

## **Lisa Ellen Silvestri, PhD**

119 Gas Light Circle, State College, PA 16801  
[les196@psu.edu](mailto:les196@psu.edu) (215) 806-5722

### **Education**

PhD: University of Iowa  
Program: Communication Studies  
Degree Awarded: May 2014

MA: Indiana University  
Program: Communication and Culture  
Degree Awarded: May 2008

BA: Indiana University  
School: Journalism  
Degree Awarded: May 2006

### **Professional Appointments**

2022-Present Associate Professor of teaching, Communication Arts & Sciences, Pennsylvania State University  
2019-2022 Associate Professor with tenure, Communication Studies, Gonzaga University  
2014-2019 Assistant Professor, Communication Studies, Gonzaga University  
2013-2014 Veteran Employment Research Coordinator, Halfaker & Associates  
2008-2009 Lecturer, Communication Arts Department, State University of New York College at Oneonta

### **Teaching Positions**

2022-Present Associate Professor of Teaching, Communication Arts & Sciences, Penn State University  
2019-2022 Associate Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Gonzaga University  
2014-2018 Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Gonzaga University  
2009-2013 Graduate Instructor, Department of Rhetoric and Communication Studies Department, The University of Iowa  
2010-2012 Speech Tutor and ESL Consultant, The Speaking Center, The University of Iowa  
Sum. 2011 French Instructor, The Upward Bound Project, Center for Diversity and Enrichment, University of Iowa  
2008-2009 Full-time Lecturer, Communication Arts Department, State University of New York College at Oneonta  
2006-2008 Associate Instructor, Communication & Culture Department, Indiana University

### **Courses Taught**

Communication Theory	Contemporary Public Address
Interpersonal and Small Group Communication	The Politics of Popular Culture
Public Speaking/Effective Speech	The Art of Persuading Others
Honors Rhetoric	Rhetorical Criticism
Introduction to Human Communication	Digital Culture and the Networked Self
Ethnographic Methods	Communication Studies Senior Seminar
Persuasion in Everyday Life	Telling War, A First-Year Seminar
Gender Communication	Analyzing Habits and Practices
Communication Research Methods	Understanding Meaning-Making

## **Grants and Fellowships**

2019 Gonzaga University Scholars for Mission Fellowship, \$1,500  
2017 National Endowment for the Humanities: Dialogues on the Experience of War, \$99,663  
2016 College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Development Award, \$1,380  
2016 Gonzaga University Research Council Award, \$1,200  
2015 Center for Teaching and Advising Travel Grant, \$1,300  
2013 Ballard Seashore Dissertation Year Fellowship, \$18,000  
2012 Perlmutter Starch Professorship Fund, \$1,200  
2010 Obermann Graduate Fellow, Obermann Institute for Civic Engagement, \$5,000

## **Awards & Honors**

2018 Recipient, 1st Lieutenant Matthew G. Fazzari Memorial Award  
2017 Student-Nominated Faculty Inductee, Alpha Sigma Nu, Jesuit Honors Society  
2016 Recipient, James W. Carey Media Research Book Award  
2015 Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR) Dissertation Award  
2015 Recipient, Herbert S. Dordick Award, International Communication Association, Communication and Technology Division  
2013 Recipient, Top Student Paper, National Communication Association, Kenneth Burke Society  
2013 Honorary Associate, CMM Institute for Personal and Social Evolution  
2012 Recipient, The Department of Communication Studies Dissertation Research Award  
2012 Invited Participant, NCA Doctoral Honors Seminar “Communication in Contexts: Disciplinary Inquiry and Social Change,” Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism, University of Southern California  
2011 Invited Participant, Honors Doctoral Seminar “Visual Rhetoric and Public Culture,” conducted by Dr. John Lucaites at Wayne State University  
2011 Outstanding Graduate Assistant, University of Iowa Graduate College Council on Teaching  
2010 Interdisciplinary PhD Certificate, Project on the Rhetoric of Inquiry Program (POROI), The University of Iowa Graduate College  
2009 Recipient, “Outstanding Faculty Member,” SUNY College at Oneonta, Inter-Greek Council Faculty Recognition  
2006 NCAA Academic All American  
2005 Recipient, Ernie Pyle Journalism Scholarship, Indiana University

## **Peer-Reviewed Research Publications**

### **Books**

*Peace by Peace: Risking Public Action, Creating Social Change.* The University of South Carolina Press, forthcoming 2024  
*Friended at the Front: Social Media in The American Warzone.* The University Press of Kansas, 2015.\*  
[\*Winner of 2016 James W. Carey Media Research Award]

### **Editorial Experience**

Co-Editor with Casey Schmitt, *The Western Journal of Communication Studies* 2023-2026  
Editorial Board Member, Veteran Studies Book Series, The University of South Carolina Press, 2023-present  
Guest Editor, *The Journal of Hate Studies* 17.1 (2021): 1-156.  
Editorial Board Member, *The Journal of Hate Studies*, 2016- present  
Editorial Board Member, *Digital Doxa*, 2018- present  
Guest Editor with David D. Perlmutter, “Domestic Images in a Globally Networked Era,” *Visual Communication*

*Quarterly* 20.3 (2013): 1-190.

### **Journal Articles**

- “Standing Down, Standing Together: Coalition-Building at Standing Rock,” *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 26.1(2023): 73-100
- “War:Time,” *International Relations*, 36.4 (2022): 682-682
- “Precarity, Nihilism, Grace.” *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, 24.2 (2021): 360-377.
- “Start Where You Are: Building Cairns of Collaborative Memory.” *Memory Studies*, 14.2 (2021): 275-287.
- “Memeingful Memories and the Art of Resistance.” *New Media and Society*, 20.4 (2018): 1-20.
- “Mortars and Memes: Participating in Pop Culture from a War Zone.” *Media, War, & Conflict*, 9.1 (2016): 27-42.
- “Shiny Happy People Holding Guns: 21st Century Images of War.” *Visual Communication Quarterly*, 20.2 (2014): 106-118.
- “Surprise Homecomings and Vicarious Sacrifices.” *Media, War & Conflict*, 6.2 (2013): 101-115.
- “A Rhetorical Forecast.” *The Review of Communication*, 13.2 (2013): 127-142. [\*Highlighted by Spectra in September 2013]
- “Together We Stand, Divided We Fall: Building Alliances with Combat Veterans.” *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 95.3 (2012): 284-308.
- “Interplay of Mythic Conceptions of Democracy in Congressional Deliberations over the USA PATRIOT Act.” *Journal of Critical Approaches to Discourse Analysis Across Disciplines*, 5.1 (2011): 62-72. [\*Highlighted by *The Atlantic’s* “Omnivore Book Forum” on May 29, 2012]

### **Book Chapters**

- “The Welcoming: War Resistance and Transnational Memory in British Columbia.” In *Experiencing War Memorials: Place, Feeling, and Public Memory*, ed. Jennifer Ladino, pp XX. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, forthcoming.
- “Memory, Security, and Communication.” In *The International Communication Association Handbook of Communication and Security*, ed. Bryan Taylor and Hamilton Bean, pp. 300-315. New York: Taylor and Francis, 2019.
- “Telling the Truth about War in Six Words.” In *Truth in the Public Sphere*, ed. Jason Hannan, 135-146. Lexington Books, 2016.
- “Context Drives Method: Studying Social Media Use in a Warzone.” In *Text & Field: Innovations in Rhetorical Method*, eds. Sara L. McKinnon, Robert Asen, Karma R. Chavez, and Robert Glenn Howard, 163-176. Pennsylvania State University Press, 2016.
- “Always On Duty: Managing US Marines on Social Media.” In *A Communicative Perspective on the Military: Messages Strategies and Meanings*, eds. Erin Sahlstein and Lynne M. Webb, 275-292. New York: Peter Lang, 2015.

### **Encyclopedia Entries**

- “War Communication.” *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Communication Research Methods*, ed. Mike Allen, 1875-1877. Sage Publications, 2017.

### **Book Reviews**

- Rev. of *Warrior Ways: Explorations in Modern Military Folklore*. *Res Militaris*, 11.1(2021): 1-5.
- Rev. of *War is Beautiful*. *Media, War & Conflict* 9.3 (2016): 345-348.
- Rev. of *Digital Anthropology*. *Mobile Media & Communication* 2.3 (2014): 372-374.
- Rev. of *Memes and Digital Culture*. *Popular Communication: The International Journal of Media and Culture* 12.1 (2014): 198-200.

Rev. of The Breakup 2.0: Disconnecting Over New Media. *The Journal of Popular Culture* 45.2 (2012): 438-440.

Rev. of Public Modalities: Rhetoric, Culture, Media, and the Shape of Public Life. *Rhetoric and Public Affairs* 14.1(2011): 185-189

### **Conference Presentations—Competitively Selected**

#### **International**

“The Welcoming: War Resistance and Transnational Memory in British Columbia” Cultural Studies Association Conference, May 2024

“Telling War: An Exploration of Form.” War, Literature, and the Arts Conference, Air Force Academy, June 2018.

“Memeingful Memories.” Seventh Annual “What Is...” Conference, University of Portland, April 2016.

“Homefront Hashtags: Six Word War Narratives.” European Communication Research and Education Association Annual Conference, November 2016.

“Socially Mediated Acts of Kindness: Exploring the Potential of Online Charity Memes.” International Communication Association Annual Convention, May 2015.

“Mortars and Memes.” International Communication Association Annual Convention, May 2014.

“Policing the Web at War.” Media, War and Conflict Fifth Anniversary Conference, April 2013.

“Becoming a Hero.” Open Secrets: Knowing and Knowing: International Interdisciplinary Conference, March 2008.

#### **National**

“Embodying Alliances Across Difference: The Case of US Veterans at Standing Rock.” National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2021.

“Communication and Military: Crossing Boundaries within the Discipline” (roundtable). National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2020.

“Nihilistic Memes and an Imaginative Corrective.” National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2019.

“The Social Construction of Memory.” National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2017.

“Rhetorical Theory and Digital Culture: Key Questions and Future Directions.” National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2017.

“Remembering Trauma, Forgetting Pain: Posting Narratives of Growth Online.” National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2016.

“Selfie Shame: Social Gratification in Digital Culture,” with Ben Morton. National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2014.

“This Means War: Selections, Deflections, and Reflections of Military Personnel.” National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2013. [\*Top Student Paper Award]

“Social Media at War: Shiny Happy People Holding Guns.” National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2013.

“Surprise Homecomings and Vicarious Sacrifices.” Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference, May 2012.

“Constituting Phronesis: The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission.” National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2010.

“Perspective By Parody.” Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference, May 2010. “Rate My Professors.”

Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s) Biennial Conference, October 2009.

### **Regional**

- “Why the Selfie ‘Makes Sense’ to Your Followers But Not Your Neighbor,” with Ben Morton. Western States Communication Association Annual Convention, February 2016.
- “Remembering Close Calls and Recuperating the Wounds of War.” Western States Communication Association Annual Convention, February 2015.
- “The Visual Domestication of War.” Western States Communication Association Annual Convention, February 2013.
- “Democratic Invectives and Un-parliamentary Politics.” Rocky Mountain Communication Association Conference, April 2011
- “Head First into the Gender Pool: Male Dominance on a Collegiate Diving Team.” Annual Chicago Ethnography Conference, April 2008.

### **Invited Talks and Teaching**

- “Telling War in Time.” (Lecture) Hinckley Institute of Politics, The University of Utah, February 2023.
- “Storytelling: A Moral Imperative.” (Lecture) Arizona State University, November 2020
- “Memes as Counter Memory and Civic Resistance.” (Lecture) University of South Carolina, April 2019.
- “Stories of War: Conflict and Civic Engagement.” (Lecture) Indiana University Bloomington, July 2018
- “Managing Digital Culture.” (Lecture) Summit Marketing Annual Symposium, September 2017. “Social Media at War.” (Lecture) Spokane Veterans Forum, August 2017.
- “Remembering Our Friends at the Front.” (Lecture) Kansas State University’s Huck Boyd Lecture in Community Media, April 2017.
- “Social Media in the American War Zone.” (Lecture) Gonzaga University, Dean’s Research Forum, November 2015.
- “Interviewing Best Practices.” (Lecture) Gonzaga University, Sociology Research Methods Course, October 2015.
- “Social Media Literacy and Information Flow.” (Lecture) The George Washington University. The Graduate School of Political Management. Washington, D.C. March, 2014.
- “Online Visualizations of War.” (Lecture) The University of Sussex. Brighton, UK, October 30, 2015.
- “Connecting Textual Criticism and Field Work,” (Discussant) National Communication Association Seminar, November 2013.
- “Gendered Communication.” (Lecture) SUNY College at Oneonta, February 2009.
- “On Graduate School.” (Lecture) Lambda Pi Eta National Honors Society, SUNY College at Oneonta, March 2009.
- “Introduction to Ethnographic Research.” (Lecture) SUNY College at Oneonta, October 2008.

### **Public Lectures and Popular Press**

- “Is the Internet Making Us Miserable?” (invited panelist) Humanities Washington “Think and Drink” Series, February 24, 2020, The Magic Lantern Theater, Spokane WA.
- “Toward a Nihilism of Grace,” (peer-reviewed) *Digital Doxa*, November 2019, <https://www.digitaldoxa.org/post/toward-a-nihilism-of-grace-lisa-ellen-silvestri>
- “Another Week Ends: Nihilism of Grace” (research cited) *Mocking Bird*, November 2019, <https://mbird.com/2019/11/another-week-ends-nihilism-of-grace-pirate-jokes-johnny-cash-nathan-colberg-a-chess-grandmaster-rich-thieves-and-the-punk-churches-of-east-germany/>

“Parenting, IRL,” (invited column) *In Media Res*, September 2019, <http://mediacommons.org/imr/content/parenting-irl>

“I Hate Proposal Videos. Here’s Why I’m Right,” (research cited) *The New York Times*, September 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/24/arts/surprise-proposal-videos.html>

“Telling War: Exploring Veterans’ Experiences in Eastern Washington,” (Feature story) *NEH for All*, August 2018. <https://nehforall.org/projects/dialogues-veterans-experiences-gonzaga-washington>

“Humanities and Friending the Front,” (Two-part radio interview) *Veterans Radio*, August 2017. [http://www.blogtalkradio.com/veterans\\_radio/2017/08/01/lisa-silvestri--humanities-friending-front-part-1](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/veterans_radio/2017/08/01/lisa-silvestri--humanities-friending-front-part-1)

“Post-Truth or Post-Trust.” (invited column) *In Media Res*, February 6, 2017. <http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/imr/2017/02/06/post-truth-or-post-trust>

“The Challenge of Explaining Omar Mateen Through His Social Media Accounts.” (Invited Op-Ed) *The Washington Post*, June 16, 2016. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2016/06/16/the-challenge-of-explaining-omar-mateen-through-his-social-media-accounts/>.

“Friended at the Front.” (Reading and book-signing) Auntie’s Bookstore, Spokane WA, March 24, 2016.

“Friended at the Front.” (Lecture and book-signing) The 92nd Street Y, New York City, December 11, 2015.

“Beneficent Memes.” (Online column) *Culture Digitally* (2015) : [www.culturedigitally.org](http://www.culturedigitally.org)

“In Conversation with Lisa Silvestri, Author of ‘Friended at the Front.’” (Author Q&A) University Press of Kansas Blog, November 12, 2015. <http://universitypressblog.dept.ku.edu/uncategorized/in-conversation-with-lisa-silvestri-author-of-friended-at-the-front/>

“Let’s Stop Making Veterans.” (Blog entry) University Press of Kansas Blog, November 11, 2015. <http://universitypressblog.dept.ku.edu/2015/11/11/>

“Image Creation and Sharing: Practice vs. Policy.” (Lecture) South by Southwest Festival, Austin, TX, March 2015.

“Home Again, Again.” (Online column) (September 30, 2011) No Caption Needed, eds. John Lucaites and Robert Hariman. <http://www.nocaptionneeded.com/2011/09/home-again-again/>

## Service

### College & University

Committee Member, College of Liberal Arts, Penn State First-Generation College Student Committee

Committee Member, Rock Ethics Institute, Penn State Faculty Consortium on Moral Philosophy

Faculty Advisor, Backcountry Squatters, Gonzaga, 2020-2022

Faculty Advisor, Martial Arts Club, Gonzaga, 2017-2022

Faculty Advisor, Hip Hop & Rap Club, Gonzaga, 2016- 2022

Faculty Advisor, Partners in Charity, Gonzaga, 2016- 2022

Honors Faculty Fellow, 2016-2018

Faculty Advisor, Lambda Pi Eta National Honor Society, Gonzaga, 2015-2016

Committee Member, Gonzaga University Foley Center Library, 2015-2016

Library Liaison, Communication Studies Department, Gonzaga, 2015-2018

Faculty Advisor, Lambda Pi Eta National Honor Society, SUNY College at Oneonta, 2008-2009

Faculty Advisor, Phi Beta Sigma, SUNY College at Oneonta, 2008-2009

### Department

Committee Member, Reappointment, Promotion, Tenure Committee 2020-2021

Committee Member, Curriculum Assessment Committee 2019-2022

Committee Member, Communication Studies Speaker Series, 2018-2021  
Course Director, Communication Studies Capstone, 2014-2018  
Committee Member, Communication Studies Curriculum Review Committee, 2017  
Committee Member, Communication Studies Assistant Professor Search Committee, 2016-2017  
Committee Member, Communication Studies Assessment Protocol, 2016-2019  
Committee Member, Communication Studies Assistant Professor Search Committee, 2015-2016  
Committee Member, Communication Studies Department Chair Search Committee, 2015-2016  
Committee Member, Communication Studies RPT Revision Committee, 2015  
Committee Member, Gonzaga University Commencement Committee, 2015-2016

### **Profession**

Reviewer, Western States Communication Association, Media Studies Division, 2022  
Reviewer, *Communication, Culture, and Critique*, 2021  
Reviewer, National Communication Association, Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Division, 2021  
Reviewer, *New Media & Society*, 2020  
Reviewer, *Social Media + Society*, 2019  
Reviewer, *Media, War & Conflict*, 2019  
Reviewer, National Communication Association, Visual Communication Division, 2019  
Reviewer, National Communication Association, Critical/Cultural Studies Division, 2019  
Reviewer, National Communication Association, Critical/Cultural Studies Division, 2018  
Reviewer, National Communication Association, Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, 2017  
Reviewer, International Communication Association, Communication and Technology Division, 2017  
Reviewer, Routledge Research Monograph Program, 2017  
Reviewer, *Media War and Conflict*, 2017  
Reviewer, *Social Media and Society*, 2017  
Reviewer, International Communication Association, Critical/Cultural Studies Division  
Reviewer, *Information, Communication and Society*, 2016  
Reviewer, Western States Communication Association, Rhetoric and Public Address, 2015  
Reviewer, *The International Journal of Communication*, 2015  
Reviewer, *Social Media and Society*, 2015  
Reviewer, National Communication Association, Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Division, 2013  
Reviewer, *Media, War & Conflict*, 2013  
Reviewer, *Iowa Journal of Communication*, 2012  
Reviewer, *POROI: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Rhetorical Analysis and Invention*, 2011  
Reviewer, NCA, Public Address Division, 2011  
Reviewer, Student Division, NCA, 2011

### **Community**

Yoga Instructor, International Conference on Hate Studies, Gonzaga University, 2017  
Guest speaker, "On Relationships," The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, Camp Cross, 2017.  
Consultant, Institute for the Health and Security of Military Families, 2017-2019  
Yoga Instructor, Washington Higher Education Sustainability Conference, Gonzaga University, 2017.  
Guest speaker, "Social Media and Youth Culture," The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, Camp Cross, 2015.  
Yoga Teacher, St. John's Cathedral, Spokane, WA, monthly 2015-2020  
National Archive Research Assistant, The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum for the Library of Congress' Veterans' History Project, weekly, 2010-2011  
Volunteer Organizer, National Veterans TEE (Training, Exposure, Experience) Tournament, Iowa City, IA,

annually from 2010-2013.

### **Professional Memberships**

2015- Western States Communication Association

2014- International Communication Association

2009- National Communication Association

2009- Rhetoric Society America