

Curriculum Vitae Kirt H. Wilson

Associate Professor
Communication Arts & Sciences
Pennsylvania State University
234 Sparks Building
University Park, PA 16801

814.865.1985: *Phone*
814.863.7985: *Fax*

kirtwilson@psu.edu *Email Address*

Degrees

- Ph.D., Northwestern University of Evanston, Illinois (1991-1995)
Awarded in rhetorical studies with an emphasis on U.S. public discourse, African American rhetoric, argument theory, and rhetorical criticism.
- M.A., Purdue University of Indiana, West Lafayette (1989-1991)
Awarded in rhetorical studies with an emphasis on contemporary political persuasion, public affairs and crisis/issue management.

Appointments

- Associate Professor: The Pennsylvania State University—University Park (2010-Present)**
Graduate Program Director and Officer, Communication Arts and Sciences (2011-2014, 2017-2019)
Affiliate Faculty, African American Studies Department, (2017-Present)
Graduate Faculty, Communication Arts and Sciences (2010-Present)
- Associate Professor: University of Minnesota—Minneapolis Campus (2003-2010)**
Graduate Faculty, Communication Studies Department (1996-2010)
Faculty in the graduate minor in Literacy and Rhetorical Studies (2000-2010)
Adjunct Faculty, African American & African Studies (2007-2010)
Director of Graduate Studies (2005-2008)
Director of Undergraduate Studies and Department Honors Program (2003-2005)
- Assistant Professor: University of Minnesota—Minneapolis Campus (1996-2003)**

Awards and Honors

- Bernard L. Brock Honoree and Lecturer.* An honor given annually by Wayne State University, 2018.
- Malvin E. and Lea P. Bank Outstanding Teaching Award,* College of Liberal Arts, Penn State University, 2017.
- Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture,* National Communication Association, 2016.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration Keynote Address,* Syracuse University, 2011.
- CIC Academic Leadership Program Fellow,* a fellowship that prepares faculty of Big Ten institutions for administrative positions in the academy, 2008-2009.
- Libra Diversity Fellow,* a University of Maine fellowship that brings professors to campus for public presentations and class lectures, Fall 2007.
- Michael Osborn Honoree and Lecturer,* an honor given annually by the University of Memphis, 2006.

- McKnight Presidential Fellow*, a University of Minnesota honor that provides three years of research funding to four recently tenured members of the faculty, 2004-2007.
- James A. Winans-Hebert A. Wichelns Memorial Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Rhetoric and Public Address*, a national book award sponsored by the National Communication Association. Awarded for *The Reconstruction Desegregation Debate*, 2003.
- Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Public Address* a national book award sponsored by the Public Address Division of the National Communication Association. Awarded for *The Reconstruction Desegregation Debate*, 2003.
- Karl R. Wallace Memorial Award*, a national research award sponsored by the National Communication Association, 2002.
- Arthur "Red" Motley Exemplary Teaching Award*, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota, 2002.
- New Investigator Award*, a national research award sponsored by the Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division of the National Communication Association, 2001.
- Recognition of Research Award* from the Black Caucus and African American Communication and Culture Division of the National Communication Association, November 6, 1999.
- Recognition of Research Award* from the Black Caucus and African American Communication and Culture Division of the National Communication Association, November 23, 1998.
- President's Faculty Multicultural Research Award*, University of Minnesota, 1997-1998. Competitive University-wide award that provides a two-year research grant.
- Dissertation Award*, Northwestern University School of Speech, May, 1996.
- Provost Fellow*, Northwestern University, 1994-1995.
- University Scholar*, Northwestern University, 1994-1995.
- Minority Student Fellowship*, Northwestern University, 1991.
- University Fellowship for Minority Students*, Purdue University 1989-1991.

Publications

Books

- Making the Case: Advocacy and Judgment in Public Argument*. Co-editor with Kathryn Olson, Michael Pfau, and Ben Ponder. East Lansing: Michigan State Press, 2012. 260 pgs., incl. bibl. and index.
- The Sage Handbook of Rhetoric*. Associate Editor with Rosa Eberly and Editor Andrea Lunsford. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press, 2009. 668 pgs., incl. bib. and index.
- Reconstruction's Desegregation Debate: The Politics of Equality and the Rhetoric of Place, 1870-1875*. East Lansing: Michigan State Press, 2002. 276 pgs., incl. bib. and index.

Articles and Book Chapters

- Balancing Growth and Collegiality: Reflections on the Inaugural RSA Summer Project at the University of Nevada, Reno. *Review of Communication*. In Press, 2020. (DOI: 10.1080/15358593.2020.1737203).

- Theory/Criticism: A Functionalist Approach to the ‘Specific Intellectual’ Work of Rhetorical Criticism. *Western Journal of Communication*, (published online 2019): 1-17 (DOI: 10.1080/10570314.2019.1696982).
- Political Paradoxes and the Black Jeremiad: Frederick Douglass’s Immanent Theory of Rhetorical Protest. *Howard Journal of Communication* 29 (2018): 243-257 (DOI:10.1080/10646175.2018.1461714).
- Authentic Imitation or Perverse Original: Learning about Race from America’s Popular Platforms. Co-authored with Kaitlyn Paita in *Thinking Together: Lecturing, Learning, & Difference in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Edited by Angela Ray and Paul Staub. State College: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2018. 72-94.
- Dreams of Union, Days of Conflict: Communicating Social Justice and Civil Rights Memory in the Age of Barack Obama. Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Keynote Lecture Washington D.C.: National Communication Association and Pearson Press, 2016.
- The Intimate and Ugly Politics of Emancipation. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 18 (2015): 121-127.
- The National and Cosmopolitan Dimensions of Disciplinarity: Reconsidering the Origins of Communication Studies. *Quarterly Journal of Speech*. 101 (2015): 244-257.
- Decorum and the Legacy of Michael Leff. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 13 (2010): 699-705.
- Debating the Great Emancipator: Abraham Lincoln and our Public Memory. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 13 (2010): 455-479.
- The Racial Contexts of Public Address: Reconstruction Violence as Text and Context. in the *Handbook of Rhetoric and Public Address*. Edited by Michael Hogan and Shawn J. Parry-Giles. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell Press, 2010. 205-228.
- Introduction. In *The Sage Handbook of Rhetoric*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press, 2009, xi-xxix. Co-authored with Andrea Lunsford and Rosa Eberly.
- Introduction: The Common Goods of Public Discourse. In *The Sage Handbook of Rhetoric*. Edited by Andrea Lunsford, Kirt H. Wilson, and Rosa Eberly. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press, 2009, 423-431. Co-authored with Rosa Eberly.
- The Problem with Public Memory: President Benjamin Harrison Confronts the “Southern Question.” In *Before the Rhetorical Presidency*. Edited by Martin J. Medhurst. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2008, 267-288.
- Rhetoric and Race in American Experience: The Promises and Perils of Sentimental Memory. In *Sizing Up Rhetoric*. Edited by David Zarefsky and Elizabeth Benacka. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, 2008. 20-39.
- The Contested Space of Prudence: An Analysis of the 1875 Civil Rights Act. *Reprinted essay in Readings on Political Communication*. State College, PA: Strata, 2007.
- Interpreting the Discursive Fields of the Montgomery Bus Boycott: Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Holt Street Address,” *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 8 (2005): 299-326.
- The Politics of Place and Presidential Rhetoric in the United States, 1875-1901. In *Civil Rights Rhetoric and the American Presidency*. Edited by James Arnt Aune and Enrique D. Riggsby. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2005, 16-40.
- Is There Any Interest in Reconciliation? *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 7 (2004): 367-406.

- The Racial Politics of Imitation in the Nineteenth Century. *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 89 (2003): 89-108. *Lead Article*.
- African-American Abolitionist Rhetoric. *Encyclopedia of Rhetoric*. Edited by Thomas O. Sloane. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001, 7-11.
- The Paradox of Lincoln's Rhetorical Leadership. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 3 (2000): 15-32.
- Emerson, Transcendental Prudence, and the Legacy of Senator Charles Sumner. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 2 (1999): 453-479.
- Toward a Discursive Theory of Racial Identity: *The Souls of Black Folk* as a Response to Nineteenth-Century Biological Determinism. *Western Journal of Communication* 63 (1999): 193-215.
- The Contested Space of Prudence: An Analysis of the 1875 Civil Rights Act. *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 84 (1998): 131-149, *Lead Article*.
- And Equality for All: The Foundations of African American Civil Rights Argument. *Argumentation and Values: the Proceedings of the Ninth SCA/AFA Conference on Argumentation*. Edited by Sally Jackson. Annandale, Speech Communication Association, (1995): 204-212.
- Our Common Fight Against Greed: The Drive Towards Association in "Of the Wings of Atalanta." *Iowa Journal of Communication* 27 (1995): 3-18.

Book Reviews

- John B. Hatch. *Race and Reconciliation: Redressing Wounds of Injustice* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009). Reviewed in *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 41 (2011): 495-502.
- Harold Holzer and Sara Vaughn Gabbard, *Lincoln and Freedom: Slavery, Emancipation, and the Thirteenth Amendment* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2007). Reviewed in the *Journal of American History* 95 (2008): 544-545.
- Allen C. Guelzo, *Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America* (Simon & Schuster, 2004). Reviewed in the *Journal of American History* 91 (2005): 1465-1466.
- Brooks D. Simpson, *The Reconstruction Presidents* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1998). Review in *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 2 (1999): 516-518.
- Thomas W. Benson, ed. *Rhetoric and Political Culture in Nineteenth-Century America* (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1997). Review in *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 84 (1998): 258-259.

Dissertation

- Race, Rights, and Equality: A Rhetorical Analysis of the Congressional Debate over the Civil Rights Act of 1875. Ph.D. diss., Northwestern University, December, 1995. Directed by Michael Leff.

In Process

- Norton Anthology of Rhetoric and Writing.

I am a co-editor of this volume to be published by Norton Press. Specifically, I am in charge of assembling approximately 30 primary documents and writing the head-notes and a critical essay that focus on the development of rhetorical theory and practice in the Twentieth Century.

Memories of the Movement: How America's Recollection of the Civil Rights Movement Shapes Racial Politics Today.

This book length manuscript argues that the memorial industry that commemorates the modern civil rights movement generates its social and personal influence from a sentimental aesthetic that simultaneously recognizes black oppression while it undermines activist efforts to ameliorate racism.

Keynote Addresses and Titled Lectureships

- “Confronting America’s Racial Paradox: The Civil Rights Movement in Popular Film and Political Imagination,” Bernard L. Brock Lecture, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, March 27, 2018.
- “Teaching as the Art & Science of Communication,” Malvin E. and Lea P. Bank Lecture, Pennsylvania State University, April 7, 2017.
- “Dreams of Union, Days of Conflict: Communicating Social Justice and Civil Rights Memory in the Age of Barack Obama,” Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Keynote Lecture, National Communication Association, 102nd Annual Convention in Philadelphia, PA, November 11, 2016.
- “Remaking Cosmopolitanism, Re-membling the Civil Rights Movement,” Keynote Address, Midwest Winter Workshop, Northwestern University, January 31, 2015.
- “Making the Invisible, Visible: Communication’s Potential to Change US Race Relations,” Keynote Address at “2012 Communication Days,” University of Colorado, Denver, April 11, 2012.
- “Memories of the King: How the Memorialization of the Civil Rights Movement is Shaping American Culture and Race Relations.” Keynote Address, “Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,” St. Johns University and the College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN, January 18, 2012.
- “What Does it Mean to be an Heir of the King?” Keynote Address, “2011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration,” Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, January 23, 2011.
- “More than Civil Rights: The Fight for Black Freedom as a Human Rights Struggle.” Keynote Address, 12th Biennial Public Address Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, September 30, 2010.
- “Racial Legacies and Racial Amnesias: The Persistence of Racial Violence in US Public Culture,” with Professor Lisa Flores as the Libra Diversity Lecture, University of Maine, October 17, 2007.
- “Public Memory, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Sentiment of Death,” presented as the 2006 Michael Osborn Lecture, University of Memphis, October 27, 2006.
- “Rhetoric and Race in the American Experience: The Promises and Perils of Sentimental Memory,” Keynote address presented at the biennial Rhetoric Society of America Conference, National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN May 27, 2006.

Research Presentations, Conferences, and Public Lectures (2016-2019)

- “Cosmopolitan Possibilities and National Dreams: Discovering Civil Rights Identities in the *Who Speaks for the Negro* Digital Archive.” Panel Presentation at the National Humanities Conference, Honolulu, HI, November 8, 2019.

- “How to Study Civil Rights Memorials.” Panel Presentation for the Public Address Division. Southern Communication Association Conference, Montgomery, AL, April 6, 2019.
- “The Absence of Evidence.” Panel Presentation for the Public Address Division. National Communication Association Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, November 11, 2018.
- “The Possibilities of Racial Rhetorical Criticism in Public Address.” A response to Professor Eric King Watt’s Keynote Address, 16th Biennial Public Address Conference, University of Colorado, Boulder, September 27, 2018.
- “Developing a Diverse Academic Community of Inclusion and Excellence,” Workshop presentation with graduate students Morgan Johnson and Nikki Orth for Camp Rhetoric, at the Pennsylvania State University, March 31, 2018.
- “Du Bois and *Dark Water*.” A response to the panel: Du Bois’s Dark Voices, National Communication Association Convention, Dallas, TX, November 16, 2017.
- “Confronting America’s Racial Paradox: The Civil Rights Movement in Popular Film and Political Imagination,” an invited research presentation for the departments of Communication, Africana, History, Political Science, and the Arthur Bambridge Wyse Endowed Lectureship at Wooster College, Wooster, IN, October 24, 2017.
- “Paradox and the Black Jeremiad: Frederick Douglass’s Immanent Theory of Rhetorical Protest,” a plenary paper presented at the Fourth Annual Frederick Douglass Symposium, Sponsored by The Frederick Douglass Papers, Indiana University Purdue University in Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN, October 20, 2016.

Teaching Responsibilities and Courses

Associate Professor, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park Communication Arts & Sciences Department

- Rhetoric, Race, and Identity (CAS 507, Graduate Seminar).
- Social Movements and Political Contention (CAS 506, Graduate Seminar)
- Textual Analysis and Criticism (CAS 503, Graduate Seminar)
- Race and Memory in Public Consciousness (CAS 507, Graduate Seminar)
- Rhetorical Criticism (CAS 311, Undergraduate lecture course)
- Public Address: Rhetoric of the 1960s (CAS 475, Undergraduate lecture course)
- African American Culture and Communication (CAS 422 and AF AM 422, Undergraduate lecture course.).
- African American Civil Rights Rhetoric (CAS 478, Undergraduate lecture course).
- Presidential Rhetoric in the Age of Obama (CAS 297A, Undergraduate lecture course).
- Introduction to Human Communication (CAS 101N, Undergraduate lecture course).

Graduate advising at The Pennsylvania State University

- Nikki Orth, Ph.D. adviser, (Fall 2018-Present)
- Morgan Johnson, Ph.D. adviser, (Fall 2016-Present)
- D’Angelo Bridges, Ph.D. outside committee member (Spring 2019-Present)

Michael Young, Ph.D. outside committee member (Spring 2019-Present)
 Dominic Manthey, Ph.D., committee member (Fall 2015-Present)
 Caroline Koons, Ph.D. committee member (Fall 2015-Present)
 Kaitlyn Patia, Ph.D. adviser, completed (Fall 2013-Fall, 2019)
 Sophie Maier, M.A. committee member, completed (Spring 2017 – Spring 2019)
 John Rountree, Ph.D. adviser, completed (Fall 2015-March 2019)
 Nikki Orth, M.A. adviser, completed (Fall 2015-October 2018)
 Bre Mapston, M.A. committee member, completed (Spring 2017-Spring 2018)
 Keren Wang, Ph.D. committee member, completed (Spring 2014-Spring 2018)
 Lauren Camancci, Ph.D. committee member, completed (Fall 2015-Fall 2017)
 Kyle King, English Ph.D. outside committee member, completed (Spring 2014-Summer 2017)
 Emily Hobbs, Ph.D. adviser, withdrew from program (Fall 2015-Spring 2016)
 Laura Brown, English Ph.D. outside committee member, completed (Spring 2014-Fall 2016)
 Brad Serber, Ph.D. committee member, completed (Fall 2014-May 2016)
 Anne Kretsinger-Harries, Ph.D. adviser, completed (Fall 2011-March 2016)
 Emily Hobbs, MA adviser, completed (Fall 2013-June 2015)
 Bernardita Yunis, M.A. adviser, completed (Fall 2010-June 2015)
 Craig Rood, Ph.D. committee member, completed (Fall 2012-May 2015)
 Dominic Manthy, M.A. committee member, completed (Fall 2013-May 2015)
 Bonnie Seirlecki, Ph.D. committee member, completed (Fall 2014-March 2015)
 Billy Saas, Ph.D., committee member, completed (Spring 2011-Summer 2014)
 Brittany Brown, College of Communications, MA outside committee member, completed (Spring 2013-Spring 2014)
 Lauren Camancci, MA adviser, completed (Fall 2011-Spring 2014)
 Mark Hlavacik, Ph.D., committee member, completed (Fall 2010-Spring 2014)
 Cory Geraths, MA, committee member, completed (Spring 2012-Fall 2013)

Undergraduate advising at The Pennsylvania State University

Briana Adams, Honors Thesis, adviser, completed (Spring 2015-April 2016)
 Elizabeth Rush, Honors Thesis, adviser, completed (Spring 2015-April 2016)
 Marisa Faimow, Honors Thesis, adviser, completed (Fall 2013-April 2015)

Professional Service and Activities 2013 - 2019

National Administrative Responsibilities and Positions

President, Rhetoric Society of America, May 2018—June 2019.

Chair and Director, Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference, Minneapolis, MN, May 30 – June 3, 2018

President-Elect, Rhetoric Society of America, May 2016—May 2018

Chair, Publications Committee, Rhetoric Society of America, Spring 2014 – May 2016.

Board of Directors Member, Rhetoric Society of America, December, 2011 – May 2016.

Co-Chair, Centennial Celebration Series!, National Communication Association, 2013-2014.

University and Departmental Service

Service to the Pennsylvania State University

Faculty Board, Penn State University Press, Fall 2019—Present.

Co-organizer, Liberal Arts Graduate Student Organization to Enhance and Support Diversity, College of Liberal Arts, Fall 2017—2018

Legendary Liberal Arts Course Incubator (LLACI) working group directed by Dr. Eric Hayot, College of Liberal Arts, Fall 2017—2018

Humanities Institute, College of Liberal Arts, Fall 2016—2018

Graduate Studies Awards Committee, College of Liberal Arts, Fall 2014—Spring 2017

Board member for the Center for Democratic Deliberation, Fall 2010 – Spring 2017

Co-chair of Multidepartment Search Committee, College of Liberal Arts, Fall 2015

Strategic Development Committee member for the newly formed African American Studies Department, Liberal Arts, Penn State University, Fall 2011

Search committee member for a Head of the African and African American Studies Department, Liberal Arts, Penn State University, Fall 2010-Winter 2011

Departmental Service, the Pennsylvania State University

Graduate Studies Officer and Director, 2011—2014, 2017—2019

Graduate Committee, Fall 2010 – Spring 2011; Committee Chair, 2011—2014, 2017—Present

Promotion and Tenure Committee, Spring 2017—2018

Undergraduate Committee Member, Spring 2015 – 2017

Co-Chair, CAS Colloquium Committee, Fall 2014 – April 2015

Dept. Advisory Committee, Fall 2011 – April 2015, Fall 2019 - Present

Rhetoric Job Search Committee, Fall 2014

Basic Course Director Internal Search Committee, Fall 2011