
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

- 2016-present Associate Professor & Ray A. Rothrock Research Fellow, Texas A&M
Department of Communication
- 2014-2016 Assistant Professor, Texas A&M
Department of Communication
- 2011-2014 Assistant Professor, North Carolina State
Department of Communication
- 2009-2011 Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Colgate
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

Honors & Awards

- Ray A Rothrock Research Fellow, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M 2016.
- 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

May, M. and Alex Monea. (2016). "Beyond the Possible: An Essay in Review of Speculate This!" *Cultural Critique*, 92: 139-149.

Bost, M. and Matthew May. (2016). "The Surplus of the Machine: Trope and History in *The 18th Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*," *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, 49: 1-25. ***Lead Article**.

May, M. (2016). "Surplus/Event/Performance: Criticism as Performative Enactment," *Review of Communication* 16: 83-85.

May, M. (2015). "The Imaginative-Power of 'Another Materialist Rhetoric'," *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies* 12: 399-403.

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, M. (2013). Review of We are the Union: Democratic Unionism and Dissent at Boeing. in *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

Book Manuscript: May, M. *Vernacular Eloquence in the American Labor Movement*

Teaching Experience

Texas A&M University:

- Rhetorical and Textual Methods (Grad)
- Critical Cultural Theory (Grad)
- Roots and Rhetoric of American Radicalism (Undergrad)
- Rhetoric in Western Thought
- Argumentation and Debate (Undergrad) (Honors)

North Carolina State University:

- Rhetoric and Digital Media (Grad)
- Rhetorical Criticism (Grad)

- Contemporary Rhetorical Theory (Grad)
- Revolution, Radicals, and Rhetoric (Grad/Undergrad)
- Communication and Law (Undergrad)
- Survey of Rhetorical Theory (Undergrad History of Rhetoric)

Colgate University:

- American Public Address: History and Criticism (Undergrad)
- Public Speaking (Undergrad)

University of Minnesota

- Freedom of Expression (Undergrad)
- Argumentation (Undergrad)
- Public Speaking (Undergrad)
- Persuasion (Teaching Assistant)

Service

Editorial 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, *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*, 2014.
- 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

Department & College Service

- TAMU College of Liberal Arts, Liberal Arts Council, 2014-present
- TAMU Department of Communication, Graduate Committee, 2015-present
- TAMU Department of Communication, Diversity Committee, 2014-present
- TAMU Department of Communication, Professional Development Officer
- NCSU Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media Program Committee, 2012 - 2013
- NCSU Department Executive Committee, 2013 - Present
- NCSU Department Strategic Planning Committee, 2011-2012
- NCSU Department Research Committee, 2011-2012
- Colgate University, Coordinator, Civic Literacy Seminar, 2011

Professional Association Service

- Chair, nominating Committee, Rhetoric and Communication Theory, 2014-2015
- Reviewer, Public Address Division, NCA 2013-2014

- Reviewer, Rhetoric and Communication Theory, NCA 2013-2014
- 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

- “The Optics of Rhetorical History,” Department of Communication, Penn State, Colloquium Speaker Series, 2015.
- “Rhetoric (Remixed),” Honors Program, Department of Communication, Texas A&M, 2014.
- “Spotless Scholar Lecture,” Department of Communication, University of Georgia, 2014.
- “Deconstructing the Gettysburg Address,” Department of Communication, COM Week, North Carolina State University, 2014.
- “Rhetoric: From Cicero to Hip Hop,” 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.
- “Academics Organizing,” Working Class, Poverty Class Academics Conference, 2008.
- “Activism and Life After College,” Macalester College, 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, Kammaena Vourla, Greece, 2003.
- “Anti-Racist Activism and White Activists.” International Union of Socialist Youth, Kammaena Vourla, Greece, 2003.

Select Conference Presentations

“The Other of ‘Another Materialist Rhetoric,’” National Communication Association, Chicago, Il, 2014.

“A Critical Commemoration of ‘We Are the Union,’ by Dana Cloud,” National Communication Association, Chicago, Il, 2014.

“Against the Digital,” National Communication Association, Chicago, Il, 2014. (with Daniel Synk).

“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 Wraga: 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

Western States Communication Association

Rhetoric Society of America

References

Available upon request.