17th Annual Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference

Friday February 21st, 2020

Grand Hyatt Hotel

Denver, CO

CO-SPONSORS:
Western States Communication Association
University of New Mexico – Dept. of Communication & Journalism
University of Denver – Dept. of Communication Studies
San Francisco State University – Dept. of Communication Studies
WELCOME!

On behalf of the Western States Communication Association (WSCA), I would like to welcome you to the 17th annual Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference in Denver, CO. We received about 100 submissions for this year’s conference. This year’s conference represents some of the best qualified undergraduate scholarships in the West. For those of you who are presenting, CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!

You will find a wide variety of topics, theories, and methodologies among the papers being presented in the 18 panels at this conference. These papers truly suggest the contemporary landscapes of the communication discipline that is becoming more interdisciplinary than ever. I am so honored to be able to present such up-to-date and cutting editing collection of the interdisciplinary approaches to communication in this conference.

I would like to thank each faculty mentor for helping the students prepare their scholarship and presentations. Without your support, we can never hold this conference. In addition, I would like to thank all of the reviewers who read and provided feedback on the student papers. Given the numbers of submissions, I am so thankful that each of you has shared your busy time (before and during the holidays) to help me out in this selection process. You can find a list of each of those reviewers at the end of this program. Moreover, please make sure that all of us thank the panel respondents for their voluntarily service. Furthermore, I would like to extend my appreciation to my WSCA colleagues Drs. Heather Hundley and Marnel Niles Goins for their kind support and assistance in preparing this conference. Finally, a special thank you to our co-sponsors Western States Communication Association, University of New Mexico’s Department of Communication & Journalism, University of Denver’s Department of Communication Studies, and San Francisco State University’s Department of Communication Studies.

Please make sure that you stick around for the award and closing comment panel at 12:30pm. In fact, I will announce Top Paper and Top Four Paper Awards for a surprise. Following that (@ 2pm), you may be interested in attending the Graduate Programs Workshop followed by the Graduate Programs Open House at 3:45pm. You can find more information about those events toward the back of this program. Enjoy this conference!

Thank you very much.

WSCA Second Vice President
Shinsuke Eguchi, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
University of New Mexico - Department of Communication & Journalism
Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference
Friday February 21, 2020
Schedule of Events
@ Grand Hyatt Conference Center, 2nd Floor

Thursday 20th
4:00pm – 8:00pm  Registration
@ 2nd floor Foyer near the Elevator Bank

Friday 21st
7:00am – 7:45am  Registration
@ 2nd floor Foyer near the Elevator Bank

7:30am – 8:00am  Breakfast Available
@ Mt. Evans

8:00am – 8:15am  Welcome
@ Mt. Evans

8:30am – 9:30am  Panel Sessions
@ Grays Peak A and B, Pikes Peak, Mt. Elbert A and B, and Mt Evans

9:45am – 10:45am  Panel Sessions
@ Grays Peak A and B, Pikes Peak, Mt. Elbert A and B, and Mt Evans

10:45am – 11:30am  Break – Refreshments Available
@ Mt. Evans Foyer

11:30am – 12:30am  Panel Sessions
@ Grays Peak A and B, Pikes Peak, Mt. Elbert A and B, and Mt Evans

12:30pm – 1:00pm  Awards & Closing
@ Mt Evans

2:00pm – 3:30pm  Graduate Programs Workshop
@ Mt Evans

3:45pm – 5:00pm  Graduate Open House
@ Mt. Elbert
Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference

*This program does not intentionally include Top Paper and Top Four Papers Awards. These awards will be announced in the awards ceremony starting from 12:30pm @ Mt Evans.

Morning Refreshments
7:30am – 8:00am, Mt. Evans

Welcome
8:00am – 8:30am, Mt Evans

Session 1
8:30am-9:30am

**Culture, Power, and Change** @ Grays Peak A
Chair & Respondent: Ilia Rodriguez, University of New Mexico

A Preliminary Analysis of Filipino Families’ Empathic Communication
Iesha Precious Ringor, California State University, Fullerton

Adaptational Homophobia: The Reductive Portrayal of Homosexuality in *It*
Julia Gabriele, University of Puget Sound

We’re the Teachers and We Do Care: Critiquing Fantasies and Narratives of Participation in 2019 United Teachers Los Angeles Protests
Joseph Lee, California State University, Los Angeles

Crazy/Smart: An Artist Statement detailing Performance Choices against Abelist Ideology in Higher Education
Molly Bishop, Arizona State University

**Gender, Relationship, and Struggle** @ Grays Peak B
Chair & Respondent: Hannah Long, University of New Mexico

Affection in Romantic Relationships: A Study on Sex Differences of Affectionate Communication and its Association with Relationship Satisfaction
Millicent Mary Fastrup, California State University, Fullerton
Kiara Fisher, California State University, Fullerton
Esmeralda Bernal, California State University, Fullerton
Sebastian Nevarez, California State University, Fullerton
Exploring Relationship Conflicts in *New Girl*: A Content Analysis
Ciara Thompson, California Polytechnic State University

Female Friendship and Intersectional Allyship on *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*
Madison Barnes-Nelson, Gonzaga University

Making Sense of Miscarriage: Healing and Destigmatizing Through Writing and Connection
Amalia Ackerman, Lewis & Clark College

**Rhetoric, Discourse, and Knowledge @ Pikes Peak**
Chair & Respondent: Andy Kai-chun Chuang, CUNY LaGuardia Community College

Memorializing a Maverick: A Rhetorical Analysis of Senator John McCain’s Farewell Letter
Nicole Hinshaw, Arizona State University

Aransas Lee Haley, Southwestern University

Khalistan Zindabad: A Non-Violent Approach to Violent Discourse
Aranveer Singh Litt, California State University, Fresno

Symbolic Warfare and Justice: Disrupting Dominant Discourses about Schizophrenia
Aubrielle Degn, Weber State University

**Perspectives on Culture as a Dynamic Process @ Mt. Elbert A**
Chair & Respondent: Anthony Cuomo, West Los Angeles College

Tinder: Sparking Changes in Relationship-Making in the 21st Century
Emma Mantooth, Western Colorado University
Caitlin Gleason, Western Colorado University

The Cultural Wealth Role That Mexican-Born Parents Have on their First-Year and First Generation College Students
Angeles Rubi Castorena, University of New Mexico

Sour Lemons of Society: Turning Lemons into Lemonade
Afriyah Mayasa-Hailey, California State University, Long Beach

Protest Rock Music During the Vietnam and Post-9/11 Era
Mayra Vasquez-Chavez, Arizona State University
Media and Digital Media Studies @ Mt. Elbert B
Chair & Respondent: Zhao Ding, Gustavus Adolphus College

The Rhetorical Function of Classic Film Images
Josh Martin, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Twitter Journalism: Political Communication in a Digital Age
Eliza Worley-Ekstrom, Western Colorado University
Ian Mullens, Western Colorado University
Bailey Hamler, Western Colorado University

Slaying a Friend or Slaying an Enemy: Differences in the Application of Morality to Single-Player Video Games Versus Multi-Player Video Games
Claire Arica Thompson, California Lutheran University

Seeking Consumer Engagement: Using Gamification to Understand Corporate Environmental Advocacy in Digital Spaces
Sam William Mitchell Phillips, Willamette University

Sexuality Studies @ Mt Evans
Chair & Respondent: Mia Fisher, University of Colorado, Denver

Ideological Feminist Criticism and Queer Politics in Juana Inés Netflix Series
Cynthia Balderas, California State University, San Marcos

Skinny Legend: Toxic Skinny Commenting Within the Gay Community
Janine Rook, University of Portland

Power in Hashtags: Examination of Media Within the Sex for Grades Scandal in West Africa
Erick Berrelleza, University of Portland

“What Does He Have to Lose?”: How Hypermasculinity Is Reinforced by the Presentation of Adult Male Virginity in Season 23 of The Bachelor
Natalie Katherine Olsen, University of Portland

Session 2
9:45am-10:45am

Health Communication and Culture @ Grays Peak A
Chair & Respondent: Marek Muller, Florida Atlantic University

#MaternalHealth: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Maternal Health Communication on Twitter
Autumn Fluetsch, University of Portland
Health Risk Behaviors of Students at Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique, Southeast Africa
Dinema Bentuel Mate, Chadron State College

(Re)framing Advocacy: Finding Communication Gaps in Sexual Assault Response Advocacy Work
Claire Elise Pockell-Wilson, Willamette University

It’s Just a Little Blood: A Comparative Analysis of the Communication of Menstruation in the U.S. and South Asia
Delaney Alexandra Vetter, University of Portland

**Difference, Resistance, and Coalitional Building** @ Grays Peak B
Chair & Respondent: Marisa Christina Garcia Rodriguez, Northern Arizona University

#BlueForSudan: Dichotomy in Portrayals of Solidarity
Ruby Becker, University of Portland

7 Rings: A Critical Dissection of Proposed Female Empowerment
Arianna D. Lejbman, California State University, San Marcos

A Haven of Agency: Surviving Corporate Colonization Through Contained Resistance
Jillian Giorgio, University of Portland

Forming the Foundation of Radicalization: How White Supremacists are Using Propaganda to Construct an Identity Fueled by Fear and Dreams of Grandeur
Joshua Georgiou, Southwestern University

**Communication, Culture, and Education** @ Pikes Peak
Chair & Respondent: Kiyoko Simmons, University of New Mexico

Instructional Communication in Secondary Education Contexts: Setting an Agenda for Future Research
Sarah Eileen Downey, Chapman University

The Impacts of Diversity in Higher Education
Micaela Nicole Chapa, University of the Pacific

Wonderland: Reimagining Creativity in Elementary School
Alyson Budde, Willamette University

Does Your Seat Affect the Amount of Attention Payed in Class? Proxemics in the Classroom Setting
Lucia Alvarez-Malo Flores, San Diego State University
Melissa Miranda, San Diego State University
Communication about Un/Safety

Chair & Respondent: Stephanie Gomez, Western Washington University

Active Shooter Drills: A Communication Analysis
Katya Koteiba Azzam, San Diego Mesa College

Bullying, Ballet, and Good Morning America: A Study on Cyclical Cyberbullying and Combatting Established Gender Norms in Online Dance Communities
Audrey Parks, Gonzaga University

Constructing a Total Theatre of Torture: Ontopoetical Visions in Gregory Whitehead's "On the Shore Dimly Seen"
Christian Wilson, California State University, Chico

Individualism, Self-Reliance, & Masculinity: A Metaphoric Analysis of Gun Control
Hugo Carrillo-Villaseñor, California State University, Long Beach

International and Intercultural Communication

Chair & Respondent: Keisuke Kimura, University of New Mexico

International Development: Distorted Poverty
Jelena Lukic, University of Portland

Hammer’s Missing Fifth Intercultural Communication Style: Manipulation and its Relationship with Sociopathy and the Justice System
Madeline Alzamora, Arizona State University

Making Music Across Borders: Tracing Son Jarocho's Networked Communities
Isaiah Romo, University of New Mexico

This is America
Andrea Lujan, California State University San Marcos

Men and Masculinities

Chair & Respondent: Benny LeMaster, Arizona State University

Knock, Knock! Who's ther?: Interrupting White Male Politicians
Kianna Marie Dart, University of New Mexico

Gender Bias in the Start of the MeToo Movement: Have Men's Stories Been Silenced and Overlooked?
Sarah Rose Varney, University of Portland

An Acceptance of Rejection: Machismo and Marianismo
Miriam Alejandra Navarro, California State University, Long Beach
Protectionist to Collectivist Familia Structures: Reimagining Chicano Barrio Masculinity in La Mission
Angelica Sofia Peña, California State University, San Marcos

Break
10:45am – 11:30am, Mt. Evans Foyer
Refreshments Available

Session 3
11:30am-12:30pm

Issues in Media and Communication @ Grays Peak A
Chair & Respondent: John Reif, Metropolitan State University of Denver

Blame it on the Alcohol: Advertisement Effects on Alcohol Consumption
Sofia Moncayo-Cardona, University of Puget Sound
Katia Mrdjan, University of Puget Sound
Tatiana Klein, University of Puget Sound
Duncan Long, University of Puget Sound

Red Dead Redemption 2: The New Age of the Western
Nicole Haining, California State University San Marcos

Survivors as Storytellers: The Role of Narrative Criticism and Character Development in Aly Raisman’s Testimony
Hunter Elizabeth Sansom, California State University, Fresno

The Jon Stewart 9/11 Monologue: Unity, Prophetic Dualism, and the Newfound Role of Satire
Carlos Benjamin Pelayo, California State University, Fullerton

Discourse, Society, and Politics @ Grays Peak B
Chair & Respondent: Greg Dickinson, Colorado State University

A Media Analysis of Politicians’ Word Choice on Twitter Regarding Groups of Immigrants and Displaced People
Akemi Alden, University of Portland
Jasmine Garibay, University of Portland

Deceit by Tweet: The Spread of Political Fake News on Twitter
Sean Patrick Pauley, Alma College

Anti-Smoking: An Evolution of Advertisements
Scott Michael Chapman, California State University, Fresno
Ideographic Analysis of Net Neutrality Discourse
Kevin Todd Mavers, California State University San Marcos

Identity, Representation, and Politics @ Pikes Peak
Chair & Respondent: Zhao Ding, Gustavus Adolphus College

“I Need a Jackie, Not a Marilyn”: Gendered Stereotypes in *Legally Blonde*
Sarah Michaela Johnson, Southwestern University

The Wing, Commodity Feminism, and Millennial Pink
Victoria Beccar Varela, University of Portland

Prophecies, War and Time: Metaphoric Analysis of Frederick Douglass "On Woman Suffrage"
Emily Ann Berry, Sacramento State University
Ildelisa Mora, Sacramento State University

Terministic Screening in Netflix’s *Last Chance U*
Alexander James McClure, Southwestern University

Social Interactions & Processes @ Mt. Elbert A
Chair & Respondent: Santhosh Chandrashekar, University of Denver

Autoethnography in the Anthropocene: Drawing Parallels Between Individual and Planetary Narratives to Inform Agency in the Human Epoch
Ruby Beauchamp, University of Portland

Self-Presentation and Interaction on Romance via Social Media Platforms
Langston Murray, University of New Mexico

Is Social Media Bringing People Together or Tearing Them Apart?
Jacob Berry, Western Colorado University

The Overachiever Hasn’t Done Enough: An Ethnographic Study of Gifted Children, Superiority, and Self-Esteem
Madison Raelynn Barnes, San Diego State University
Daisy Kathryn Rae Kent, San Diego State University

Health Discourse and Message @ Mt. Elbert B
Chair & Respondent: Jimmie Manning, University of Nevada, Reno

How to Communicate Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the Elderly
Mary-Trynee Canete, University of New Mexico
Marisa Michealson, University of New Mexico
Julio Avila, University of New Mexico
Probing Attitude Functions: Twitter Posts about Alcohol Usage
Vlada Casteel, California State University Northridge
Christian Ortega, California State University Northridge

Justice in No-Smoking and No-Vaping Signs: Reconciling with Irony in the Public Sphere
Rebecca Popara, Gonzaga University

Media Coverage of Sexual Abuse: How Spotlight Changed the Game A Look at Journalism Then and Now
Madison Pfeifer, University of Portland

**Race, Ethnic, and Indigenous Studies @ Mt Evans**

Chair & Respondent: Leilani Nishime, University of Washington

Precious Knowledge: Recentering Injustices in Latin@ Education
Liliana Hernandez, California State University San Marcos

Fruit of Our Affliction: The Proclamation of the Delano Grape Workers and the Emergence of Chicano Identity
Rebeca Isabel Garcia, Westmont College

An Awakening of the Hawaiian Way of Life: Framing Kapu Aloha and the Mauna Kea Controversy
Kyleigh Manuel-Sagon, Western Oregon University

A Call for Self-Governance: Indigenous Resistance and Nation-States
Zoe N. Jackson, University of Colorado at Boulder

**Awards & Closing**
12:30pm-1:00pm
@ Mt Evans
Graduate Programs Workshop
2:00pm to 3:30pm
@ Mt. Evans

The Graduate Programs Workshop is an excellent opportunity for both undergraduate and Master’s students to ask questions about entering graduate programs (for both research/teaching and applied credits) to faculty members and/or graduate program coordinators.

Moderator:
Shinsuke Eguchi, University of New Mexico

Panelists:
Fatima Zahrae Chrifi Alaoui, San Francisco State University
Karrin Vasby Anderson, Colorado State University
Benjamin Broome, Arizona State University
Oona Hatton, San Jose State University
Michelle A. Holling, California State University, San Marcos
John M. Kephart III, California State University, Northridge
Leilani Nishime, University of Washington
Ilia Rodriguez, University of New Mexico

Graduate Programs Open House
3:45pm – 5:00pm
@ Mt. Elbert

The Graduate Programs Open House is an opportunity for interested students to interact directly with various graduate programs in the western region. Here you will be able to gather information about various graduate programs and can ask questions directly of graduate program directors and faculty from the various departments.
USRC Reviewers

A special note of gratitude for each of the USRC paper reviewers, listed below:

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