald's Trump's Demagoguery. Talk given at the University of Pittsburgh Symposium on Men and Masculinities hosted by the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Department.

Johnson, P.E. (January 2017) I, The People: The Rhetoric of Modern Conservative Populism. Talk given at the Agora series in the University of Pittsburgh Department of Communication Studies.

Johnson, P.E. (January 2017) Special Lecturer to short course on Donald Trump taught at Eckerd College

Johnson, P.E. (December 2014) "The Real Silent Majority:" Rick Santelli's Rant and the New Conservative Populism

Johnson, P. E. (February 2013) "A Time for Choosing:" How Ronald Reagan Birthed a New Conservative Populism. Talk given to the Agora series in the University of Pittsburgh Department of Communication Studies.

Media Commentary

Johnson, P.E. Interview with Rick Ungar, 2021. *The Rick Ungar Show*.

Johnson, P.E. Interview with Zack Beauchamp, "The Anti-American Right," 2021. *Vox*

Johnson, P.E. Analysis of 2020 election, 2020. The Confluence. WESA, Pittsburgh

Johnson, P.E. Analysis of Commander-in-Chief Forum, August, 2016. KDKA News, Pittsburgh.

Johnson, P.E. Analysis of First Republican Debate, August 2015. KDKA News, Pittsburgh.

Johnson, P.E. Analysis of polarizing campaign rhetoric in 2020 presidential contest, September 2020. WESA, Pittsburgh.

TEACHING

Classroom Teaching Experience

University of Pittsburgh, Department of Communication Studies, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Undergraduate

COMM 253: Public Speaking (Spring 2011-Present)

COMM 500: Argument (Spring 2012-Present)

COMM 1143: Knowledge, Power, and Desire (Fall 2014-Present)

COMM 1120: Rhetoric of the Cold War (Spring 2017-Present)

Graduate

COMM 2219: Contemporary Rhetorical Theory: Discourse, Identity, Difference (Spring 2017-Present)

COMM 3314: Seminar in Public Argument: Rhetoric of Populism (Spring 2019-Present)

COMM 2218: Contemporary Rhetorical Theory: Rhetoric and Sovereignty (Spring 2020-Present)

University of Iowa, Department of Communication Studies, Iowa City, Iowa

COMM 456: Theory and Practice of Argument (Spring 2008-Fall 2010)

COMM 568: Contemporary Social and Rhetorical Theory (Fall 2009)

COMM 223: Persuasive Communication (Spring 2009)

COMM 337: Elements of Debate (Fall 2008)

COMM 353: Interpersonal Communication (Fall 2007)

COMM 546: Politics of Popular Culture (Fall 2010)

Debate Pedagogy

Xylum Debate Institute, High School Student Lab Leader, Towson University, Towson, Maryland (Summer 2013-Present)

Spartan Debate Institute, High School Student Lab Leader, Michigan State University, Lansing, Michigan (Summer 2004-Summer 2007, Summer 2010-Present)

University of Iowa National Institute in Forensics, High School Student Lab Leader, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa (Summer 2009-Summer 2010)

Miami of Ohio Debate Institute, High School Student Lab Leader, Miami of Ohio, Oxford, Ohio (Summer 2008)

Samford Debate Institute, High School Student Lab Leader, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama (Summer 2005-Summer 2006)

SERVICE

Departmental Service

Chair of Donald Egolf Award Committee (Spring 2017-Spring 2020)

Member of Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Life (Spring 2018-Present)

Job Proposal Presenter, Dietrich School Faculty Gathering (Spring 2018)

Member of Associate Director of Debate Search Committee (Fall/Spring 2018-2019)

NCA Party Planning, with Lauri Freund (Fall 2017)

Member of Agora Committee (Fall 2015-Present)

Co-Organizer, with Brent Malin, Caitlin Bruce, and Johanna Hartelius, Professional Development Series (Fall 2016-Present)

Organizer and Secured Funds for Jeff Bennett Agora (Spring 2018)

Member of Nominating Committee, Public Address Division, National Communication Association (Fall 2016-Present)

Member of Associate Director of Debate Search Committee, (Spring 2016)

Member of Donald Egolf Award Committee (Spring 2016)

Member of Agora Committee, Department of Communication, University of Pittsburgh (Fall 2015-Present)

Member of Ad Hoc Committee on Deliberation and Civic Life, Department of Communication, University of Pittsburgh (Fall 2015-Spring 2016)

Tour Leader, University of Pittsburgh, Prospective Graduate Student Visitation Weekend (Spring 2012)

Member of Graduate Affairs Committee, University of Iowa (Fall 2010)

Member of Graduate Student Advisory Committee, University of Iowa (Fall 2008-Spring 2010)

Member of Job Search Committee, University of Iowa (Fall 2008)

Disciplinary Service

Reviewer, *Rhetoric Studies Quarterly* (Summer 2020-present)

Reviewer, *Western Journal of Communication*, (Summer 2020)

Reviewer, *International Journal of Communication*, (Summer 2020-present)

Reviewer, *Contemporary Political Theory*, (Spring 2020)

Reviewer, *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, (Summer 2020)

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication* (Fall 2019)

Editorial Board Member, *Women's Studies in Communication* (Spring 2019)

Reviewer, *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies* (Fall 2018)

Reviewer, *Communication, Culture, and Critique* (Spring 2018)

Reviewer, *Men and Masculinities* (Spring 2018)

Reviewer, Rhetoric Society of America Conference (Summer 2017-Present)

Ad Hoc Paper Reviewer, *Norma* (Fall 2016-Present)

Paper Reviewer, Rhetoric and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association (2015-Present)

Reviewer, Rhetoric Society of America Conference Proceedings (Fall 2016-Present)

Ad Hoc Paper Reviewer, *Quarterly Journal of Speech* (Spring 2015-Present)

Ad Hoc Paper Reviewer, American Society for History of Rhetoric (April 2012—Present)

Ad Hoc Paper Reviewer, *Review of Communication*. (March 2012—Present)

Ad Hoc Paper Reviewer, *Kaleidoscope*. (March 2012—Present)

Head Organizer and Host, 2011 Midwest Winter Workshop at University of Iowa, (Winter 2011)

Ad Hoc Paper Reviewer, *Journal on the Project of Rhetoric of Inquiry*, (September 2011-Present)

Paper Reviewer, American Studies Division, National Communication Association (Fall 2009-Present)

Paper Reviewer, Psychoanalysis Division, National Communication Association (Spring 2010)

Ad Hoc Paper Reviewer, *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, University of Iowa (Spring 2009-Present)

Paper Reviewer, Student Section, National Communication Association (Spring-2010)

Vice President and Unit Planner, Psychoanalysis Division, National Communication Association, (Fall-Spring 2008-2009)

University Service

Member, Iris Marion Young Award Committee (Fall 2017)

Attendee, Prospective Deans Talks (Spring 2017)

Graduate Student Service

Adviser, Reed Van Schenk (MA Candidate)

Co-Chair, Dissertation Committee, Kailyn Haynal (PhD Candidate)

Committee Member, Robin Zwier (PhD Candidate)

Committee Member, Charles Athansapolous (MA)

Committee Member, Rishi Chebrolu (MA)

Committee Member, Corinne Sugino (BA)

Committee Member, Sydney Pasquinelli (PhD)

Committee Member, Niq D. Johnson (PhD)

Debate Service

Host and Planner, Annual Hochmuth Invitational Round Robin (Winter 2012-Spring 2016)

Researcher, Topic Committee (Summer 2011)

Participant, Public Debates, "This House Should Persecute Steroid Use in American Sports", "Ethanol Subsidies Should be Abolished by the Government," A. Craig Baird Debating Forum, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa (Fall 2007-Fall 2010)

Professional Affiliations

Americans Forensics Association

National Communication Association

Rhetoric Society of America

Eastern Communication Association

Southern Communication Association