**Matthew S. May, PhD**

Texas A&M University

Department of Communication

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**Education**

PhD 2009, University of Minnesota, Department of Communication Studies

Dissertation: *Hobo Orator Union: Class Composition and the Free Speech Fights of the Industrial Workers of the World, 1909-1914*

Emphasis: Rhetoric

Supporting Program Emphasis: Cultural Studies

Adviser: Ronald W. Greene

MA 2004, University of North Texas, Department of Communication Studies

Emphasis: Rhetorical Studies

Adviser: Brian Lain

BA 2002, Arizona State University, Department of English

Emphasis: English Literature

**Academic Appointments**

2014-present Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University

Department of Communication

2011-2014 Assistant Professor, North Carolina State University

Department of Communication

2009-2011 Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Colgate University

Department of Writing and Rhetoric

2008-2009 Doctoral Fellow, University of Minnesota

Department of Communication Studies

2005-2009 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota

Department of Communication Studies

2003-2005 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of North Texas

Department of Communication Studies

2002-2003 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Auburn University

Department of English

**Honors & Awards**

* Summer Research Award, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, NC State, 2013.
* Research Grant, Office for Research, Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development, College of Human Arts and Science, NC State, 2011.
* Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Colgate University, 2009-2010.
* Runner-Up Dissertation of the Year, American Society for the History of Rhetoric, 2010.
* Top Student Paper, American Society for the History of Rhetoric, 2009.
* Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School of the University of Minnesota, 2008.
* Research Fellowship, Department of Communication Studies, University of Minnesota, 2008.
* Old Buffalo Award for Academic Excellence and Prospect of Independent Scholarship,

Department of Communication Studies, University of Minnesota, 2007.

* Research Grant, Department of Communication Studies, University of Minnesota, 2007.
* Doctoral Honor’s Institute, Northwestern University, 2006.
* French and Spanish Reading Proficiency, Auburn University, 2004.

**Book**

May, M. *Soapbox Rebellion: The Hobo Orator Union and the Free Speech Fights of the Industrial Workers of the World* (Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2013).

**Articles in Referred Journals**

Bost, M. and Matthew May. (2015). “The Surplus of the Machine: Trope and History in *The 18th*

*Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*,” *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, Forthcoming.

May, M. and Daniel Synk. (2014). “Contradiction and Overdetermination in Occupy Wall

Street,” *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies* 11: 74-84.

Reeves, J. and Matthew May. (2013). “The Peace Rhetoric of a War President: Barack Obama

and the Just War Legacy,” *Rhetoric and Public Affairs* 16: 623-650. **\*Lead Article.**

May, M. (2012). “Orator-Machine: Autonomist Marxism and William D. “Big Bill” Haywood’s

Cooper Union Address, *Philosophy and Rhetoric* 45: 429-451.

May, M. (2011). “Hobo Orator Union: Class Composition and the Spokane Free Speech

Fight of the Industrial Workers of the World,” *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 97: 155-177.**\*Essay featured by Routledge for Free Speech Week, 2011.\*\*Essay nominated for Franklyn Haiman Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Freedom of Expression.**

May, M. & Ronald W. Greene, (2011). “Corruption and Empire: Notes on Wisconsin,” *Journal*

*of Communication Inquiry* 35: 342-348**.\*Essay featured by *JCI* to promote special issue.**

May. M. (2009). “Spinoza and Class Struggle,” *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies* 6:

294-298.

**Book Chapters**

May, M. (2013). “Fearless Speech: Parrhesia, Imitation, and Rhetorical Democracy,” In

*Argumentation, Debate, and Critical Thinking*, ed. Abdel Latif Sellami (Doha, Qatar: 4th International Conference on Argumentation, Rhetoric, Debate and Pedagogy): 287-295.

May, M. (2009). “Let us Be Realistic and Demand the Impossible: Defining *Kairos* in

Contemporary Marxism,” in S. Jacobs, Ed. *Concerning Argument* (Washington, DC: National Communication Association and the American Forensic Association): 515-523.

**Book Reviews**

May (2013). Review of We are the Union: Democratic Unionism and Dissent at Boeing.

*Rhetoric and Society Quarterly* 43: 382-385.

May, M. (2009). Review of From the Palmer Raids to the Patriot Act: A History of the Fight for

Free Speech in America. *Rhetoric and Public Affairs* 12: 130-132.

May, M. (2008). Review of Saving Persuasion: A Defense of Rhetoric and Judgment. *Quarterly*

*Journal of Speech* 93: 470-473.

**Works in Progress**

May, M. *Vernacular Eloquence in the American Labor Movement* (Book project currently under construction).

**Teaching Experience**

Texas A&M University:

* COMM 460, Roots and Rhetoric of American Radicalism
* COMM 243, (Honors) Argumentation and Debate

North Carolina State University:

* CRDM 702, Rhetoric and Digital Media (Grad)
* COM/ENG 516, Rhetorical Criticism (Grad)
* COM/ENG 554, Contemporary Rhetorical Theory (Grad)
* COM 498/598, Revolution, Radicals, and Rhetoric (Grad/Undergrad)
* COM 421, Communication and Law (Undergrad)
* COM/ENG 321, Survey of Rhetorical Theory (Undergrad History of Rhetoric)

Colgate University:

* WRIT 315, American Public Address: History and Criticism (Undergrad)
* WRIT 115, Public Speaking (Undergrad)

University of Minnesota

* COMM 3631, Freedom of Expression (Undergrad)
* COMM 1313, Argumentation (Undergrad)
* COMM 1101, Public Speaking (Undergrad)
* COMM 3431, Persuasion (Teaching Assistant)

**Service**

* Editorial Board, *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 2013 – Present
* Editorial Board, *First Amendment Studies*, 2014 – Present
* Editorial Board, *Communication Law Review*, 2011-present
* Ad hoc reviewer, *Theory and Event*, 2012
* Ad hoc reviewer, *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, 2012
* Editorial Board, *Communication Law Review*, 2009-2012
* Ad hoc reviewer, *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, 2011-2012
* Book manuscript reviewer, Lexington Books, 2011
* NCSU Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media Program Committee 2012 - Present
* NCSU Department Executive Committee, 2013 - Present
* NCSU Department Strategic Planning Committee, 2011-2012
* NCSU Department Research Committee, 2011-2012
* Coordinator, Civic Literacy Seminar, Colgate University, 2011
* Reviewer, Critical and Cultural Studies Division, NCA 2009-2011
* Reviewer, American Studies, NCA 2010
* Reviewer, Visual Communication Division, NCA 2010
* Co-organizer, Midwest Winter Workshop on Rhetoric, 2008
* Graduate Student Representative, Communication and Critical Cultural Studies Division, NCA 2005
* Secretary, Critical and Cultural Studies Division, 2004

**Invited Lectures**

* “Spotless Scholar Lecture,” Department of Communication, University of Georgia, 2014.
* “Deconstructing the Gettysburg Address,” Department of Communication, COM Week, 2014.
* “Rhetoric (Remixed),” Ubuntu Speaker Series, North Carolina State University, 2013.
* “Orator-Machine,” Department of Communication Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2011
* “Towards an Anthology of Labor Movement Public Address,” Writing and Rhetoric, Colgate University, 2010
* “The Songs of the IWW,” Department of Communication Studies, University of Minnesota, 2008
* “Academics Organizing,” Working Class, Poverty Class Academics Conference, 2008
* “Activism and Life After College,” Macalester College, 2007
* “The Free Speech Fights of the IWW,” Department of Communication Studies, University of Minnesota, 2007
* “The Rhetoric of Conservative Ideology,” Young Democratic Socialist, National Conference, New York, 2004
* “Human Rights, Youth, and Prisons in the United States.” International Union of Socialist Youth, Kammena Vourla, Greece, 2003.
* “Anti-Racist Activism and White Activists.” International Union of Socialist Youth, Kammena Vourla, Greece, 2003.

**Conference Presentations**

“The Affordances and Limitations of A Fortiori Argumentation,” *International Society for the Study of Argument*, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2014.

“A Critical Tribute to James Aune.” National Communication Association, Washington, DC, 2013.

“Althusser before Wrage: Metonymic Causality in Modern Rhetorical Theory.” National Communication Association, Washington, DC, 2013.

“Like a Nightmare on the Brains of the Living”: Marx’s Eighteenth Brumaire and the Machine of the State,” National Communication Association, Washington, DC, 2013. (with Matthew Bost).

“Fearless Speech: Parrhesia, Imitation, and Rhetorical Democracy.” International Society for the Study of Argumentation, Doha, Qatar, 2013.

“The Peace Rhetoric of a War President: Barack Obama and the Just War Legacy.” National Communication Association, Orlando, FL, 2012. (with Joshua Reeves).

“Trayvon Martin and the Continuous Character of Primitive Accumulation.” Southern States Communication Association, San Antonio, TX, 2012.

“The Hermeneutics of Insurrection in Verso’s *Revolutions* Series.” National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, 2011.

“Orator-Wildcat.” National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, 2011.

“The Machinic Oratory of William D. ‘Big Bill’ Haywood.” National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, 2011.

“Prefigurative Rhetorical Leadership In Helen Keller’s Strike against War Speech.” National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA, 2010.

(TOP PAPER) “The Hobo Orator and the Spokane Free Speech Fight of 1909-1910.” National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, 2009.

“Bill Haywood’s Cooper Union Address: An Intertextual Analysis of American Exceptionalism.” National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, 2009.

“A Subterranean Fire: Kairos and the Last Words of the Haymarket Martyrs.” National Communication Association, San Diego, CA, 2008.

“Precarity as Resistance or The Problem of Communicating Class Struggle.” National Communication Association, San Diego, CA, 2008. (With Ronald W. Greene)

“Direct Action Gets the Goods: Propaganda by the Deed as Rhetorical Action.” National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, 2007.

“Multitude in Love: Ethical Agency and Late Capitalism.” National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, 2007.

“Working the Difference: Rethinking Social Movement Theory through Affirmation and Alterity.” National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, 2007.

“‘Let us be Realistic and Demand the Impossible’: Defining Kairos in Contemporary Marxism.” Alta Conference on Argumentation, Alta, UT, 2007.

“Sabotage as Rhetorical Action in the Industrial Workers of the World.” Midwest Winter Workshop. Indiana University, 2007.

“Affect and the Politics of Bookstore Community: Two Case Studies.” National Communication Association, San Antonio, TX, 2006. (With Anthony Nadler).

“Free Speech Becoming-Wobbly: Rhetoric, Capitalism, and the Industrial Workers of the World.” National Communication Association, San Antonio, TX, 2006.

“One Hundred Years of Direct Action: Performance, Movement, and Iconicity in the Industrial Workers of the World.” National Communication Association, San Antonio, TX, 2006.

“The Performance of Space and Discourse in the Centenary Tour of the Industrial Workers of the World.” National Communication Association, San Antonio, TX, 2006.

“Solidarity is not Enough: A Profile of the Current Worker Lockout at the San Francisco Hilton and a Hypothetical Scenario for NCA.” National Communication Association. Chicago, IL, 2004.

“Zones of Indeterminacy: The Rhetoric of Affect in 4’33’’.” National Communication Association. Miami, FL, 2003.

**Professional Affiliations**

American Society for the History of Rhetoric

National Communication Association

PEN American Center

Rhetoric Society of America

Southern Communication Association

**References**

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