

LIZ SILLS
CURRICULUM VITAE

(765) 461-5156
liz.sills@gmail.com

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

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|---|----------|
| PhD in Communication Studies | May 2015 |
| Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, LA) | |
| Focus in Rhetoric | |
| Secondary Focus in Performance Studies | |
| Advisor: Dr. Nathan Crick | |
| Dissertation Committee: Nathan Crick, Bridgette Davis, Andrew King, Gregory Schufreider | |
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 | |
| M.A. in Communication Studies | 2011 |
| The University of Montana (Missoula, MT) | |
| Focus in Rhetoric and Public Discourse | |
| Secondary Focus in Organizational Communication | |
| Advisor: Dr. Sara Hayden | |
| Thesis Title: <i>Assessing the balance: Burkean frames and Lil' Bush</i> | |
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| B.A. in Political Science | 2008 |
| Transylvania University (Lexington, KY) | |
| Advisor: Dr. Don Dugi | |
| Minor in Communication | |

AWARDS AND HONORS

RECOGNITION

Richard C. Richards Almost Memorial Prize, awarded by the Lighthearted Philosophers' Society for the Best Heckle at the annual meeting, Spring 2017, Fall 2019 (\$50 monetary award)

Outstanding Doctoral Student Award, awarded by the Louisiana State University Department of Communication Studies Graduate Student Organization Spring 2015

Dedication to Pedagogy Award, awarded by the Louisiana State University Department of Communication Studies Graduate Student Organization Spring 2015

Outstanding Scholar Award, awarded by the Louisiana State University Department of Communication Studies Graduate Student Organization Spring 2015

Outstanding Service Award, awarded by the Louisiana State University Department of Communication Studies Graduate Student Organization Spring 2015

Mary Frances HopKins Scholar, awarded by the Louisiana State University Department of Communication Studies Fall 2011 - Fall 2014

Sills/Jolly Debate Award to be awarded annually to the top-ranked Parliamentary debate team at the Transylvania University WYRD Forensics Tournament, beginning Fall 2010

Kentucky Forensics Association Harlan Hamm Award for dedication to forensics study and competition, Spring 2008

TOP PAPERS

Top Five Paper in Performance Studies and Autoethnography, awarded by the Central States Communication Association, April 2019, for The Evolution of the Funny: American Folk Humor and Gimbel's Cleverness Theory

Top Panel, awarded by the Central States Communication Association, April 2018, for Teaching in Trump's America

Top Four Paper in Philosophy and Ethics of Communication, awarded by the Southern States Communication Association, April 2014, for The Epistemology of the Funny

Top Student Paper in Rhetoric and Public Address, awarded by the Southern States Communication Association, March 2011, for Tattered and Torn: An analysis of the Confederate Battle Flag as a Resonant Visual Ideograph

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Sills, L. (2020). The Evolution of the Funny: American Folk Humor and Gimbel's Cleverness Theory. *Philosophy of Humor Yearbook*, 1:1, 73-96.

Sills, L. (2020). The Trumping of the Funny: Classroom Joking in a Polarized Public Sphere. *Comedy Studies*, 11:2, 253-264.

Sills, L. (2019). The Rhetoric of Toys: Barbie for President. *International Journal of Play*, 8:2, 122-141.

Sills, L. (2019). David Sedaris: The Next Great American Literary Humorist? *Studies in American Culture*, 42:1, 72-93.

Sills, L. (2017). Hashtag comedy: From Muslim rage to #MuslimRage. *ReOrient: The Journal of Critical Muslim Studies*, 2:2, 160-174.

Sills, L. (2017). The phenomenology of the funny: A diagrammatic proposal. *Comedy Studies* 8:1, 2-12.

Sills, L. (2016). The epistemology of the funny. *Empedocles: European Journal for the Philosophy of Communication*, 7:1, 71-83.

Sills, L. (2016). "He approves this message:" Presidential self-deprecating humor as a violation of a social contract. *Florida Philosophical Review*, XV:1, 37-49.

Keaton, S.A. and Sills, L. (2014). Blogging and textual poaching: Resonant appropriations of H.G. Wells's *The Time Machine*. *The Northwest Journal of Communication*, 42:1, 61-85.

Book Chapters

Sills, E. (2013). Inappropriate political content: Serialized comic strips at the intersection of visual rhetoric and the rhetoric of humor. In Howard, S.C. and Jackson, R.L. II, *Black Comics: Politics of Race and Representation*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Book Reviews

Sills, L. and Crick, N. (2014). *The Rhetorical Surface of Democracy: How Deliberative Ideals Undermine Democratic Politics* by Scott Welsh (review). *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, 17:2, 352-355.

Pedagogical Publications

Sills, L. (2014). The silent unit. *Communication Teacher*, 28:4, 240-245.

In Process

Sills, L. The Justice of the Funny. Accepted to *Ethics and Comedy*.

Sills, L. The Rapport of the Funny: or How to Win Students and Influence People. Accepted by *Teach Philosophy with a Sense of Humor: Why (and How) to be a Funnier and More Effective Philosophy Teacher and Laugh All the Way to Your Classroom*.

Under Review

Sills, L. The Reservations of the Funny: Ethics of Studying Funny Communication. Under consideration by *Philosophy of Humor Yearbook*.

Sills, L. Stop Saying that Things are Funny Because They're True. Under consideration by *It's funny cause it's true: an introduction to philosophy through humor*. Jennifer Henrigillis and Steven Gimbel (eds). Lighthearted Open Access. 2020.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

Sills, Liz. (2020). *The Reservations of the Funny: Ethics of Studying Funny Communication*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Western States Communication Association, Denver, CO.

Sills, Liz. (2019). *The Evolution of the Funny: American Folk Humor and Gimbel's Cleverness Theory*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Omaha, NE. [**Top 5 Paper, Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group**]

Sills, Liz. (2019). *Navigating LGBTQ Identities in Trump's America*. Panel discussion at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Omaha, NE.

Sills, Liz (2018). *Flipping the Prefix: Evolving from the SPCM Moniker*. Panel discussion at the annual meeting of the Speech Communication Association of South Dakota, Huron, SD.

Sills, Liz. (2018). *The Theory and Practice of Humor*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Milwaukee, WI.

Sills, Liz. (2018). *The Trumping of the Funny: Death of a Shaman*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Milwaukee, WI. [**Top Panel, Communication Education Interest Group**]

Sills, Liz (2017). *Is Communication Necessary for Comedy and Humor?* Presented at the annual meeting of the Speech Communication Association of South Dakota, Pierre, SD.

Sills, Liz (2017). *Perspectives on Transitioning a Forensics Team*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Speech Communication Association of South Dakota, Pierre, SD.

Sills, Liz (2017). *The Funny in the Original Position*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Lighthearted Philosophers' Society, St. Augustine, FL.

Sills, Liz (2017). *David Sedaris: The Next Great American Literary Humorist?* Presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Minneapolis, MN.

Sills, Liz (2016). *The Silent Unit*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Speech Communication Association of South Dakota, Watertown, SD.

Sills, Liz (2016). *Assessing the Balance: Burkean Frames and *Lil' Bush**. Presented at the biannual meeting of the Rhetoric Society of America, Atlanta, GA.

Sills, Liz (2016). *Toward defining the American Literary Humorist*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern States Communication Association, Austin, TX.

Sills, Liz (2015). *Empedocles to Sedaris: Or Why Studying Humor Matters Even if the Humor You're Studying Isn't Something from *The Daily Show* or *The Colbert Report**. Presented at the annual meeting of the Lighthearted Philosophers' Society, Deerfield Beach, FL.

Sills, Liz (2015). *Vampires and the Visual Feminine*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern States Communication Association, Tampa, FL.

Sills, Liz (2015). *The Very Simultaneous Gander*. Performed at the annual meeting of the Southern States Communication Association, Tampa, FL.

Sills, Liz (2014). *The Phenomenological Funny*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Lighthearted Philosophers' Society, Galveston, TX.

Sills, Liz (2014). *Creative Polyphony: The Rhetoric of the Undisciplined Mind*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Popular/American Culture Association, New Orleans, LA.

Sills, Liz (2014). *The Rhetoric of Toys: Play, Phenomenology, and Barbie for President*. Presented at the biannual meeting of the Rhetoric Society of America, San Antonio, TX.

Sills, Liz (2014). *The Epistemology of the Funny*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern States Communication Association, New Orleans, LA. [**Top Four Paper, Philosophy and Ethics of Communication Interest Group**]

Sills, Liz (2014). "He Approves This Message:" Presidential Self-Deprecating Humor as a Violation of a Social Contract. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern States Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.

Sills, Liz (2014). *Forensics Mentoring: Program Success and Individual Development*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern States Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.

Sills, Liz (2013). *From Muslim Rage to #muslimrage: Hashtag Comedy*. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Washington, DC.

Sills, Liz (2013). *Becoming Between: The Disciplinary Liminality of the Master's Thesis Defense*. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Washington, DC.

Sills, Liz (2013). *Religulous: Doubt Through Classical Rhetoric*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Popular/American Culture Association, Savannah, GA.

Sills, Liz (2013). *The Twitter Touch: Tweet Tweet*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Popular/American Culture Association, Savannah, GA.

Sills, Liz (2013). *Ridiculing Food Snobbery: A Case for the Funny Jeremiad*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern States Communication Association, Louisville, KY.

Sills, Liz (2013). *Paralepsis: A Figure of Speech and a Figure of Culture*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern States Communication Association, Louisville, KY.

Sills, Liz (2013). *Humor Can Subvert: Identification and Resistance in Corporate Comedy*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Kansas City, MO.

Sills, Liz (2013). *Academic Birth Control: The Crisis of the Graduate Stipend*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association, Albuquerque,

NM.

Sills, Liz, (2012). *Scary Movie: Baring Our Teeth in Fear and Laughter*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Popular/American Culture Association, Nashville, TN.

Sills, Liz (2012). *Broadcast a Joyful Noise: College Radio as Resistance*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Popular/American Culture Association, Nashville, TN.

Sills, Liz (2011). *Dialogue Deterred: The Cultural Racism of Sizzle: A Global Warming Comedy*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Northwest Communication Association, Coeur d'Alene, ID.

Sills, Liz and Jolly, Marshall (2011). *Tattered and Torn: An Analysis of the Confederate Battle Flag as a Resonant Visual Ideograph*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern States Communication Association, Little Rock, AR. [**Top Student Paper, Rhetoric and Public Address Division**]

Sills, Liz (2011). *Doll Cannot Stand Alone: The Media Framing of 'Barbie for President'*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Western States Communication Association, Monterey, CA.

Sills, Liz (2010). "Inappropriate Political Content": Serialized Comic Strips at the Intersection of Visual Rhetoric and the Rhetoric of Humor. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA.

Sills, Liz (2010). "Inappropriate Political Content": Serialized Comic Strips at the Intersection of Visual Rhetoric and the Rhetoric of Humor. Presented at the annual University of Montana Graduate Student and Faculty Research Conference, Missoula, MT.

Performances

Performer in "Ocean's 11/CSI Mashup," Sweded Film presented as part of the "Sweding Las Vegas" panel at the National Communication Association Las Vegas, 2015. Directed by Trish Suchy and Stephanie Heath.

Workshops

Proactively Teaching Race in 2020. (2020). Workshop at the Speech Communication Association of South Dakota Convention, Moved online.

Teaching Stand-Up Comedy. (2019). Workshop at the Speech Communication Association of South Dakota Convention, Spearfish, SD.

Active Listening. (August 2017, 2018, & 2019). Workshop for Student Orientation Leader Training, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD.

The Advantages of Being Funny. (2017 & 2018). Workshop offered as part of the Aberdeen Development Corporation's PowerHour series at The Workshop, Aberdeen, SD.

Listening to Others as You Would Have Them Listen to You. (2017). Workshop offered as part of the Aberdeen Development Corporation's PowerHour series at The Workshop, Aberdeen SD.

Writing Your Own Queer Comedy. (2014). Workshop offered at the annual Louisiana Queer Conference, Baton Rouge, LA.

Queer Humor: Laughing With or Laughing At? (2013). Workshop offered at the annual Louisiana Queer Conference, Baton Rouge, LA.

Colloquia

Top 5 Essential Stand-Up Comedians. Noon Forum presentation for faculty and students, Northern State University, March 2019

Don't Get Fooled Again: Humanities and the Real Art of the Deal. Noon Forum presentation for faculty and students, Northern State University, November 2018

Humor in the College Classroom: Uncensored Academic Freedom? Noon Forum presentation for faculty and students, Northern State University, March 2018

Becoming Between: The Disciplinary Liminality of the Master's Thesis Defense. Colloquy presentation for the Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, November 2013

Ridiculing Food Snobbery: A Case for the Funny Jeremiad. Colloquy presentation for the Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, March 2013

Assessing the Balance: Burkean Frames and *Lil' Bush*. Colloquy presentation for the Department of Communication Studies, University of Montana, Missoula, MT, April 2011

Guest Lectures/Presentations

I Can't Teach You How to be Funny. Invited guest lecture for Public Speaking, Texas A&M University, November 2019

Satire: Scorching the Earth. Invited guest lecture for Rhetorical Criticism, Texas A&M University, November 2019

Go Ahead, I'm Listening: Tips for Engaging with Others. NSU/Primrose Arts and Lecture Series Lecture, Primrose Retirement Community, October 2019

Why College Matters Even Though You Can Google Things. WolfTalk Series Lecture, Northern State University, August 2019

Can You Be Funny in 2019? Teaching in Trump's America. Invited talk at the University of New Haven, March 2019

Impromptu Speaking. Presentation for SPCM 101 Fundamentals of Speech students, March 2019

Reproductive Labor and the Second Shift. Classroom discussion for WGS 2500 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, October 2013

What is Rhetoric? Classroom presentation/discussion for CMST 1061 Fundamentals of Communication, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, February 2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Northern State University

Assistant Professor -

Fall 2016 - Present

HON 390: Honors Seminar II (co-taught)
 IDL 190: Seminar – Visual Rhetoric (co-taught)
 IDL 190: Seminar – Modern U.S. Working Class
 SPCM 101: Fundamentals of Speech (traditional and online)
 SPCM 101 HNRS: Fundamentals of Speech Honors
 SPCM 150: Introduction to Public Relations
 SPCM 215: Public Speaking
 SPCM 222: Argumentation & Debate
 SPCM 390: Seminar – Comedy & Humor
 SPCM 405: Theories of Communication
 SPCM 416: Rhetorical Criticism
 SPCM 434: Small Group Communication

Louisiana State University

Instructor -

Summer 2015-Spring 2016

CMST 2060: Public Speaking
 CMST 2064: Small Group Communication

Graduate Instructor -

Fall 2011 - Spring 2015

CMST 1061: Fundamentals of Communication
 CMST 2060: Public Speaking
 CMST 2063: Argumentation and Debate
 CMST 3060: Advanced Public Speaking

Teaching Assistant -

CMST 2010: Interpersonal Communication

University of Montana

Graduate Instructor -

Fall 2009-Spring 2011

COMM 111A: Introduction to Public Speaking

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Sexual Assault Prevention Coordinator , University of Montana Western	2008-2009
General Manager , WTLX Campus Radio, Transylvania University	2007-2008
Public Relations Work Study , Transylvania University	2004 – 2008

SERVICE

TO THE DEPARTMENT

Program Coordinator, Communication Studies, Fall 2018-Present

Chair, Communication Studies Faculty Search Committee, Spring 2020

Proctor, Communication Studies Exit Exam, Fall 2016 – Fall 2019

Judge, Dakotas Collegiate State Speech & Debate Tournament, Spring 2020

Director of Forensics, Spring 2017

Judge, Mardi Gras Alumni Classic Forensics Tournament, Louisiana State University, February 2012 – 2014, 2016

Member, Gender Communication Hire Search Committee, Louisiana State University, 2014-2015

President, Communication Studies Graduate Student Organization, Louisiana State University, 2014-2015

Communication Studies Representative, Transfer Student Orientation, Louisiana State University, August 2014

Vice President, Communication Studies Graduate Student Organization, Louisiana State University, 2013-2014

Administrator, Department of Communication Studies Facebook Page, Louisiana State University, 2013-2014

Member, Public Speaking Course Evaluation Committee, Louisiana State University, Summer 2013, 2014

Member, Public Speaking Textbook Selection Committee, Louisiana State University, Spring 2014

Judge, Mock Forensics Tournament, Louisiana State University, September 2011, 2012

Judge, Death Valley IPDA Swing, Louisiana State University, October 2011

TO THE UNIVERSITY

First-Year Seminar Coordinator, Fall 2019-Fall 2022

Moderator, Center for Teaching Excellence Liberal Arts Discussion Panel, Fall 2020

Member, College of Arts & Sciences Ad Hoc COVID Planning Committee, Summer 2020

Member, Common Read Committee, Fall 2019-present

Member, Theatre Design Search Committee, Spring 2020

Member, Honors Program Director Search Committee, Fall 2019

Member, Season Selection Committee, College of Fine Arts, 2019-Present

Member, Teaching Subcommittee, College of Arts & Sciences Strategic Doing Initiative, 2019-2020

Member, World Languages Major Committee, 2019-Present

Member, South Dakota Board of Regents Communication Studies Discipline Council, 2019-Present

House Manager, NSU Feminist Club production of *The Vagina Monologues*, Spring 2020

Member, Student Research Review Committee, 2018-2019

Member, Faculty Travel & Sabbatical Committee, 2018-2019

New Faculty Mentor, Northern State University, 2018-2019

Advisor, Northern State University Lambda Pi Eta Chapter, Fall 2017-Present

Co-Advisor, Northern State University Feminist Club, Fall 2017-Present

Honors Thesis Committee Member

ShyAnn Springer, Fall 2019

Michael Schliewe, Spring 2017

Sabrina Mount, Fall 2016

Judge, Residence Life Iron Chef Competition, Fall 2017

Judge, Louisiana High School Rally, Louisiana State University, April 2013

Emcee, International Culture Show, University of Montana, Spring 2010

Committee Member, Peace, Education and Advocacy for Community Empowerment (PEACE), University of Montana Western, September 2008-May 2009

Contributing Writer, *Wescolite* Campus Newspaper, University of Montana Western, September 2008-May 2009

DJ, KDWG Campus Radio, University of Montana Western, August 2008-July 2009

Member, Diversity Action Council, Transylvania University, September 2007-May 2008

Announcer, Fair Trade Fashion Show, Transylvania University, March 2007 & March 2008

TO THE FIELD

President

Speech Communication Association of South Dakota, 2019-2021

President

Lighthearted Philosophers' Society, 2017-present

Editorial Review Board

Discourse: Journal of the SCASD, Fall 2018-present

President-Elect

Speech Communication Association of South Dakota, 2017-2019

Programming Committee Member

Lighthearted Philosophers' Society, 2016

Journal Referee

Philosophy of Communication Yearbook, Fall 2019, Spring 2020

Synthese: An International Journal for Epistemology, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science, Fall 2019

Feminist Media Studies, 2018-2019

Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies, Fall 2015

Environmental Communication, Fall 2013

Critical Studies in Media Communication, Spring 2012

Textbook Reviewer

Josh Gunn, *Speechcraft*

Conference Paper/Panel Reviewer

Media Studies Interest Group of the Central States Communication Association, 2020

Performance Studies and Autoethnography Interest Group of the Central States Communication Association, 2020

Basic Course Division of the Central States Communication Association, 2018

Lighthearted Philosophers' Society Conference, 2015, 2016

Feminist and Women's Studies Division of the National Communication Association Conference, 2016

Public Address Division of the National Communication Association Conference, 2013-14

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism division of the Northwest Communication Association Conference, 2012-13

Conference Respondent

"Past Presidents' Panel," Fall 2017 Lighthearted Philosophers' Society Conference, St. Petersburg, FL

Panel Chair

"Undergrad Papers," 2019 Speech Communication Association of South Dakota Convention, Spearfish, SD

"Undergraduate Honors Panel," 2018 Speech Communication Association of South Dakota Convention, Huron, SD

"Private Collaboration, Public Confrontation, Global Consequences: Exploring Exceptionalism in Russian and American Public Address," 2016 Southern States Communication Association Convention, Tampa, FL

"Bakhtinian Performmentations," 2015 Southern States Communication Association Convention, Tampa, FL

"Understanding Media, With and Without Marshall McLuhan," 2013 Southern Popular/American Culture Association Convention, Savannah, GA

"Sexuality, Subjectivity, and Dissolving the Author/Audience Divide," 2013 Southwest/Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association Convention, Albuquerque, NM

“A Many-Splendored Thing: The Diversification of Music Distribution,” 2012 Southern Popular/American Culture Association Convention, Nashville, TN

Conference Volunteer, Southern States Communication Association, 2013

Professional Memberships

The International Association for the Philosophy of Humor, 2020

Western States Communication Association, 2011, 2020

American Association of University Women, 2016-19

South Dakota Speech Communication Association, 2016-19

Central States Communication Association, 2013, 2017-19

National Communication Association, 2010-2016

Rhetoric Society of America, 2014, 2016

Lighthearted Philosophers’ Society, 2014-16

Southern States Communication Association, 2011, 2013-15

Southern Popular/American Culture Association, 2012-14

Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association, 2013

Northwest Communication Association, 2010-2011

Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, 2008

TO THE COMMUNITY

Public Speaking Consultant, Entrepreneurial Spirit, Women’s Business Conference Aberdeen, March 2018

Public Speaking Consultant, Rachel Cannon Lewis Interiors, Baton Rouge, LA, Summer 2013

Volunteer Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Advocate, Community Support Center, Dillon, MT, Fall 2008-Summer 2009

References

Dr. Nathan Crick, *Associate Professor of Communication (Advisor, Course Director)*
Department of Communication
Texas A&M University
4234 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843
(979) 845-5500
crick@tamu.edu

Dr. Steve Schwarze, *Professor of Communication Studies (Professor, Course Director)*
University of Montana Department of Communication Studies
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-4901
steven.schwarze@umontana.edu

Dr. Bryan J. McCann, *Assistant Professor of Communication Studies (Course Director)*
136 Coates Hall
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
(225) 578-6813
bryanm@lsu.edu

Dr. Scott Whiddon, *Associate Professor of Writing, Rhetoric, and Communication (Professor)*
Haupt Humanities 12
Transylvania University
300 North Broadway
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 233-8298
swhiddon@transy.edu