

Brett Ingram

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Boston College
Department of Communication
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Education

Ph.D. in Communication, University of Massachusetts Amherst (2013)

M.A. in English and Graduate Certificate in Cinema Studies, Northeastern University (2003)

B.A. in English, Shippensburg University, and the University of Lincolnshire, UK (1999)

Publications Specialist Certificate, George Washington University (1999)

Dissertation

“Critical Rhetoric in the Age of Neuroscience”

Dissertation Committee: Stephen Olbrys Gencarella (chair), Briankle Chang, Randall Knoper

Although there has been an outpouring of scholarship on the “rhetorical body” in the last two decades, nearly all analyzes and critiques discourses *about* the body. Very little work in contemporary rhetorical studies addresses the ways in which rhetoric affects and alters the central nervous system, and thereby exerts influence at a register of subjective experience prior to cognitive apprehension. This dissertation surveys contributions from neuroscience that can help us understand how rhetorical activities promote or inhibit subjects’ capacity to engage in critical deliberation. As public culture and discourse becomes increasingly imagistic, non-rational, and emotionally charged, rhetoricians must develop theoretical resources capable of recognizing and responding to new varieties of constitutive phenomena, many of which are designed to circumvent the critical faculties of the self-aware subject and “speak” directly to the pre-linguistic brain. As a corrective to critical approaches that implicitly rely on outdated understandings of the relationship between consciousness and embodiment, this study outlines a critical neurorhetorical theory that is attuned to the Sophistic and Burkean rhetorical traditions, informed by insights generated by contemporary neuroscience, and responsive to the unique cultural and social problems of the 21st century.

Academic Employment History

Visiting Assistant Professor, Boston College (2013-present)

The Rhetorical Tradition

Media and Cultural Studies

Critical/Cultural Communication Research Methods

Issues in Intercultural Communication

Public Speaking

Lecturer, University of Massachusetts Lowell (2012-2013)

College Writing I and II
Intensive Writing Lab

Instructor, University of Massachusetts Amherst (2004-2011)

Comparative Communication Theory
Introduction to Media and Culture
Writing as Communication
College Writing

Co-Designer, UMass Amherst Communication Department Junior Year Writing Program (2008)

Worked with the Program Director to develop the philosophy and curriculum of the Communication department's undergraduate writing program.

Teaching Assistant, University of Massachusetts Amherst (2007)

Modes of Film Communication

Research Assistant, *Stealing Reality: The Rise of the Right, the Fracture of the News, the Lessons of Karl Rove* (Bill Israel, Department of Journalism, University of Massachusetts Amherst) (2006)

Conducted interviews with national journalists and editors, provided archival research, and acted as a consultant to the author on relevant theoretical approaches.

Associate Instructor, University of Massachusetts Amherst (2004)

History of Film I
History of Film II

Instructor (2001-2002) and Lecturer (2003-2004), Northeastern University

College Writing
Advanced Writing in the Technical Professions
Advanced Writing in the Business Administration Professions
Advanced Writing in the Health Professions

Writing Center Tutor (2001-2003), Northeastern University

Offered in-person and on-line writing consultation for undergraduate and graduate students from all academic disciplines and levels of skill.

Additional Teaching History

Instructor, Summer Institute for the Gifted, Amherst College (2009-2010)

Perchance to Dream: The Brain and Dreaming
Roots of Human Behavior
Existentialism Essentials
Guiding Principles of Philosophy
Political Strategy

Instructor, Academic Study Associates College Prep Programs, University of Massachusetts Amherst (2006-2008)

Public Speaking
Film Studies
American Popular Culture
International Film and Food

Publications

Michael Ryan, with Brett Ingram and Hannah Musiol. *Cultural Studies: A Practical Introduction*. New York: Blackwell, 2010.

Conference Presentations

“Burke, Embodiment, and the Theater of Cruelty.” Eastern Communication Association, 2014. Providence, RI.

“Gorgias, the First Neuroscientist.” Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference, 2014. San Antonio, TX.

“A Cruel Corrective to Tragic Comedy.” National Communication Association, 2013. Washington, DC.

“An (Un)Critical Condition: The Trauma of Rhetorical Violence.” National Communication Association, 2011. New Orleans, LA.

“‘All we could wish to see’: Critical Rhetoric and the New Theater of Cruelty.” National Communication Association, 2010. San Francisco, CA.

“Political Junkies: Rhetorical Addiction and Affective Politics.” National Communication Association, 2010. San Francisco, CA.

“Material Rhetoric, Neuroplasticity, and Violence.” Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference, 2010. Minneapolis, MN.

“MTV’s *Jackass*, Sadomasochistic Masculinity, and the Comic Corrective.” Communication and Controversy, 2007. Providence, RI.

“The Virtue of Vice: Punk, Piety, and *Vice Magazine*.” National Communication Association, 2006. San Antonio, TX.

“I know everything he’s got to say about me’: ‘White Trash’ and Hip Hop Authenticity in *8 Mile*.” Cultural Studies Association, 2005. Arlington, VA.

“Eros and Revolution: The Liberation of the Libido in Eisenstein’s *Battleship Potemkin*.” Cultural Studies Association, 2003. Pittsburgh, PA.

Invited Lectures

Dialogues on the Monologues: Disciplinary Perspectives of Engagement with Eve Ensler’s *The Vagina Monologues*. Boston College, 2014.

“The Politics of the Carnavalesque.” Critical Media Studies: Irony, Crisis, and Political Culture. Hampshire College, 2012 and 2013.

“Affect and Addictive Rhetoric.” Rhetoric, Science, and Public Culture. UMass Amherst, 2011 and 2012.

“Neuroplasticity and Ideology.” Rhetoric, Science, and Public Culture. UMass Amherst, 2011 and 2012.

Service and Professional Activity

Director, 2013 Common Text Film Series. UMass Lowell, 2012-2013.

Member, First-Year Writing Program Summer Placement Committee, 2012-2013.

Member, English Department Recruitment Committee. UMass Lowell, 2012-2013.

Member, First-Year Writing Program Common Text Committee. UMass Lowell, 2012-2013.

Member, University Commencement Speaker Committee. UMass Lowell, 2012-2013.

Accepted Participant, “Understanding Kenneth Burke Through His Archives.” Rhetoric Society of America’s Third Biennial Institute, 2010. State College, PA.

Representative, Graduate Studies Committee, 2008-2009. UMass Amherst.

Co-Chair, Communication Graduate Student Association, 2006-2008. UMass Amherst.

Co-Chair, “Communication in Crisis” conference, 2006. Amherst, MA.

Conference Coordinator, Cultural Studies Association, 2004. Boston, MA.

Awards and Honors

Recipient, 2010 Residential First-Year Experience Student Choice Award.

Finalist, 2007-2008 University of Massachusetts Amherst Distinguished Teaching Award (for Comparative Communication Theory).

Communication Department Commendation for Teaching Excellence: Fall 2004, Spring 2005, Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Fall 2008, Spring 2009.

Nominated, 2001-2002 Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, Northeastern University

Professional Affiliations

National Communication Association, Member, 2006-present
Rhetoric Society of America, Member, 2010-present
Eastern Communication Association, Member, 2014-present

References

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Briankle Chang, Associate Professor
Department of Communication, University of Massachusetts Amherst
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(413) 545-3742

Randall Knoper, Associate Professor
Department of English, University of Massachusetts Amherst
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Lisa Cuklanz, Professor
Department of Communication, Boston College
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