

Robert Elliot Mills

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Education

- Ph.D. Northwestern University, Communication Studies, March 2018
Program in Rhetoric and Public Culture
Certificate in Critical Theory
Dissertation Title: "Piracy and the American Sovereign Imaginary"
Advisor: Angela G. Ray, Ph.D.
- M.A. Georgia State University, Communication, August 2011
Human Communication and Social Influence
Thesis Title: "Rhetoric and Rupture: A Theory of the Event"
Advisor: Mary E. Stuckey, Ph.D.
- B.A. Emory University, Philosophy, May 2008

Academic Appointments

- Assistant Teaching Professor, The Pennsylvania State University, 2019-
Lecturer and Director of Public Speaking, Northwestern University, 2018-2019
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 2011-2017.

Awards and Honors

- Communication Studies Graduate Dissertation Award, Northwestern University, 2018.
Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Visiting Research Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, 2015.
Presidential Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2014-2016.
Kaplan Institute for the Humanities Graduate Affiliate, Northwestern University. 2014-2015.
Top Paper, Student Division, NCA National Convention, 2010.

Publications in Preparation

Book Manuscripts:

The Pirate and the Sovereign: On the Rhetoric of the Nation-State, proposal in preparation for submission to California, Stanford, or Columbia.

Journal Articles:

"Waiting Before the Law: Supreme Court Oral Argument in American Public Culture," for submission to *Argumentation & Advocacy*

"Post-Public Address" for submission to *The Quarterly Journal of Speech*

Refereed Publications

Ray, Angela G. and Robert Elliot Mills. "Reading Freaks: Trump in an Analogical Hermeneutic Network" in *Networking Argument*. Edited by Carol C. Winkler. New York: Routledge, forthcoming [anticipated 2019].

Mills, Robert Elliot. "The Pirate and the Sovereign: Negative-Identification and the Constitutive Rhetoric of the Nation State" *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 17 (2014): 105-136.

Mills, Robert Elliot. "Sublime Argument: Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project" in *Reasoned Argument and Social Change*. Ed. Robert C. Rowland (National Communication Association, 2011) p. 609-616.

Competitive Conference Presentations

"A Paper Terrorist's Grimoire: On the Magic Words of Sovereign Citizens," accepted to Rhetoric Society of America Conference. May, 2020.

"From Sovereign Recognition to Sovereign Marks: Nicholas Maduro, Juan Gerardo Guiado, and the Redefinition of Sovereign Legitimacy," first author, with Stephen J. Heidt, Alta Conference on Argumentation, 2019.

"Reading Freaks: Barnumism, Trumpism, and Transhistorical Hermeneutic Networks" with Angela G. Ray, who is first author, Alta Conference on Argumentation, 2017.

"Jurisdiction: The Expanding Empire of Sovereignty" Rhetoric Society of America Conference. May 2016

"Evidence of Possible Futures" National Communication Association National Convention, Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division. November 2015

"Who Will Kill the Plattsburgh Pirates? Law and Society in Boston's 'Public Mind'" Alta Conference on Argumentation, 2015

"Heidegger, Affect, Rhetoric" Western States Communication Association, Public Address Interest Group. February 2015

"Waiting Before the Law: The Performance of Argument at the Supreme Court" National Communication Association National Convention, Public Address Division. November 2013

"Law and the Sublime Figure of Terror" National Communication Association National Convention, Critical/Cultural Studies Division. November 2013

"Performing Supreme Court Oral Argument" Alta Conference on Argumentation. August 2013

"The Pirate and the Sovereign" Central States Communication Association Convention. April 2013

"The Harmonious Vocalics of Judicial Unanimity: Authorship and Legitimacy in *Cooper v. Aaron*" National Communication Association National Convention, Public Address Division. November 2012

"Being and Text: Truman Revealing the Atomic Bomb" National Communication Association National Convention, Public Address Division. November, 2011

"Sublime Argument: Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project" Alta Conference on Argumentation. July, 2011.

"The Rhetoric of Censorship – Changes in Advocacy" National Communication Association National Convention, Student Division. November, 2010. Award: Top Paper in Division.

Invited Lectures

"Piracy and the Doctrine of Universal Jurisdiction." Northwestern University Presidential Fellowship Induction Dinner. April 2016.

"Unlimiting the Sovereign," School of Communication Winter Symposium, Northwestern University. February 2016.

Courses Taught

The Pennsylvania State University

- CAS100A, Effective Communication, 2019-2020.

Northwestern

- COMM_ST 104, Argumentation & Debate, Spring 2014 (TA).
- COMM_ST 102, Public Speaking, 2013-2014, 2018.
- COMM_ST 394, Rhetoric of Law, Winter 2019.
- COMM_ST 220, Theories of Argumentation, Spring 2019.

Other Relevant Employment

- Acquisitions Coordinator, Northwestern University Press. 2018.

Professional Service and Activity

- Editorial Board, 21st Biennial NCA/AFA Conference on Argumentation (Alta, UT), 2019.
- Editorial Board, 20th Biennial NCA/AFA Conference on Argumentation (Alta, UT), 2017.
- Member, University Taskforce on Global Strategy, Northwestern University, 2015-2016.
- Co-Organizer, with Elisabeth Kinsley, 2015 Midwest Winter Workshop.
- Coordinator, 2015 Rhetoric and Public Culture Summer Institutes (Northwestern University): Rhetoric, Politics, and the Affective Turn.
- Coordinator, 2014 Rhetoric and Public Culture Summer Institutes (Northwestern University): Rhetoric, Politics, and the Affective Turn.
- Conference Submission Referee, Public Address Division of the National Communication Association, 2012, 2015, 2019
- Director, Congressional Debate Division, Barkley Forum for High Schools, Emory University. 2008-2012.
- Volunteer Instructor, Atlanta Urban Debate League Debate Center, Georgia State University. 2007-2008.
- Instructor, Emory National Debate Institute, Emory University, 2005.

Professional Memberships

National Communication Association

- Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division
- Communication and Critical Cultural Studies Division
- Public Address Division
- Caucus on LGBTQ+ Concerns

Rhetoric Society of America

References

Angela G. Ray (Dissertation Advisor)
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Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, The Graduate School
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