

Laurance Paul Strait

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I. Education

Ph.D. University of Southern California (2014)

Communication

Major concentration: Rhetoric, Politics & Publics

Minor concentration: Media, Culture & Community

Dissertation: *Deliberating the Science of Madness: DSM-5 and the Polytectonic Rhetorical Economy of Psychiatric Nosological Controversy*

Committee: Gerald Thomas Goodnight (Chair), Larry Gross, Randall Lake, Andrew Lakoff

M.A. University of Southern California (2011)

Communication

M.A. George Mason University (2006)

Communication

Thesis: *Policy Debate as Communicative Action: Can Modernity Be Salvaged?*

Committee: Don Boileau (Chair), Warren Decker, Tim Gibson

B.A. The Catholic University of America (2003)

Philosophy

II. Academic Appointments

Graduate Assistant, University of Southern California, 2008 – present.

Annenberg Fellow, University of Southern California, 2007 – 2008.

Adjunct Lecturer, George Mason University, 2006 – 2007.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, George Mason University, 2004 – 2006.

III. Research and Scholarship

1. Journal Articles

Strait, L. P. & Wallace, B. (2008). Academic debate as a decision-making game: Inculcating the virtue of practical wisdom. *Contemporary Argumentation & Debate*, 29, 1-36.

2. Book Chapters

Strait, L. P., & Goodnight, G. T. (2014). Antidepressants and iatrogenic suicidality: Disturbing arguments in the politics of the supplement, in C. Palczewski (ed.), *Disturbing argument: Selected works from the 18th Alta conference on argumentation*, (in press). New York: Taylor & Francis.

Strait, L. P. (2011). Rational argumentation and social change in the Frankfurt School tradition, in R. C. Rowland (ed.), *Reasoned argument and social change*, pp. 190-197. Washington, DC: National Communication Association.

Strait, L. P. & Wallace, B. (2007). The scope of negative fiat and the logic of decision-making, in R. K. Smith, S. Bauschard, & J. P. Lacy (eds.), *Policy cures? Health assistance to Africa*, pp. 1-7. Winston-Salem, NC: DRG.

Strait, L. P. (2002). Thomas Aquinas, in S. Babb (ed.), *Philosopher's guide*, pp. 4-8. Los Angeles, CA: Victory Briefs.

Strait, L. P. (2002). Plato & Aristotle, in S. Babb (ed.), *Philosopher's guide*, pp. 39-43. Los Angeles, CA: Victory Briefs.

3. Conference Papers

Strait, L. P. (2014). A pragma-dialectical approach to the decision-making paradigm in academic debate. Paper to be presented to the 8th Conference of the International Society for the Study of Argumentation (ISSA), Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Strait, L. P. (2014). Allen Frances goes rogue: DSM-5 and the rhetorical border of institutional psychiatry. Paper to be presented to the 16th Biennial Rhetoric Society of America Conference, San Antonio, Texas.

Strait, L. P., & Padrta, G. (2013). Protecting the freedom of systematically distorted speech: The *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* Decision. Paper

presented to the 99th Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, Washington, DC. [**Top paper, Communication and Law division**]

Strait, L. P. (2013). DSM-5 in distress? Connections between the rhetorical and the scientific in the discourses of psychiatric nosological controversy. Paper presented to the 99th Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, Washington, DC.

Strait, L. P. (2013). Psychiatric nosological controversy in the digital public sphere. Paper presented to the Association for the Rhetoric of Science and Technology preconference at the 99th Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, Washington, DC.

Strait, L. P., & Goodnight, G. T. (2013). Antidepressants and iatrogenic suicidality: Disturbing arguments in the politics of the supplement. Paper presented to the 18th Alta Conference on Argumentation, Alta, Utah.

Alberti, L., & Strait, L. P. (2013). A disturbing injustice or criminally miscommunicated risk argumentation? The L'Aquila earthquake prosecution controversy. Paper presented to the 18th Alta Conference on Argumentation, Alta, Utah.

Strait, L. P., & Goodnight, G. T. (2012). The antidepressant suicide controversy: A study of the scientific rhetoric of risk. Paper presented to the 98th Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, Orlando, Florida.

Strait, L. P. (2012). Epistemic bubbles: A communication theory of collective valuation errors. Paper presented to the 98th Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, Orlando, Florida.

Strait, L. P. (2012). Argumentative hoaxing: From incommensurability to mutual understanding. Paper presented to the 4th Toyko Conference on Argumentation, Tokyo, Japan.

Strait, L. P. (2011). Rhetorical time and memory in the aftermath of genocide: A study of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Timor-Leste. Paper presented to the 97th Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Strait, L. P. (2011). Rational argumentation and social change in the Frankfurt School tradition. Paper presented to the 17th Alta Conference on Argumentation, Alta, Utah.

- Strait, L. P. (2010). A formal pragmatic theory of human rights. Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the 96th National Communication Association, San Francisco, California. [**Top paper, Philosophy of Communication Division**]
- Strait, L. P. (2010). Truth and reconciliation in the late modern global public sphere: A case study of Timor-Leste. Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the International Communication Association, Singapore.
- Strait, L. P. (2009). Academic debate as a decision-making game. Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the 95th National Communication Association, Chicago, Illinois.
- Strait, L. P. (2008). The effect of political efficacy on web 2.0 usage: The 2008 primaries. Paper presented to the 94th Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, San Diego, California.
- Strait, L. P. (2007). Does God ‘exist’ according to Catholicism? An attempt to establish intersubjective understanding between Thomists and postmodernists. Paper presented to the 93rd Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, Illinois.
- Strait, L. P. (2007). A Habermasian analysis of intercollegiate policy debate. Paper presented to the 93rd Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, Illinois. [**Top paper, Cross Examination Debate Association Division**]
- Strait, L. P. (2006). Marcuse’s ‘total administration’ hypothesis: A contemporary investigation. Paper presented to the 92nd Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, San Antonio, Texas.
- Strait, L. P. (2006). Evidence use in the 2004 presidential debates. Paper presented to the 92nd Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, San Antonio, Texas.

4. Invited Talks

- “Meta-theory, practical wisdom, and pragma-dialectics,” July 2013, Victory Briefs Summer Lincoln Douglas Debate Institute, University of California Los Angeles.
- “The rhetoric of human rights: Reception, Truth, and Reconciliation,” April 2012, University of Southern California 4th Annual Annenberg Fellowship Research and Creative Project Symposium, Los Angeles, California.

“Emergent formal pragmatic argumentation norms in the Wikipedia editing community,”
April 2011, University of Southern California 3rd Annual Annenberg Fellowship
Research and Creative Project Symposium, Los Angeles, California.

“The history of philosophy for the contemporary debater,” July 2010, University of Texas
(Austin) National Institute in Forensics, Austin, Texas.

IV. Research/Teaching Experience

University of Southern California

Standalone Instructor (course development, instruction, grading, and management)

- The Rhetoric of War and Peace (Graduate seminar in Public Diplomacy), Fall 2013
- Public Speaking, Fall 2013
- Persuasion, Summer 2013
- The Rhetoric of Ideas: Ideology and Propaganda, Spring 2013
- Argumentation and Advocacy, Fall 2012, Spring 2014
- Quantitative Research Methods, Summer 2012

Curriculum Assistant (course development, discussion leader, management)

- Discourse Analysis (doctoral seminar), Summer 2013, Summer 2011
- Science Communication & Biopolitics (doctoral seminar), Summer 2012
- Studies in the Public Sphere (doctoral seminar), Spring 2011

Teaching Assistant (grading, discussion section)

- Quantitative Research Methods, Spring 2012
- Rhetoric and the Public Sphere, Fall 2009
- Persuasion, Fall 2008, Fall 2010

Research Assistant

- Tom Goodnight, Spring 2011 – Summer 2012
- Randy Lake, Spring 2009

George Mason University

Standalone Instructor, 2006 – 2007

- Public Communication (rhetorical criticism)
- Argument & Public Policy
- Empirical Research Methods

Research Assistant, Robert Lichter, (Center for Media & Public Affairs), 2005 – 2007

Teaching Assistant, Political Communication, Spring 2005

Market and Communications Research, Inc.

Research Consultant, February 2002 – February 2005

-Media content analysis (Clients: Biotechnology Industry Organization; Monsanto)

-Focus group facilitation (Client: National Institutes of Health)

-Online survey design/analysis (Client: United Space Alliance)

John Paul II Cultural Center

Research Assistant, Joseph Capizzi, September 2002-May 2003

V. Competitive Speech Experience

University of Southern California Trojan Debate Squad

Assistant Coach, August 2007 – May 2012

George Mason University Debate Team

Coach, August 2005 – May 2007

Assistant Coach, August 2004 – May 2005

Catholic University Sheehan Debate Society

Assistant Coach, 2003 – 2004

University of Texas (Austin) National Institute in Forensics

Residential Director and Lecturer, June – August 2010

Redhawk Miami Debate Workshop

Instructor, June 2005 – July 2005; June 2006 – July 2006

George Mason Debate Institute

Instructor, July 2005; July 2006

Director, July 2007; July 2008; July 2009

Capital Classic Debate Institute / Washington Group Debate Institute

Instructor, June 2002-August 2002; June 2003-August 2003

VI. Service

Annenberg Communication Graduate Student Association, Fall 2007 - Present

Referee

- * *International Journal of Communication*, January 2009 – Present
- * International Communication Association, Philosophy of Communication Division, 2010 – Present
- * National Communication Association, Association for the Rhetoric of Science and Technology, 2014

NCA Doctoral Honors Seminar, Panel Organizer, Summer 2012

NCA Recruitment Volunteer
University of Southern California, 2008- 2010

Peer Mentor
University of Southern California, 2008-2010

VI. Graduate Course Work

Rhetorical/Social/Political Theory

Argumentation, USC, Tom Goodnight
Art, Artists, and Society, USC, Larry Gross
Classical Rhetorical Theory, USC, Randy Lake
Classical Sociological Theory, USC, Sharon Hays
Contemporary Rhetorical Theory, USC, Tom Goodnight
Contemporary Sociological Theory, USC, Nina Eliasoph
Hegel's Philosophy of Right, CUA, Richard Velkley
History of Rhetoric, USC, Lawrence Green
International Human Rights Law and Policy, USC, Alison Renteln
Kenneth Burke's Dramatistic Theory, USC, Randy Lake
New Institutional Theory, USC, Tom Goodnight
Postmodern Thought, GMU, Wayne Froman
Public Sphere/Public Culture, USC, Tom Goodnight
Rhetoric of Health, Risk, and the Environment, USC, Tom Goodnight
Rhetorical Theory and Culture, USC, Randy Lake
Seminar in Science and Technology Studies: Risk Society, USC, Andrew Lakoff
Social Movements as Rhetorical Form, USC, Randy Lake
Studies in the Public Sphere, USC, Tom Goodnight
Technology, Biopolitics, & Globalization, USC, Andrew Lakoff

Methodology

Categorical Data Analysis, Annenberg Summer Institute for Methods & Statistics, Tim Biblarz

Critical Discourse Analysis, USC, Tom Goodnight

Empirical Communication Research Methodology, GMU, Carl Botan

Historiography, Annenberg Summer Institute for Methods & Statistics, Sarah Banet-Weiser

Methods in Multimedia Scholarship, Annenberg Summer Institute for Methods & Statistics, Steve Anderson & Sasha Costanza-Chock

Formal Logic, CUA, Fred Sommers

Quantitative Research Methods in Communication, USC, Peter Monge

Qualitative Research Methods in Communication, USC, Sarah Banet-Weiser

Rhetorical Criticism, USC, Randy Lake

Seminar in the Philosophy of Science: Bayesian Probability, USC, Kenneth Easwaran

Communication Studies

Foundations of Organizational Communication, GMU, Gary Kreps

Humanistic Approaches to Human Communication, USC, Tom Goodnight

Social Scientific Approaches to Human Communication, USC, Larry Gross

Political Campaign Communication, GMU, Bob Lichter

Risk and Crisis Communication, GMU, Katherine Rowan

Theories of Interpersonal Communication, GMU, Lisa Sparks

Theories of Mass Communication, GMU, Tim Gibson

Theories of Public Relations, GMU, Carl Botan

Professional

Publishing Communication Research, USC, Randy Lake

Communication Pedagogy, GMU, Don Boileau

*Building Bridges in the Persuasion Classroom, NCA Short Course, 2010

*Building the Quantitative Methods Toolkit: Equipping Faculty to Teach Undergraduate and Graduate Research Methods, NCA Short Course, 2010

VIII. Organizational Membership

American Catholic Philosophical Association

Association for the Rhetoric of Science and Technology

Association for Medical Humanities

International Communication Association
National Communication Association
Rhetoric Society of America
Semiotics Society of America
Society for Social Studies of Science