

Megan Fitzmaurice, Ph.D.

mifitz@unc.edu

CURRENT POSITION

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Spring 2024 - Present
Teaching Assistant Professor of Rhetoric– Department of Communication

EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park 2013-2018

Ph.D., Communication—Rhetoric & Political Culture; Women’s Studies Certificate

- **Dissertation:** *Commemorative Activism: Tracing Black Nationalism through Contemporary Campaigns to Memorialize U.S. Slavery, 1991-2017*

- **Advisor:** Shawn J. Parry-Giles

University of Georgia 2011-2013

M.A., Communication Studies

- **Thesis:** *Visual Silence: African American Voices in Washington DC’s Commemorative Formations*

- **Advisor:** Belinda A. Stillion Southard

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 2007-2010

B.A., Communication Studies - Summa Cum Laude Honors

TEACHING AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

Effective Online Teaching Certificate – University of Texas, Arlington 2020

Teaching Associate’s Certificate – University of Maryland, College Park 2018

Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Maryland, College Park, Dept. of Comm. 2017

RESEARCH AWARDS AND HONORS

Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship 2017

Charles Richardson Award for Most Outstanding Ph.D. Student in Communication 2017

James F. Harris Arts & Humanities Visionary Scholarship 2016

UMD Summer Research Fellowship 2016

UMD Graduate Professional Development Award 2016

Doctoral Comprehensive Exams: Pass with Distinction 2015

NCA Women’s Caucus Travel Grant 2014

UMD Deans Fellowship 2013

James L. Golden Award Laureate Winner (NCA- top MA student papers in rhetoric) 2012; 2013

Cal Poly College of Liberal Arts First Generation Scholarship Award 2009; 2010

Megan Fitzmaurice

Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award

2010

PUBLICATIONS

Fitzmaurice, Megan. “What Lies Beneath: Recovering an African Burial Ground and Black Nationalism’s Cultural Influence in the Capital of the Confederacy.” In *Reconstructing the South: Critical Regionalism and Southern Rhetoric*, ed. Christina L. Moss and Brandon Inabinet (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2021).

Fitzmaurice, Megan. “Recirculating Memories of the Presidents as Benevolent Slaveholders on Presidential Slave Tours.” *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 22, no. 4 (2019): 495-531.

Fitzmaurice, Megan. “Commemorative Privilege in National Statuary Hall: Spatial Constructions of Racial Citizenship.” *Southern Journal of Communication* 81 (2016): 252-262.

Hyams, Travis, Deborah J. Bowen, Celeste Condit, Jeremy Grossman, **Megan Fitzmaurice**, Deborah Goodman, Lari Wenzel, Karen L. Edwards. “Views of Cohort Study Participants About Returning Research Results in the Context of Precision Medicine.” *Public Health Genomics* 19 (2016): 269-275.

Fitzmaurice, Megan. “Re(place)ing Space: Privilege and Public Memory in the National Women’s History Cybermuseum.” *Feminist Media Studies* 14 (2014): 520–523.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Fall 2023

Adjunct Instructor – Department of Communication

- Taught a 50-person section of Intro. to Organizational Communication
- Taught a 30-person section of Nonprofit Ethics & Communication
- Organized service-learning partnerships with local nonprofits to provide students with professional experience

University of Texas at Arlington

2021-2023

Assistant Professor of Instruction & Sequence Coordinator – Philanthropy & Communication Studies

Affiliate Faculty, Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies Program

- Designed undergraduate courses on nonprofit management and community engagement for UTA’s new Philanthropy major—only the second program of its kind in the country
- Organized service-learning partnerships with local nonprofits to provide students with professional experience
- Facilitated vibrant discussion on social issues and nonprofit ethics in racially and generationally diverse classrooms, both in-person and virtually

Adjunct Assistant Professor – Communication Studies

2019-2021

- Instructed diverse classes of science and engineering majors in professional and technical communication
- Prepared students for the job market with instruction in resume writing, interviewing, and public speaking

Johns Hopkins University Carey School of Business

2018-2023

Online Teaching & Research Assistant

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- Coached mid-career MBA students in effective business writing, public speaking, and ethical leadership
- Executed grant-funded research on public discourse surrounding allegations of sexual assault among U.S. business executives and the corresponding #MeToo Movement

Naveen Jindal School of Management, UT Dallas 2020

- Taught business communication in an online setting for 100+ students
- Prepared students to be engaging writers, speakers, and teammates in their future professions

Tarrant County College & Dallas County Community College 2019

Adjunct Instructor

- Taught six sections of Introduction to Communication and Public Speaking, including three dual-credit courses in a high school setting

University of North Texas

Adjunct Instructor

2018

- Taught two sections of a hybrid Introduction to Communication course
- Instigated service-learning elements through class partnerships with local nonprofits

University of Maryland

Instructor—Rhetoric of Black America

2016- 2017

- Developed a specialized course on black history, public address, and rhetorical criticism
- Assigned activities and assessments centered on local historic sites and museums

Instructor—Oral Communication: Principles and Practices

2013- 2017

- Taught public speaking, interpersonal, and small group communication using applied methods
- Specialized the course in critical communication and community advocacy

Instructor—Argumentation & Debate

2014-2016

- Coached students on argumentative strategies and debate styles
- Centered course on the 2016 primary and general presidential elections

Teaching Assistant—Media Literacy

2014

- Led discussion section of 25 students
- Taught writing, media analysis, and social media

University of Georgia

Teaching Assistant—Women and U.S. Public Discourse

2013

- Lectured periodically throughout semester
- Guided students in rhetorical criticism and mentored undergraduate research projects

Teaching Assistant—Rhetoric and Society

2012

- Lectured periodically throughout semester
- Connected rhetorical theory to contemporary social and political events

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at Arlington

2021 – 2023

Program Coordinator, Philanthropy Major – Department of Communication

- Created, proposed, and passed new undergraduate Certificate in Fundraising & Nonprofit Management

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- Advised majors in career development and course planning
- Supervised and collaborated with department recruiter to promote the degree across the state, increasing enrollment by 275%
- Established community partnerships with local government agencies, foundations, and nonprofits to provide students with internship and service-learning opportunities

University of Maryland – College Park, MD 2015-2019

*Associate Editor and Resource Manager, **Recovering Democracy Archives (RDA)***

- Managed online content production for the RDA educational website
- Cultivated strategic partnerships with historical societies and libraries nationwide
- Directed undergraduate and graduate research assistants in writing, editing, and researching
- Acquired and managed grant funding for payroll, copyright, web design, and other project needs

*Program Coordinator, **African American Digital Humanities Initiative (AADHum)*** 2018

- Developed workshops, community events, and discussions centered on digital black studies
- Initiated interdisciplinary partnerships among scholars of black history and culture in the greater D.C. area
- Coordinated submissions and reviews for Fall 2018 Conference

*Publication Assistant, for **Shawn J. Parry-Giles, Department Chair*** 2013

- Completed a thorough verification of all primary and secondary material in book manuscript
- Assembled index and assisted in formatting publication to the press-specified style guide

Generation Hope – Washington D.C. 2013-2019

Education Services Coordinator & Case Manager

- Supported pregnant and parenting college students pursuing higher education by coordinating childcare, tutoring, professionalism workshops, and one-on-one mentoring sessions
- Created a free tutoring program, recruiting and managing 100+ volunteers
- Taught intensive summer courses on college reading, writing, and organizational skills
- Solicited monetary and in-kind donations from individuals, groups, and corporations in service of program goals

University of Georgia – Athens, GA

Research Assistant for Celeste Condit, Ph.D. 2012

- Completed Internal Review Board (IRB) Human Subjects Research Certification
- Provided clerical support for interview data collection

Research Assistant for Barbara A. Biesecker, Ph.D. 2012

- Compiled data on faculty research productivity in service of the Department Review
- Composed an annotated bibliography on rhetoric and psychoanalysis with over 100 entries

House of Representatives 2009

Legislative Intern

- Oversaw large-scale research projects and coordinated extensive topical reports
- Drafted argumentative speeches and rebuttal points for House floor debates

GRANT EXPERIENCE

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RUG Oral History Digital Archive: Recording Women’s Resilience in the Face of Injustice, Promoting Global Unity, and Creating a Guide for Change 2022

- Awarded **\$40,000** grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- Awarded **\$1,500** grant from College of Liberal Arts at University of Texas at Arlington.
- Drafted project proposal, oral history script, and co-wrote several grant applications
- Founded a digital humanities project to collect oral histories from women recently displaced from Afghanistan following the August 2021 Taliban takeover as part of an interdisciplinary team

#MeToo at Work: Corporate Crisis Management and Public Relations Responses to Sexual Assault

- Awarded **\$4,000** grant from Johns Hopkins University Carey School of Business 2019- 2021
- Research project conducted qualitative research on ways that the #MeToo Movement has prompted a shift in corporations’ responses to workplace sexual assault and the effectiveness of those responses.
- Results presented at the National Communication Association Convention in 2019

Recovering Democracy Archives (RDA) 2015- 2019

- Awarded a **\$5,000 grant** from the National Communication Association’s “Funds to Advance the Discipline” competition
- Managed acquisition of copyright and textual authentication for recovered speech texts
- RDA works to recover lesser-known but important public speeches and make them available digitally alongside resources for high school and college educators

Terps Talk Politics: Symposium on the 2016 Presidential Election 2016

- Awarded a **\$1,600 grant** from the Pepsi Enhancement Fund to plan the symposium
- Assisted in preparing the grant application, securing the keynote speaker, and coordinating the seminar lineup
- This program provided the campus community with opportunities to learn from leading scholars in political communication about the 2016 presidential campaigns. Through seminars and debate-debrief events, the symposium helped to foster healthy political deliberation on campus.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“The Community Remembrance Project: Expanding Lynching’s Legacy Spatially, Dialogically, and Historically,” National Communication Association Convention, November 2022, New Orleans, LA.

“Resilience through Resistance: Regionalism and Reconstructing Southern Rhetoric,” Roundtable in Rhetoric and Public Address Division, Southern States Communication Association Conference, April 2022, Greenville, SC.

“Commemorative Activism: Memorializing Slavery’s Legacy in Montgomery, Alabama,” **Top Papers in Rhetoric and Public Address panel**, Southern States Communication Association Conference, April 2020, Frisco, TX. *Event canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic.*

“#MeToo at Work: A Comparative Analysis of Apologia Strategies used by Corporations following Allegations of Sexual Assault,” National Communication Association Convention, November 2019, Baltimore, MD.

“Archival Survival: Why We Continue to Teach Archival Methods and What the Archives Continue to Teach Us,” National Communication Association Convention, November 2019, Baltimore, MD [panel organizer and participant].

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- “Rhetorical Placemaking and Pan-African Thinking: Activist Efforts to Commemorate an African Burial Ground in New York City,” **Top Student Paper panel**, Rhetoric & Public Address Division, Southern States Communication Conference, April 2018, Nashville, TN.
- “The Defenders of Freedom Justice and Equality: Protesting the Lost Cause and Recognizing Slavery’s Violent Legacy,” National Communication Association Convention, November 2017, Dallas, TX.
- “Avenging the Ancestors and Commemorative Resistance at the President’s House,” National Communication Association Convention, November 2016, Philadelphia, PA.
- “A Strategic Reversal: The National Association of Colored Women’s Rhetorical Reframing of the Mammy Monument,” National Communication Association Convention, November 2016, Philadelphia, PA.
- “The Rhetorical Reimagination of Washington at *The President’s House*,” Rhetoric Society of America Conference, May 2016, Atlanta, GA.
- “Legacy for Sale: The Rosa Parks Papers and the Rhetoric of Commodification,” Rhetoric Society of America Conference, May 2016, Atlanta, GA.
- “We Need More Arguments in More Places: Women and Academic Debate in Afghan Universities,” Speech & Debate as Civic Education Conference, March 2015, Penn State University.
- “Staying True to U: Visual Nostalgia and Public Art on Washington, D.C.’s U Street Corridor,” Eastern Communication Association Conference, April 2015, Philadelphia, PA.
- “I Felt Like it was Real”: Anxiety over Authenticity in Childhood Slavery Reenactments,” National Communication Association Convention, November 2014, Chicago, IL.
- “Negotiating Ideological Dissonance: Presidential Memory and Slavery Tourism at Mount Vernon, Monticello, and Montpelier,” National Communication Association Convention, November 2014, Chicago, IL.
- “Commemorating The Postracial Citizen: The Visual Silence of Racial Difference in The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial,” Rhetoric Society of America Conference, May 2014, San Antonio, TX.
- “Presidential Memory and Slave Tours at Mount Vernon, Monticello, and Montpelier,” Camp Rhetoric Regional Conference, February 2014, Pennsylvania State University.
- “Re(place)ing Space: Rhetorics of Gendered Nationalism and The National Women’s History Museum,” Symposium on Gender and Rhetorical Power, December 2013, University of Maryland.
- “Visual Silence: The Protection and Manifestation of Symbolic Racism in National Statuary Hall,” James L. Golden Award Laureate Group, National Communication Association Convention, November 2013, Washington, DC.
- “Postracialism and Presidential Rhetoric: A Monumental Shift in Discourses Of Race and Citizenship,” Roundtable: Situated Discourses of Citizenship, National Communication Association Convention, November 2013, Washington, DC.
- “A Capitol Offense: Senator DeMint’s Reluctant Reconstitution,” James L. Golden Award Laureate Group, National Communication Association Convention, November 2012, Orlando, FL.

Megan Fitzmaurice

“Visual Representations of Gendered Nationalism: Examining American National Identity Through US Depictions of Afghan Women,” National Communication Association Convention, November 2012, Orlando, FL.

“Moving Beyond Mainstream Green: Dana Alston’s Rhetorical Mobilization of the Environmental Justice Movement,” National Communication Association Convention, November 2010, San Francisco, CA.

“Visual Narratives as Vehicles for Ideology: An Examination of Pro-American Sentiments in the Evolution of National Geographic’s ‘Afghan Girl,’” National Communication Association Convention, November 2010, San Francisco, CA.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

UNC Department of Communication COPE Committee Spring 2024

- Developed a public-facing workshop with the Institute of Arts and Humanities: “Critical Communication Toolkit: Dialogue Across Difference”
- Organized “Comm Day,” a student research symposium and award ceremony

UTA Department of Communication Curriculum Committee 2021-2023

- Developed curriculum and course requirements for new undergraduate certificate in Fundraising & Nonprofit Management
- Audited course catalogue for department and updated various major requirements
- Collaborated with the Dean of Graduate Studies and Vice Provost to begin developing a graduate program in Fundraising & Nonprofit Management

University of Texas at Arlington Communication Day 2019; 2020; 2021

- Moderated panel of alumni professionals speaking on community engagement
- Worked to promote department initiatives and recruit new communication majors
- Directed social media efforts to promote the campus-wide event

University of North Texas Women in Business Club Faculty Mentor 2018

- Coached young women in presentation skills and organizational management
- Mentored students in career planning and decision making

UMD Communication Department Climate Initiative 2016- 2017

- Directed the production of an executive summary concerning department climate discussions
- Coordinated monthly department-wide colloquiums to provide research on workplace best practices

UMD CommGrads Organization

- Social Committee Chair 2015-2017
- Department Assembly Representative 2014-2015

DUKE Tips Program 2012-2013

- Taught a public speaking workshop for high school students in Georgia
- Assisted attendees in putting together an advocacy speech for a non-profit organization

Georgia Debate Union

- Managed student dormitories and supervised residential assistants 2014
- Judged undergraduate practice debates 2011-2012

UGA Communication Studies Philanthropy Committee

Chair 2012-2013

Member 2011-2012

- Organized a 5K run benefiting The Cottage: a sexual-assault and children’s advocacy center

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- Coordinated quarterly highway cleanups through the “Keep Athens Beautiful” campaign

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Afghans for Progressive Thinking – Kabul, Afghanistan 2014- Present

Program Consultant and Instructor

- Lead virtual seminars on communication for displaced Afghan university students
- Trained staff members in tournament planning and student recruitment (2014-2018)
- Assisted in writing grant proposals to the U.S. Embassy and the United Nations (2015-2016)
- Taught debate seminars for university students in Kabul (Aug. 2014)

The Net Center – Fort Worth, TX 2018- 2020

- Taught a 5-week “Speaking for Success” course for men & women experiencing homelessness (2019)
- Volunteer for events to encourage, feed, and clothe men and women experiencing homelessness

AIDS Support Network – San Luis Obispo, CA

Community Liaison 2009-2010

- Advocated on behalf of “Fusion,” an inclusive social support group focused on educating and encouraging safe-sex practices for people of all sexual orientations

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

National Communication Association (NCA) 2010- Present

- Nominating Committee: Public Address Division (2017-2018)
- Nominating Committee: Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division (2015-2016)
- Member: Public Address, Experiential Learning, Basic Course, and American Studies Division; Women’s Caucus

REFERENCES

Shawn Parry-Giles, Ph.D.

*Professor & Department Chair
Department of Communication
University of Maryland, College Park*

spg@umd.edu

301-704-5541

Charla Markham-Shaw, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor & Department Chair
Department of Communication
University of Texas at Arlington*

markham@uta.edu

817-272-2163

Josie Ganzermiller, Ph.D.

*Lecturer – Carey Business School
Johns Hopkins University*

JGanzermiller@jhu.edu

610-850-5373