

DAMIEN SMITH PFISTER

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. (2009) and M.A. (2004), University of Pittsburgh, Department of Communication, Pittsburgh, PA.

Concentration in rhetorical theory, public argument and deliberation, and media studies.

Dissertation: *Toward a Grammar of the Blogosphere: Rhetoric and Attention in the Networked Imaginary*. Committee: Gordon R. Mitchell (chair), John Lyne, Barbara Warnick, Gregory Crowley.

B.A. (2000), University of Alabama, Department of Communication Studies and Department of Political Science, Tuscaloosa, AL.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Department of Communication Studies, Lincoln, NE. (August 2009-present).

Conduct research; teach and advise graduate and undergraduate students; participate in faculty governance through departmental and university committees.

University of Pittsburgh, Department of Communication, Pittsburgh, PA.

Visiting Instructor (2008-09)

Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellow (2007-08)

Teaching Assistant / Teaching Fellow (2002-07)

Assistant Debate Coach (2002-05)

Acting Director of Debate (Fall 2004)

Research Assistant and Webmaster, Communication Across the Curriculum (2003-04)

Provost Humanities Fellow (2002)

Wake Forest University, Department of Communication, Winston-Salem, NC.

Co-Facilitator, Ben Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Institute (Summer 2006-07)

Instructor, South Eastern Europe Leadership Youth Initiative (Summer 2003-05)

IMPACT Coalition, New York City, NY.

Lead Facilitator & Curriculum Planner, Coalition Instruction and Training Institute (2001-03)

Director of Debate at Pace University (2001-02)

Assistant Program Director, New York Urban Debate League (2000-02)

HONORS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

Bruce Kendall Award for Outstanding Teaching (Spring 2011)

“Nebraska Political Communication Project” with Dana Griffin (UNL, Political Science).
\$10,000 award by UNL Research Council to research national Presidential television commercials.

Top paper panel in Critical/Cultural Studies Division spotlight on emerging scholars for
“Toward a System of Networked Rhetorics.” Presented at National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA, Nov. 14-17, 2010.

Top student paper in American Forensics Association Division for “Argumentative Pathologies and Deliberative Legitimation Processes.” Presented at National Communication Association, San Diego, CA, November 21-24, 2008.

Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh (Fall 2007-Spring 2008)

University of Pittsburgh Provost Humanities Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh (Fall 2002-Spring 2003)

PUBLICATIONS

In Progress

Pfister, D.S. *Networked rhetorics: Attention and deliberation in the early blogosphere.*
Book manuscript in advanced stage of preparation for Penn State University Press.

Edited Volumes

Pfister, D.S. (2010). Guest editor of “Public Argument/Digital Media,” special issue of *Argumentation and Advocacy*, 47 (3): 63-6. Available at <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/commstudiespapers/6/>.

Refereed Articles

Pfister, D.S. and Soliz, J. (2011). Reconceptualizing intercultural communication in a networked society. *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*, forthcoming. [Competitively selected from 60 submissions for forum on new media and intercultural communication.]

Pfister, D.S. (2011). The *logos* of the blogosphere: Flooding the zone, invention and attention in the Lott imbroglio. *Argumentation and Advocacy* 47 (4), 141-67. [lead essay] Available at <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/commstudiespapers/5/>.

Mitchell, G. R., **Pfister, D.S.**, Bradatan, G., Colev, D., Manolova, T., Mitkovski, G., Nestoro, I., Ristic, M., and Sheshi, G. (2006). Navigating dangerous deliberative waters: Shallow

argument pools, group polarization and public debate pedagogy in Southeast Europe. *Controversia: An International Journal of Debate and Democratic Renewal*, 69-84.

Invited Articles

Pfister, D.S. (2011). Networked expertise in an era of many-to-many communication: On *Wikipedia* and invention. *Social Epistemology* 25 (3), 217-31. [lead essay]

Reviews

Pfister, D.S. Review of Axel Bruns and Joanne Jacobs (eds.), *Uses of Blogs* (New York: Peter Lang, 2006) on *Resource Center for Cybercultural Studies*, February 2007, <<http://rccs.usfca.edu/bookinfo.asp?BookID=366&ReviewID=480>>.

Pfister, D.S. Review of Eric MacGilvray, *Reconstructing Public Reason* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004) in *Rhetoric and Public Affairs* (Spring 2007), 152-4.

Proceedings

Pfister, D.S. RealClimate.org and the Nichification of Democracy. In *Engaging Argument: Selected papers from the 2005 NCA/AFA Summer Conference on Argumentation*, ed. Patricia Riley (Washington, D.C.: National Communication Association, 2005), 234-42.

Pfister, D.S. and Munksgaard, J. The Public Debater's Role in Advancing Public Deliberation: Towards Switch-Sides Public Debating. In *Critical Problems in Argumentation: Selected papers from the 2003 NCA/AFA Summer Conference on Argumentation*, ed. Charles Willard (Washington, D.C.: National Communication Association, 2003), 503-9.

DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP AND CULTURAL PRODUCTION

From Public Sphere to Public Screen. Short film that demonstrates the difference between the public sphere and screen made for Spring 2011 Visual Communication class.

<http://www.xtranormal.com/watch/8277992/from-public-sphere-to-public-screen>. (85 total views as of July 23, 2011)

Digital Ways of Seeing. Hour long documentary made by Fall 2010 COMM 189 H Honors Visual Communication class. <http://www.vimeo.com/18106241>. (55 views as of July 23, 2011).

UNLVisComm YouTube Channel. Hosts final student projects on aspects of visual communication. <http://www.youtube.com/unlviscomm>. (132 total upload views as of July 23, 2011).

Hitler Protests Facebook's New Privacy Policy. Collaboratively authored remix produced by Spring 2010 Networked Politics class. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IoCplok3wY>. (136 views as of April 7, 2011).

The Role of Twitter in the Iran Elections. Collaboratively authored video produced by Fall 2009 Networked Politics class. <http://youtu.be/aNkeP2T5Xvw>. (1,689 views as of July 23, 2011).

Iranian Election Resources. Class project for Fall 2009 Networked Politics class to aggregate resources on the Summer 2009 Iran Election protests.

<http://pfisternia.net/twitteriran.html#/home/>.

Nothing is Safe Today. Guided student project from Fall 2009 Networked Politics class.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8QGQV_xaEQ. (1025 views as of July 23, 2011).

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

“Flooding the Zone,” Skype presentation/interview to “Weblog Advocacy” class in the Department of Communication at the University of Pittsburgh,

“Citizenship 2.0.” Skype presentation/interview to “Practices of Citizenship” in the Department of Communication at Wake Forest University, March 3, 2011.

“The Networked Public Sphere.” Skype presentation/interview to the Capstone course in the Department of Communication Studies at Christopher Newport University, February 16, 2011.

“Blogging, Information Technology, and Democracy.” Presentation to the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School for Public and International Affairs class on Information Technology, August 30, 2006.

“The Blogosphere.” Presentation to the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School for Public and International Affairs class on Digital Governance, January 30, 2006.

“Communication Across the Curriculum: Web Resources.” Presentation to the University of Pittsburgh Department of Communication Teaching Practicum, September 17, 2003.

“Towards an Open Source Pedagogy.” Presentation to the University of Pittsburgh Department of Communication Agora, October 3, 2003.

Conference Papers

“Toward a System of Networked Pedagogy.” Presented at Western States Communication Association, Monterrey, CA, Feb. 18-22, 2011.

“Toward a System of Networked Rhetorics.” Presented at National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA, Nov. 14-17, 2010. Selected as part of Emerging Scholars in Critical/Cultural Studies spotlight panel.

“The Promise of Blog Comments: Considerations for Method.” Presented at National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA, Nov. 14-17, 2010.

“Cyberseriality.” Co-presented with Sarah Ryan at National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, Nov. 10-14, 2009.

“Argumentative Pathologies and Deliberative Legitimation Processes.” Top student paper in American Forensics Association Division presented at National Communication Association, San Diego, CA, November 21-24, 2008.

“Translation Station: RealClimate's Recontextualization of Expertise.” Presented at National Communication Association, San Diego, CA, November 21-24, 2008.

“Flooding the Zone.” Presented at National Communication Association, San Diego, CA, November 21-24, 2008.

“Hyperpublicity.” Paper presented at National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, November 14-17, 2007.

“Consistency.” Paper presented at National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, November 14-17, 2007.

“Environmental Documentaries.” Paper co-presented with Carly Woods at National Communication Association, San Antonio, TX, November 16-19, 2006.

“Blogging and Critical Publicity.” Paper presented at the Blogging and Online Journalism Conference hosted by Ohio University, Athens, OH, April 7-9, 2006. Travel funded by competitively awarded grant.

“Blogosphere or Blogistan?: Blogs and Open Source Politics.” Paper presented at National Communication Association, Boston, MA, November 17-20, 2005.

“Towards Consideration as a Deliberative Decorum.” Paper presented at National Communication Association, Boston, MA, November 17-20, 2005.

“Reforming Climate Discourse: Engaging Public Scholarship to Transform Policy Practices.” Paper co-presented with Carly Woods at the American Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 4, 2005.

“RealClimate.org and the Nichification of Democracy.” Paper presented at Alta Argumentation Conference, Alta, UT, August 4-7, 2005.

“Filtering Through the Rhetorical Situation in a Mass-Mediated Age.” Paper presented at National Communication Association Conference, Chicago, IL, November 9-13, 2004.

“A Blog Effect: Salam Pax and the Mediation of War.” Paper presented at National Communication Association Conference, Chicago, IL, November 9-13, 2004.

“Communication Across the Curriculum: Developing Web Resources.” Paper presented at National Communication Association Conference, Miami, FL, November 10-13, 2003.

“The Public Debater’s Role in Advancing Deliberation: Towards Switch-Sides Public Debate.” Paper presented with Jane Munksgaard at Alta Argumentation Conference, Alta, UT, August 2-4, 2003.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Senior Research Associate for the Center for Intercultural New Media Research (January 2010-)

National Communication Association (NCA). Member of Rhetorical and Communication Theory, Public Address, and Critical and Cultural Studies Divisions.

Rhetoric Society of America (RSA).

Western States Communication Association (WSCA).

Schenley Park Debate Authors Working Group (DAWG).

ADVISING @ UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

Doctoral Advisees (Ph.D. in progress)

Scott Church, “All living things are DJs: Rhetoric, aesthetics, and remix.”

Darrel Farmer, popular culture and social activism

Sarah Jones, transnational feminism and cultural performance

Adam Knowlton, political myths of “Web 2.0”

Jessy Ohl, rhetoric of the American soldier

M.A. Advisees (in progress)

David Tuck, rhetoric, media and representation

Reader on dissertation committees (Ph.D. completed)

Aaron Duncan, “Going all in: Examining the rhetorical construction of gambling and televised poker” (2011)

Brent Yergensen, “Secular salvation: Sacred rhetorical invention in the string theory movement” (2011)

Kittie Grace, “Changing sphere boundaries online: Restructuring private/technical spheres for female empowerment” (2010)

Reader on dissertation committees (Ph.D. in progress)

Kane Click, posthumanism and liberalism

Getachew Dinku, rhetoric and participatory development

Rachel Stohr, cosmopolitanism and organizational communication

Reader on dissertation committees (outside department)

Maggie Christensen (English), “A Theory of Intermodality in Teaching Writing.”

TEACHING @ UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

Graduate

Contemporary Rhetorical Theory (Spring 2010, Fall 2010)

Media and Culture (Spring 2011)

Public Deliberation (Fall 2011)

Undergraduate

Networked Politics (Fall 2009, Spring 2010)

Visual Communication (Summer 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011)

Public Speaking (Summer 2011)

Graduate Level Independent Studies

Jennifer Seefeld, “Visual Communication and Photography,” (Summer 2011)

Darrel Farmer, "Rhetoric and Popular Culture," (Summer 2011)

Rachel Stohr, "Cosmopolitan Citizenship," (Spring 2011)

Getachew Godana and Jessy Ohl, "Voice," (Spring 2011)

Undergraduate Independent Studies

Caleb Bailey, "Networked Campaigns" (Spring 2010)

SERVICE

Professional Associations

National Communication Association-Forum Advisory Board, 2008-present. Assists in planning and executing public engagement spotlights at annual National Communication Association conference.

Reviewer for Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division at NCA (2011-)

Editorial

Member of Editorial Board, *Argumentation and Advocacy* (2010-)

Ad hoc reviewer for *International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics*

University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Arts and Sciences

Digital Humanities Lab Task Force (Spring 2011-)

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Communication Studies

Chair, Web Committee (Fall 2010-)

Graduate Student Recruitment Committee (Fall 2010-)

Undergraduate Assessment Committee (Fall 2010-)

Graduate Curriculum Committee (Fall 2010-)

Chair, Honors and Awards Committee (Fall 2010-Spring 2011)

PRESS

"The Elusive Face of the Web Hater," *Lincoln Journal Star*, February 27, 2010, http://journalstar.com/entertainment/small-screen/technology/article_8ff57af4-223a-11df-898f-001cc4c03286.html. Quoted as expert on conflict in digital media.

"Scuffle Turns to Kerfuffle in Winter Park," by Susan Jacobson, *Orlando Sentinel*, November 13, 2009. <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/os-winterpark-20091112,0,642879.story?track=rss>. Quoted as expert on digital media and political communication.

"Rating the YouTube Debate Questions," blog post in *Off the Bus/The Huffington Post* on July 27, 2007 by Ross Smith, reporting the results of the only systematic study ranking the

quality of the questions asked at the CNN/YouTube Democratic Presidential Primary debate in July 2007. Research conducted by Gordon Mitchell, Damien Pfister, and Kurt Zymlicka. Available online at <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ross-smith/rating-the-youtube-debate_b_58059.html>.

“YouTube Debate Questions Go Global,” blog post in *Off the Bus/The Huffington Post* on July 20, 2007 by Ross Smith, highlighting the role of Ben Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Initiative students in developing questions for the CNN/YouTube Democratic Presidential Primary debate. Available online at <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ross-smith/youtube-debate-questions-_b_57125.html>. Cited as expert in forming questions for public debates.

“Group Wants Hall Named After Colbert,” Andy Medici, *Pitt News*, November 10, 2006, <<http://media.www.pittnews.com/media/storage/paper879/news/2006/11/10/News/Group.Wants.Hall.Named.For.Colbert-2451436.shtml?noreferrer=200611101008&sourcedomain=www.pittnews.com>>. Interviewed as expert on social networking.

“To Dine or Not to Dine?,” Lisa Cunningham, *Pitt News*, March 24, 2006, <<http://media.www.pittnews.com/media/storage/paper879/news/2006/03/24/News/To.Dine.Or.Not.To.Dine-1784742.shtml>>. Reviewed public debate on the documentary *Supersize Me* hosted by my Spring 2006 Debate class.

“Digital Citizen Episode 3: Internet on the Last Frontier, Blogging,” *Digital Citizen*, Jan 5, 2006, <<http://www.digital-citizen.org/2006/01/05/digital-citizen-episode-3-internet-on-the-last-frontier-blogging/>>. Interviewed as expert on blogging.