

Jessica A. Kurr

Northeastern University
360 Huntington Ave 212A Lake Hall
Boston, MA 02115
j.kurr@northeastern.edu

Education

- 2017 Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University, Communication Arts & Sciences
Committee: Michele Kennerly (Advisor), Stephen Browne, J. Michael Hogan, Bradford Vivian, & Suzanna Linn (Political Science).
Dissertation: “A Rhetorical History of the Federal Reserve”
- 2013 M.A., Baylor University, Communication
Committee: Martin J. Medhurst (Advisor), Leslie A. Hahner & David K. Nichols (Political Science).
Thesis: “Economic Frames: Transitional Rhetoric under Clinton, Bush, and Obama.”
- 2011 B.S.B.A., University of Pittsburgh, Finance, *cum laude*, Minor in Mathematics

Academic & Professional Appointments

- 2018 – Now Postdoctoral Associate, Communication Studies, Northeastern University
- 2018 – Now Lecturer (online), Masters in Communication Program, Johns Hopkins University
- 2017 – 2018 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Communication Arts & Sciences, Pennsylvania State University
- 2013 – 2017 Graduate Assistant & Director of Debate, Communication Arts & Sciences, Pennsylvania State University
- 2011 – 2013 Graduate Debate Assistant, Communication, Baylor University

Research & Publications

Books

- 2017 J. Michael Hogan, **Jessica A. Kurr**, Michael J. Bergmaier, and Jeremy D. Johnson, eds., *Speech & Debate as Civic Education* (University Park: Penn State University Press).

Book Chapters

- 2017 J. Michael Hogan and **Jessica A. Kurr**, “Speech & Debate as Civic Education,” in *Speech & Debate as Civic Education*, eds. J. Michael Hogan, Jessica A. Kurr, Michael J. Bergmaier, and Jeremy D. Johnson (University Park: Penn State University Press, 2017).
- 2015 **Jessica A. Kurr**, “Going Digital: Rhetorical Strategies in the Enhanced State of the Union,” in *Rhetoric Across Borders*, ed. Anne T. Demo (Parlor Press, 2015): 146-158.

Edited Journal Issues

- 2017 J. Michael Hogan and **Jessica A. Kurr**, eds., “Civic Education in Competitive Speech and Debate,” special issue, *Argumentation and Advocacy* 53, no. 2 (2017).
- 2016 J. Michael Hogan, **Jessica A. Kurr**, Jeremy D. Johnson, and Michael J. Bergmaier, eds., “Speech and Debate as Civic Education,” special issue, *Communication Education* 65, no. 4 (2016).

Book Reviews

- 2016 **Jessica A. Kurr**, review of Justin S. Vaughn and Jennifer R. Mercieca (eds.), *The Rhetoric of Heroic Expectations: Establishing the Obama Presidency* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2014), in *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 102, no. 3 (2016): 311-315.
- Jessica A. Kurr**, review of Jeffrey P. Mehlretter Drury, *Speaking with the People's Voice: How Presidents Invoke Public Opinion* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2014), in *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 19, no. 1 (2016): 135-138.

Public Scholarship

- 2015 J. Michael Hogan and **Jessica A. Kurr**, *The Future of the Basic Course in Communication*, an Eastern Communication Association White Paper, sponsored by ECA and the Center for Democratic Deliberation, September 1, 2015. ([Link](#))
- 2013 **Jessica A. Kurr**, “Bridging Competitive Debate and Public Deliberation on Presidential War Powers,” a paper on the benefits of public debate, sponsored by the Cross Examination Debate Association and the Miller Center, September 5, 2013. ([Link](#))

Work in Progress

Jessica A. Kurr, *When the Fed Speaks*, book manuscript in preparation.

George F. McHendry Jr., M. Elizabeth Thorpe, **Jessica A. Kurr**, et al., *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*, 11th ed., under contract with Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company.

Isaac West and **Jessica A. Kurr**, “Algorithmic Analogies Between the Trans Rights and Civil Rights Movements,” in *Routledge Handbook of the Rhetoric of Social Movements*, ed. Nathan Crick, invited book chapter to be submitted spring 2019.

Jessica A. Kurr, “Marriner S. Eccles and the Rhetorical Fed,” to be submitted to *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, summer 2019.

Jessica A. Kurr, “‘We See You, We Stand With You’: Trans Visibility Rhetorics in the Obama Administration,” to be submitted to *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking*, fall 2019.

Conference Presentations – Competitively Selected Papers

- 2018 “‘Your Highness will be fine’: Janet Yellen as a Feminist Icon,” NCA 104th Annual Convention – Communication at Play, Salt Lake City, UT, November 8-11, 2018.
- “Setting the Narrowest Agenda: Donald Trump’s Presidency on Twitter,” 18th Biennial Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Minneapolis, MN, May 31 – June 3, 2018.
- 2017 “‘We See You, We Stand With You’: Trans Visibility Rhetorics in the Obama Administration,” NCA 103rd Annual Convention – Our Legacy Our Relevance, Dallas, TX, November 18-19, 2017.
- 2016 “The Mathiness Frame in Economics,” NCA 102nd Annual Convention – Communication’s Civic Callings, Philadelphia, PA, November 10-13, 2016.
- “Civic Education in Protopublic Debate Spaces,” NCA 102nd Annual Convention – Communication’s Civic Callings, Philadelphia, PA, November 10-13, 2016.
- “Practical Monetarism and the Rhetorical Fed,” History of Economics Society Annual Conference, Duke University, Durham, NC, June 17-20, 2016.
- “The Rise of the Digital Presidency,” 17th Biennial Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Atlanta, GA, May 26-29, 2016.
- 2015 “*Skotison*: The Dark Rhetorical Style of Fedspeak,” NCA 101st Annual Convention – Embracing Opportunities, Las Vegas, NV, November 19-22, 2015.
- “Constituting the Rhetorical Fed: Marriner S. Eccles and the Banking Act of 1935,” NCA 101st Annual Convention – Embracing Opportunities, Las Vegas, NV, November 19-22, 2015.
- “Economic *Ethos*: Paul Volcker’s Rhetorical Strategy of Practical Monetarism,” NCA 101st Annual Convention – Embracing Opportunities, Las Vegas, NV, November 19-22, 2015.
- “The Protopublic Debate Space,” authored with Paul E. Mabrey, Speech & Debate as Civic Education Conference, University Park, PA, March 5-7, 2015.
- 2014 “Research in the Paperless Era: Assessing Debate Strategy and Civic Engagement,” NCA 100th Annual Convention – Presence of our Past, Chicago, IL, November 20-23, 2014.
- “Ben Bernanke’s Credit Card and Strategic Maneuvering in the 2011 Debt Ceiling Debates,” 8th ISSA Conference on Argumentation, Netherlands, July 1-4, 2014.
- “The Construction of Digital Borders in Obama’s Enhanced State of the Union,” 16th Biennial Rhetoric Society of America Conference, San Antonio, TX, May 22-26, 2014.
- “Rhetorical Borders of the Shadow Economy: Obama and Immigration Reform,” 16th

Biennial Rhetoric Society of America Conference, San Antonio, TX, May 22-26, 2014.

“Argument from Apollo Nostalgia: The Moon Disaster Address Thirty Years Later,” 15th Wake Forest Argumentation Conference, Winston-Salem, NC, April 11-13, 2014.

2013 “The Perpetual Crisis of the American Dream in Obama’s Stimulus Proposal,” NCA 99th Annual Convention – Connections, Washington, DC, November 21-24, 2013.

“President Bush’s Tax Family Reunion Address and the Nation-as-Family Metaphor,” NCA 99th Annual Convention – Connections, Washington, DC, November 21-24, 2013.

“Constituting a Post-Cold War National Identity in President Clinton’s Economic Program,” NCA 99th Annual Convention – Connections, Washington, DC, November 21-24, 2013.

“Economic Nationalism and ‘Energy Weapons’: Political Rhetoric in the post-Cold War Era,” NCA 99th Annual Convention – Connections, Washington, DC, November 21-24, 2013.

“Circulating the Cult Currency: Libertarianism and the Gold Standard Meme,” NCA 99th Annual Convention – Connections, Washington, DC, November 21-24, 2013.

“Transforming Americanism at Osawatomie: A Roosevelt-Obama Analog,” 83rd Annual SSCA Convention – Choices and Consequences, Louisville, KY, April 10-14, 2013.

2012 “Re-Imaging the Forensics Activity as a Translation Station for Student Driven Research,” presented by Taylor W. Hahn, Fourth International Conference: Thinking and Speaking a Better World, Qatar Debate Center, Doha, Qatar, January 11-13, 2012.

“President Obama’s Rhetorical Pivots Over Closing Guantanamo Bay,” NCA 98th Annual Convention – COMMunity, Orlando, FL, November 15-18, 2012.

2011 “Strategic Maneuvering and Economic Nationalism in Security-driven Presidential Rhetoric,” NCA 97th Annual Convention – Voice, New Orleans, LA, November 17-20, 2011.

“Debate as Situated and Situational: A New Defense of Ethics and Praxis of Debate,” authored with John Rief, NCA/AFA Conference on Argumentation, Alta, UT, July 28-31 2011.

2010 “Negotiating Expertise: Translating Debate *Techne* into Community Practice,” authored with John Rief, Thinking and Speaking a Better World, Maribor, Slovenia, October 22-24, 2010.

Conference Presentations – Discussion Panels

2017 “From ‘Obamacare’ to ‘Trumpcare’: Engaging the Rhetorical Dynamics of the Affordable Care Act,” NCA 103rd Annual Convention – Our Legacy Our Relevance,

Dallas, TX November 18-19, 2017.

“The Texas Senate Bill 6, the Monstrous Senators who Passed them, and the Real People Affected by Bathroom Legislature,” NCA 103rd Annual Convention – Our Legacy Our Relevance, Dallas, TX November 18-19, 2017.

2016 “Building a Public Debate Culture,” NCA 102nd Annual Convention – Communication’s Civic Callings, Las Vegas, NV, November 10-13, 2016.

2015 “Measure Twice, Avoid Cuts: Embracing Missed Assessment and Measurement Opportunities in Intercollegiate Cross Examination Debate,” NCA 101st Annual Convention – Embracing Opportunities, Las Vegas, NV, November 19-22, 2015.

2011 “Open Source Debating: Assessing the First Year of Innovation,” NCA 97th Annual Convention – Voice, New Orleans, LA, November 17-20, 2011.

“CEDA 2010-11 Immigration Topic: Selection and Processes,” NCA 97th Annual Convention – Voice, New Orleans, LA, November 17-20, 2011.

Research Assistantships

Research Assistant, Communication Arts & Sciences and Rhetoric Society of America: assisted in organizing biennial RSA conference. Supervised by Kirt H. Wilson, January-May 2017.

Research Assistant, Communication Arts & Sciences: assisted in editing and revising textbook, *Public Speaking and Civic Engagement*. Supervised by J. Michael Hogan, May-August 2015.

Research Assistant, Center for Democratic Deliberation: organized and implemented programming of National Endowment for Humanities Challenge Grant. Supervised by J. Michael Hogan, August 2014 – August 2015.

Research Assistant, Communication Arts & Sciences: researched history of debate and civic engagement, assisted in writing Spencer Grant proposal, and edited article writing. Supervised by J. Michael Hogan, May-August 2014.

Honors & Awards

Grants

2016 Principal investigator, Research Grant, awarded by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation for “Speeches of Burns Project,” \$1,700

2014 Co-investigator, Advancing the Discipline Grant, awarded by the National Communication Association for Speech & Debate as Civic Education, \$5,000

Principal investigator, Friends of the Library Research Grant, awarded by the J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah for “Speeches of Eccles Project,” \$3,500

- 2013 Travel grant to attend the 83rd Annual SSCA Convention in Louisville, April 10-14, 2013. Awarded by Baylor University Graduate School, \$300
- 2012 Travel grant to attend the 98th Annual NCA Convention in Orlando, November 15-18, 2012. Awarded by Baylor University Graduate School, \$300
- 2011 Travel grant to attend the 97th Annual NCA Convention in New Orleans, November 17-20, 2011. Awarded by Baylor University Graduate School, \$300
- Hayek Fund travel grant to attend the 9th Annual NCA Convention in New Orleans, November 17-20, 2011. Awarded by the Institute for Humane Studies, \$275
- 2010 Travel grant to attend the Thinking and Speaking a Better World Conference in Slovenia, October 22-24, 2010. Awarded by the University of Pittsburgh, \$2,000

Academic Fellowships

- 2015-16 Adam Smith Fellow (nonresident), Mercatus Center, George Mason University, \$5,000 stipend and travel support.
- Dissertation Fellow, Center for Democratic Deliberation, Pennsylvania State University, course release and \$1,000 in research support.

Awards

- 2018 Featured Alumni and Spark Leader, Women's History Month, National Speech & Debate Association, March 2018.
- Academic Achievement Award, awarded by the Penn State President's Commission on LGBTQ Equity, April 2018.
- 2016 Warren J. and Sylvia J. Samuels Young Scholar, awarded by the History of Economics Society, June 2016.
- Cynthia Danel Graduate Research Award, awarded by the College of the Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University, April 2016.
- Nancy and Joseph Birkle Student Engagement Award, awarded by the Center for Democratic Deliberation, Pennsylvania State University, March 31, 2016.
- 2015 Top student paper, awarded by American Society for the History of Rhetoric for "Skotison: The Dark Rhetorical Style of Fedspeak," NCA 101st Annual Convention – Embracing Opportunities, Las Vegas, NV, November 19-22, 2015.
- Excellence in coaching award, given by students of the Penn State Speech & Debate Society, Pennsylvania State University, April 20, 2015.
- 2013 Top four student paper, awarded by American Studies Division for "The Perpetual Crisis of the American Dream in Obama's Stimulus Proposal," NCA 99th Annual

Convention – Connections, Washington, DC, November 21-24, 2013.

Ruth Segal Scholarship, given by the Foundation for Outdoor Advertising Research and Education to support academic pursuits in the area of public affairs, \$4,500.

2011 Ruth Segal Scholarship, given by the Foundation for Outdoor Advertising Research and Education to support academic pursuits in the area of public affairs, \$4,500.

Robert Murphy Award for Excellence in Public Debate, given by the William Pitt Debating Union, University of Pittsburgh.

2010 Top paper award at the Europe: East and West Undergraduate Symposium given by the University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh, \$300.

Wayland Maxfield Parrish Award for Archival Research, given by the William Pitt Debating Union, University of Pittsburgh.

Teaching

Northeastern University

COMM 1112 – Public Speaking, four sections.

COMM 2100 – Elements of Debate, two sections.

Johns Hopkins University

COMM 606 – Persuasion, two sections (online).

Pennsylvania State University

CAS 315 – Debate and Civic Life, proposed course and received approval from department and college for it to be created, two sections.

CAS 100A – Effective Speech: Public Speaking, ten sections.

CAS 411 – Rhetorical Criticism. Guest lecture, “Framing Theory and the Media” and “Social Controversy and the Role of Criticism,” Fall 2013.

Director, Penn State International Debate Institute, June 2016, a program for Chinese high school students.

Participant, Penn State LGBTQA Safe Zone 101, Intersectionality 101, Transgender 101.

Recipient, Foundations for Online Teaching Certificate, Penn State Online Faculty Development.

Baylor University

CSS 1301 – Fundamentals of Public Communication, four sections (TA).

CSS 1302 – Speech for Professional Students, four sections (TA).

Invited Lectures/Workshops

“Queer and Trans History/Theory: An Introduction,” Women’s Debate Institute, August 6, 2018.

“Class, Neoliberalism, and Education” Women’s Debate Institute, August 8, 2017.

“Beyond the Hashtag: Advocacy and Activist Strategies for Social Justice,” Women’s Debate Institute, August 7, 2017.

“Introduction to Basic Queer and Trans Theory,” Women’s Debate Institute, August 7, 2017.

“Speech and Debate as Civic Education,” Department colloquium, Pennsylvania State University, December 2, 2016.

“Why Vote? Discussing Your Role,” State of State, Penn State University, October 26, 2016.

“When Scientists Debate,” Health Communication Brownbag Series, Penn State University, April 1, 2015.

Problem/Policy Speech Workshop, CAS 100A, Penn State University, October 23, 2014.

Problem/Policy Speech Workshop, CAS 100A, Penn State University, October 23, 2013.

Professional Development

Seminars & Workshops

Participant, “Theorizing Communication in a Digitally Networked Age,” Summer Symposium, Penn State University, University Park, PA, June 12-15, 2017.

Participant, “The ‘Rhetorical Presidency’ in the Post-Cold War Era,” led by John Murphy and Mary Stuckey, Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, Blooming, IN, May 22-25, 2017.

Participant, “Argumentation Theory, Research, and Pedagogy,” led by David Zarefsky, Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, Blooming, IN, May 25-27, 2017.

Participant, “‘The War of Words,’ A Rhetoric of Motives, and Contemporary Rhetorical Theory,” led by Jack Selzer, Kyle Jensen, and Krista Ratcliffe, Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, Madison, WI, June 1-7, 2015.

Participant, “Political Communication and Campaigns,” led by Mary Stuckey, Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, Madison, WI, June 1-7, 2015.

Professional Membership

National Communication Association
Rhetoric Society of America

American Society for the History of Rhetoric
American Forensics Association

Service

National

Associate Editor, *Timely Interventions: Debate as Civic Design*, 2018-Present.

Editorial Board Member, *Contemporary Argumentation & Debate*, 2018-Present

Consultant, “Transgender Best Practices Material,” LGBT+ Coaches’ Caucus, National Speech & Debate Association, 2018.

Instructor, Women’s Debate Institute, 2017-Present; Curriculum Committee, 2018-Present; Admissions Committee, 2017-2018.

Reviewer: Biennial Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America, 2018; National Communication Association Convention (various divisions), 2012-Present

Guest Reviewer, *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, Fall 2016; *Advances in History of Rhetoric*, Fall 2017; *Communication & Critical/Cultural Studies*, Spring 2018.

Vice-Chair, Economics, Communication, and Society Division, National Communication Association, 2019-Present; Vice-Chair Elect, 2017-2018; *Ex-officio* chair, 2016-2017; Planning Committee Co-Chair, 2015-2016.

Advisory Board, Federal Reserve Archival System for Economic Research, 2015-2016.

Northeastern University

2018-19 Diversity Committee, College of Arts, Media, and Design; LGBTQIA Affairs Subcommittee, Curriculum Subcommittee.

Penn State University

2017-18 Curricular Integration Committee, President’s Commission on LGBTQ Equity. Scholarship Selection Committee, LGBTQIA Student Resource Center.

2016-17 Awards Committee, Communication Arts & Sciences.

2015-16 Awards Committee, Communication Arts & Sciences.
Advisory Committee, Communication Arts & Sciences.
Graduate Forum, Communication Arts & Sciences.

2014-15 Advisory Board, Center for Democratic Deliberation.
Steering Committee, Centre County Public Issues Forum.

Public Outreach

Media Appearances

Panelist, “What is the Role of Citizens in our Democracy?” Centre County Public Issue Forum, broadcast on C-NET from State College Municipal Building, April 21, 2015. Online at: <http://cnet.pegcentral.com/player.php?video=6250d4357b10ca76276de5d84aba8e8a>

Panelist, “What is the 21st Mission for our Public Schools?” Centre County Public Issue Forum, broadcast on C-NET from State College Municipal Building, November 20, 2014. Online at: <http://cnet.pegcentral.com/player.php?video=ea0a6cc63d8cfccb5ba8e422445e2f59>

Public Debates & Deliberations

Organizer, international debate with British national team. “Should drugs be decriminalized?” HUB-Robeson Center, Penn State University, November 2, 2017.

Organizer, campus debate with the Multicultural Resource Center. “The Gun Violence Debate.” Heritage Hall, Penn State University, January 18, 2017.

Organizer, international debate with British national team. “Is Populism Good for Democracy?” Chambers Building, Penn State University, October 25, 2016.

Organizer, debate between College Democrats and College Republicans. “PSU Votes Week.” HUB-Robeson Center, Penn State University, September 29, 2016.

Organizer, debate between College Democrats and College Republicans. “Penn State Elections: Economy and Iran.” HUB-Robeson Center, Penn State University, September 7, 2016.

Assistant moderator, debate between Karl Rove and Paul Begala. “What is government’s role in everyday life?” Schwab Auditorium, Penn State University, April 25, 2016.

Organizer, public discussion on multiple topics. “Engage Penn State.” HUB-Robeson Center, Penn State University, April 21, 2016.

Moderator, campus debate between Fossil Free PSU and Society of Petroleum Engineers. “Should Fracking be in Pennsylvania’s Future?” Flex Theatre, Penn State University, March 23, 2016.

Moderator, international debate with British national team. “The United States should repeal the Second Amendment.” Flex Theatre, Penn State University, October 26, 2015.

Moderator, international debate with Rwanda national team. “The United States should reduce its involvement in Africa.” Paterno Library, Penn State University, October 13, 2015.

Organizer, public discussion. “Preventing Sexual Violence, Promoting Gender Inclusivity,” Penn State University, September 30, 2015.

Assistant organizer, Centre County Public Issue Forum. “Democracy’s Challenge: Reclaiming the Public’s Role,” Fairmount Avenue School, April 30, 2015.

Moderator, public debate with University of Pittsburgh. “Should colleges pay student-athletes?” Paterno Library, Penn State University, April 16, 2015.

Organizer, campus debate. “Is THON culture harmful to student academic success?” Willard Building, Penn State University, February 25, 2015.

Moderator, public deliberation, “Gain of Function Experiments,” Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics, Millennium Science Complex, Penn State University, February 2, 2015.

Assistant organizer, Centre County Public Issue Forum, “What is the 21st Century Mission for Our Public Schools?” Fairmount Avenue School, November 20, 2014.

Moderator, international debate with British national team. “The United States should ban

private political donations.” Paterno Library, Penn State University, October 28, 2014.

Organizer, public debate with Clarion University. “Should college athletes be paid?” Clarion University. September 24, 2014.

Moderator, Constitution Day public debate. “Should a Privacy Amendment be added to the Constitution?” Paterno Library, Penn State University. September 17, 2014.

Moderator, public debate with Clarion University. “Should the minimum wage be raised?” Willard Building, Penn State University. April 25, 2014.

Moderator, international debate with Japanese team. “Should nuclear power plants be abolished?” Sparks Building, Penn State University. March 7, 2014.

Moderator, international debate with British team. “Hip hop should clean up its act.” Sparks Building, Penn State University. November 9, 2013.

Assistant organizer, Urban Pedagogy and Public Advocacy Pilot Project debate. “The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police should be more accountable to the Pittsburgh Citizen Police Review Board.” Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh. April 28, 2010.