

Eric C. Miller

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Department of Communication Studies
Commonwealth University—Bloomsburg
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

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EMPLOYMENT

Fall 2022 – Present: Professor, Commonwealth University—Bloomsburg
Fall 2018 – Spring 2022: Associate Professor, Commonwealth University—Bloomsburg
Fall 2013 – Spring 2018: Assistant Professor, Commonwealth University—Bloomsburg
Fall 2008 – Spring 2013: Graduate Teaching Assistant, The Pennsylvania State University
Fall 2005 – Fall 2007: Graduate Teaching Assistant, The University of Maine

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Communication Arts and Sciences, The Pennsylvania State University, 2012
Dissertation: “Fighting for Freedom: Culture War Rhetoric and the Liberal Tradition”
Committee: Dr. Stephen H. Browne (Chair), Dr. J. Michael Hogan, Dr. Jeremy Engels,
Dr. John Christman

M.A. in English, The University of Maine, 2007
Writing Concentration, Advised by Dr. David Kress

B.A. in English, The University of Pittsburgh, 2004
Literature Concentration, Advised by Dr. Shalini Puri

RESEARCH

Publications

Books

Rhetoric of the Protestant Sermon in America: Pulpit Discourse at the Turn of the Millennium.
Eric C. Miller and Jonathan J. Edwards, eds. (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2020).
Reviewed in *Homiletic* (2020).

The Rhetoric of Religious Freedom in the United States. Eric C. Miller, ed. (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2018). *Winner, Spiritual Communication Division Outstanding Book Award. November, 2019. National Communication Association, Baltimore, MD. Reviewed in *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* (2021) and *Politics & Religion* (2019).

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Ralph Waldo Emerson, ‘Divinity School Address,’” *Voices of Democracy: The U. S. Oratory Project* 20 (2025): 1-12.

“Theodore Parker, ‘The Transient and Permanent in Christianity,’” *Voices of Democracy: The U. S. Oratory Project* 19 (2024): 1-12.

“Between Hope and Despair: Communicating Climate Change,” *Pennsylvania Communication Annual* 79 (2023): 32-52.

“William Ellery Channing, ‘Unitarian Christianity,’” *Voices of Democracy: The U. S. Oratory Project* 18 (2023): 10-23.

“The Means of Revival: Charles Grandison Finney’s Rhetorical Theory.” *Journal of Communication and Religion* 44.4 (2021): 63-79. *Finalist, Religious Communication Association Article Award. November, 2022. National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.

“Forgive and Forget the Alamo: Collective Memory, Creative Agency, and Rhetoric in John Sayles’ *Lone Star*.” *Pennsylvania Communication Annual* 77 (2021): 70-89.

“From Dayton to Dover: Phillip E. Johnson’s Academic Freedom.” *Journal of Communication and Religion* 43.4 (2020): 23-38.

“Harry Emerson Fosdick, ‘Shall the Fundamentalists Win?’” *Voices of Democracy: The U. S. Oratory Project* 14 (2019): 18-31.

“‘The Protestant Contention’: Religious Freedom, Respectability Politics, and W. A. Criswell in 1960.” *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 22.1 (2019): 33-58. With James E. Towns.

“Randall Terry’s Liberal Prophecy: National Sin, Activist Redemption, and the Death of Freedom.” *Pennsylvania Communication Annual* 72 (2016): 39-58.

“Phyllis Schlafly’s ‘Positive’ Freedom: Liberty, Liberation, and the Equal Rights Amendment.” *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 18.2 (2015): 277-300.

“Fighting for Freedom: Liberal Argumentation in Culture War Rhetoric.” *Journal of Communication and Religion* 37.1 (2014): 102-125.

“Patrick Joseph Buchanan, Culture War Speech: Address to the Republican National Convention.” *Voices of Democracy: The U.S. Oratory Project* 7 (2012): 47-59.

“Rhetoric, Rationality, and Judicial Activism: The Case of *Hillory Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*.” *Advances in the History of Rhetoric* 15 (2012): 185-203. With Dave Tell.

Book Chapters

“Not About Discrimination”: Religious Freedom Restoration Acts and the Question of Intent.” In *The Rhetoric of Religious Freedom in the United States*. Eric C. Miller, ed. (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2018), 101-114.

“Civil Religion as Christian Religion: Francis Schaeffer’s Liberal Fundamentalism.” In *The Rhetoric of American Civil Religion: Symbols, Sinners, and Saints*. Jason A. Edwards and Joseph Valenzano, eds. (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2016), 111-128.

“Talk the Talk.” In *Language Awareness: Readings for College Writers* (12th ed.), P. Eschholz, A. Rosa, and V. Clark, eds. (New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2016), 186-193.

Review Essays

“From Color Line to Colorblind: White Evangelical Rhetoric on Race.” *Journal of Communication and Religion* 46.2 (2023): 104-109.

“Freedom As and Against Democracy.” *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 25.3 (2022): 167-180.

“The Great Complacency: Conservative Christians and Climate Change.” *Journal of Communication and Religion* 45.2 (2022): 134-143.

“The Eyes of the World Upon Us, Again: John Winthrop’s Remarkable Comeback.” *Journal of Communication and Religion* 44.1 (2021): 124-130.

“The Drama of American Religious Freedom.” *Politics & Religion* 8 (2015): 818-825.

“In and Of the World: Christian Rhetorics in Opposition and Assimilation.” *Journal of Communication and Religion* 38.1 (2015): 113-131.

Book Reviews

Panic Now? Tools for Humanizing, by Ira J. Allen. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 30 (2026): forthcoming.

American Heretics: Religious Adversaries of the Liberal Order, by Jerome E. Copulsky. *Journal of Communication and Religion* 49 (2026): forthcoming.

Seasoned Speech: Rhetoric in the Life of the Church, by James E. Beitler, III. *Journal of Communication and Religion* 42.4 (2019): 88-90.

God Hates: Westboro Baptist Church, American Nationalism, and the Religious Right, by Rebecca Barrett-Fox. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 22.2 (2018): 339-341.

Winsome Persuasion: Christian Influence in a Post-Christian World, by Tim Muehlhoff and Richard Langer. *Journal of Communication and Religion* 41.2 (2018): 110-112.

The Evangelicals: The Struggle to Shape America, by Frances FitzGerald. *Politics & Religion* 10 (2017): 741-743.

Rhetorics of Religion in American Fiction: Faith, Fundamentalism, and Fanaticism in the Age of Terror, by Liliana M. Naydan. *Journal of Communication and Religion* 39.4 (2017): 113-114.

The State of the Marital Union: Rhetoric, Identity, and Nineteenth Century Marriage Controversies, by Leslie J. Harris. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 19.1 (2016): 112-115.

Hunt the Devil: A Demonology of US War Culture, by Robert L. Ivie and Oscar Giner. *Communication Review* 19.2 (2016): 156-158.

The Politics of Resentment: A Genealogy, by Jeremy Engels. *Southern Communication Journal* 81.2 (2016): 123-124.

Superchurch: The Rhetoric and Politics of American Fundamentalism, by Jonathan J. Edwards. *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 46.1 (2016): 97-101.

Beyond Religious Right and Secular Left Rhetoric: The Road to Compromise, by Karin Fry. *Politics & Religion* 8 (2015): 425-428.

Righteous Rhetoric: Sex, Speech, and the Politics of Concerned Women for America, by Leslie Dorrough Smith. *Rhetoric Review* 34.2 (2015): 155-158.

Creating Conservatism: Postwar Words that Made an American Movement, by Michael J. Lee. *Political Communication* 32.1 (2015): 174-176.

Divisive Discourse: The Extreme Rhetoric of Contemporary American Politics by Joseph Zompetti. *Argumentation and Advocacy* 51.2 (2014): 132-134.

Spiritual Modalities: Prayer as Rhetoric and Performance, by William Fitzgerald. *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 100.1 (2014): 126-129.

Religious Rhetoric and American Politics: The Endurance of Civil Religion in Electoral Campaigns, by Christopher B. Chapp. *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 44.1 (2014): 97-100.

Jimmy Carter, the Politics of Family, and the Rise of the Religious Right, by J. Brooks Flippin. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 17.1 (2014): 193-195.

The Myth of American Religious Freedom, by David Sehat. *Journal of Communication and Religion* 36.2 (2013): 215-218.

Conference Participation

Competitively Selected Presentations

“The Sexual Revelation: Prophetic Rhetoric and Marital Innovation in Victorian America.” April, 2026. Eastern Communication Association, Pittsburgh, PA.

“Taking Jesus Seriously, Not Literally: The Enchantments of Christian Trumpism.” November, 2025. National Communication Association, Denver, CO.

“A Great Deceleration? Narrativizing the Degrowth Future.” March, 2025. Eastern Communication Association, Buffalo, NY. ***Top Paper in Rhetoric & Public Address**

“Concord Epideictic: Thoreau’s Neighbors in Praise and Blame.” March, 2024. Eastern Communication Association, Cambridge, MA.

“Between Hope and Despair: Communicating Climate Change.” November, 2023. National Communication Association, National Harbor, MD.

“Evangelical Testimony and Rhetorical Trauma.” May, 2022. Rhetoric Society of America, Baltimore, MD.

“One with the Blowing Clover: Ralph Waldo Emerson Before the Divinity School.” November, 2021. National Communication Association, Seattle, WA.

“The Means of Revival: Charles Grandison Finney’s Rhetorical Theory.” November, 2021. National Communication Association, Seattle, WA.

“Nothing More Fleeting Than a Word: Theodore Parker on Transience and Permanence in Christianity.” April, 2021. Eastern Communication Association, Boston, MA. ***Top Three Paper in Rhetoric & Public Address.**

“Hold Fast to the Good: William Ellery Channing’s ‘Unitarian Christianity.’” November, 2020. National Communication Association, Indianapolis, IN.

“Harry Emerson Fosdick, In Defense of Christian Liberty.” November, 2018. National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.

“‘The Protestant Contention’: Religious Freedom, Respectability Politics, and W. A. Criswell in 1960.” November, 2017. National Communication Association, Dallas, TX.

“‘Not About Discrimination’: Religious Freedom Restoration Acts and the Question of Intent in Indiana and Arkansas.” November, 2016. National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.

“The Perfect Victim: Barronelle Stutzman’s Religious Liberty.” November, 2015. National Communication Association, Las Vegas, NV.

“Christian Script-ure: Testimony as Rhetorical Template for Living.” April, 2015. Eastern Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.

“Rhetorical Erasure: Religious Freedom Restoration Acts, Terministic Screens, and Gay Rights.” April, 2015. Eastern Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.

“Two (Other) Concepts of Liberty: Christian Freedom in American Politics.” May, 2014. Rhetoric Society of America, San Antonio, TX.

“Forgive and Forget the Alamo: Memory and Creative Agency in John Sayles’ *Lone Star*.” April, 2014. Eastern Communication Association, Providence, RI.

“Fighting for Freedom: Liberal Argumentation in Culture War Rhetoric.” November, 2013. National Communication Association, Washington, D.C.

“Waging Cultural War: Pat Buchanan at the 1992 Republican National Convention.” April, 2013. Eastern Communication Association, Pittsburgh, PA.

“Phillip E. Johnson’s Academic Freedom: The ‘Wedge Strategy’ for Intelligent Design Advocacy.” November, 2012. National Communication Association, Orlando, FL.

“Maggie Gallagher’s Religious Freedom: The Threat of Same-Sex Marriage and the Rights of Dissent.” November, 2012. National Communication Association, Orlando, FL.

“Rhetoric, Rationality, and Judicial Activism: The Case of *Hillary Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*.” November, 2012. National Communication Association, Orlando, FL.

“Randall Terry’s Prophetic Political Theory.” February, 2012. Western States Communication Association, Albuquerque, NM.

“From Dayton to Dover: The Rhetorical Evolution of American Anti-Evolutionism.” November, 2011. National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.

“Phyllis Schlafly’s ‘Positive’ Freedom.” November, 2011. National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.

“Form and Freedom: Truth as Rhetoric in Francis Schaeffer’s *Christian Manifesto*.” November, 2011. National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.

“Defining Religious Freedom: The Rhetorical Construction of Liberty in the Fight Over Proposition 8.” April, 2011. Eastern Communication Association, Arlington, VA.

“The Truth and the Word: Aesthetic Rhetoric and Fundamentalism.” November, 2010. National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA.

“Electing the Elect: George W. Bush’s (un)Civil Religion.” November, 2010. National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA.

“Collision Course: Same-Sex Marriage, Religious Liberty, and John Stuart Mill.” April, 2010. What Do Citizens and States Owe Each Other? Conference of the Social Thought Program, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.

Other Activity

Chair, “Scholarly Responses to Eugene McCarragher’s *The Enchantments of Mammon*.” November, 2025. National Communication Association, Denver, CO.

Chair, “The American Sermon: An NCA Seminar.” November, 2018. National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.

Chair, “Religious Freedom Rhetoric in the United States.” November, 2017. National Communication Association, Dallas, TX.

Chair, “Rhetoric, Religion, and Freedom: An NCA Seminar.” November, 2016. National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Respondent, “Pedagogues, Preachers, and Politickers: The Promises and Pitfalls of Deliberation Through the Lecture Form.” April, 2015. Eastern Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Invited Lectures

“President Trump’s Environmental Legacy: One Year In, the Second Time Around.” Fishing Creek Watershed Association, Bloomsburg, PA. March 9, 2026.

“President Trump’s Environmental Legacy: Nine Months In, the Second Time Around.” Commonwealth University, Bloomsburg, PA. October 23, 2025.

“Is Endless Growth Worth the Cost? Climate Change, Capitalism, and the Case for Degrowth.” North-Central Pennsylvania Sierra Club, Lewisburg, PA. September 23, 2025.

“The Good Life in the Era of Climate Change.” Fishing Creek Watershed Association, Bloomsburg, PA. January 13, 2025.

“The Anthropocene in Three Stories.” Green Campus Initiative Speaker Series. Commonwealth University, Bloomsburg, PA. October 17, 2024.

“A Demonstration of the En-ROADS Global Climate Simulator.” First Presbyterian Church, Bloomsburg, PA. September 24, 2023.

“From Culture War to Climate Change.” Action Together NEPA. The Table, Bloomsburg, PA. June 28, 2023.

“Policy Options for Climate Change Mitigation.” Institute for Culture and Society *Explores* the Future. Commonwealth University, Bloomsburg, PA. April 5, 2023.

“On Leaving it in the Ground: Supply, Demand, and Climate Change.” Keynote Address to the Commonwealth University Model United Nations, Bloomsburg, PA. March 28, 2023.

“A Demonstration of the En-ROADS Global Climate Simulator.” Fishing Creek Watershed Association, Bloomsburg, PA. March 13, 2023.

“Between Hope and Despair: Communicating Climate Change.” Institute for Culture and Society *Explores* Sustainability Symposium.” Commonwealth University, Bloomsburg, PA. October 30, 2019.

“Christian Faith and Public Deliberation.” Theology on Tap, Balzano’s Restaurant, Bloomsburg, PA. October 9, 2018.

“Randall Terry’s Liberal Prophecy: National Sin, Activist Redemption, and the Death of Freedom.” Scholarship Symposium Series, Commonwealth University, Bloomsburg, PA. September 12, 2016.

“Christian Voices in the Pluralist Wild.” Institute for Culture and Society Faculty Lecture Series, Commonwealth University, Bloomsburg, PA. February 10, 2016.

“On Christian Testimony.” First English Baptist Church, Bloomsburg, PA. October 14, 2014.

TEACHING **159 Total Sections****Courses Taught*****Commonwealth University, Department of Communication Studies (121 Sections)***

COMM 435: Studies in Propaganda
COMM 427: Strategic Communication
COMM 390: Environmental Communication
COMM 332: Argumentation and Advocacy
COMM 209: Introduction to Rhetorical Criticism
COMM 205: Introduction to Rhetorical Theory
COMM 103: Small Group Communication
COMM 102: Interpersonal Communication
COMM 101: Public Speaking
HONORS 211: The Art of Conversation
HONORS 103: Honors Public Speaking

Pennsylvania State University, Department of Communication Arts and Sciences (27 Sections)

CAS 475 World Campus: Studies in Public Address
CAS 283: Computer-Mediated Communication
CAS 201: History of Rhetorical Theory
CAS 175: Persuasion and Propaganda
CAS 100C: Message Criticism and Analysis
CAS 100B: Small Group Communication
CAS 100A: Effective Public Speaking

University of Maine, Departments of English, Communication and Journalism (10 Sections)

CMJ 103: Elements of Public Speaking
ENG 101: College Composition

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Teaching Innovation Award, Center for Teaching and Learning, Commonwealth University, November, 2024.

Sabbatical, Commonwealth University. One semester leave to research and write project on the negotiation between orthodoxy and infidelity in antebellum Unitarian sermons, Fall, 2020.

Centers for Public Life Research Exchange, Kettering Foundation. Research program inclusive of select academics, non-profits, and local government officials interested in facilitating

stronger public deliberation in their communities. Fellows travel to Dayton, Ohio to participate in five two-day training sessions throughout the academic year, 2018-2019.

Rock Ethics Institute Dissertation Fellowship, The Pennsylvania State University. \$1000 awarded to select Humanities graduate students who are working on ethics-related topics in their dissertations. Fellows participate in a bi-weekly seminar for the academic year, 2011-2012.

SERVICE

Discipline

Editorial Board, *Journal of Communication and Religion, Voices of Democracy: The U.S. Oratory Project.*

Reviewer, *Rhetoric & Public Affairs, Journal of Communication and Religion, Journal for the History of Rhetoric, Communication Quarterly, Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies, Politics & Religion, Mobilization.*

Reviewer, National Communication Association: Public Address Division, Political Communication Division, Religious Communication Association, 2012-2026.

University

Adviser, Commonwealth University Citizens' Climate Lobby, Bloomsburg University, 2019-2026.

Tenure Committee, Commonwealth University, 2022-2024.

Faculty Professional Development Committee, Commonwealth University, 2018-2020.

Assistant Coach, Frederick Douglass Debate Society, Commonwealth University, 2016-2019.

Mentor, Act 101 Educational Opportunity Program, Commonwealth University, 2015-2017.

Co-Adviser, Bloomsburg University Chapter of National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (BU NORML), Commonwealth University, 2013-2015.

College

First-Year Experience Director Search Committee, Honors College, Commonwealth University, 2024.

Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee (LACC), College of Liberal Arts, Commonwealth University, 2021-2023.

Institute for Culture and Society Steering Committee, College of Liberal Arts, Commonwealth University, 2021-2023.

CASSH Associate Dean Search Committee, College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities, Commonwealth University, 2022.

Student Professional Development Committee, College of Liberal Arts, Commonwealth University, 2017-2020.

Department

Evaluation Committee, Department of Communication Studies, Commonwealth University, 2018-2026.

Sabbatical Committee, Department of Communication Studies, Commonwealth University; Chair, 2024-2025; Member, 2015-2018.

Search and Screen Committee, Department of Communication Studies, Commonwealth University; Member, 2014-2017; Chair, 2024, 2019-2020.

Curriculum Committee, Department of Communication Studies, Commonwealth University, 2014-2023.

Promotion Committee, Department of Communication Studies, Commonwealth University, 2019-2020.

Editor, Communication Studies Newsletter, Department of Communication Studies, Commonwealth University, 2014-2017.

Program Review Committee, Department of Communication Studies, Commonwealth University, 2015-2016.

University Forum Representative, Department of Communication Studies, Commonwealth University, 2014-2016.

Library Liaison, Department of Communication Studies, Commonwealth University, 2014-2015.

Professional Development Chair, Communication Arts and Sciences Graduate Forum, The Pennsylvania State University, 2011-2012.

Social Chair, Communication Arts and Sciences Graduate Forum, The Pennsylvania State University, 2010-2011.

Intellectual Concerns Chair, Communication Arts and Sciences Graduate Forum, The Pennsylvania State University, 2009-2010.

Graduate Student Senator, Department of English, University of Maine, 2006-2007.

Union

Mobilization Committee, Commonwealth University, 2017-2025; Chair, 2021-2023.

Faculty-Student Liaison Committee, Commonwealth University, 2015-2021; Chair, 2019-2021.

Social Committee, Commonwealth University, 2017-2019.

Community

School Director, Bloomsburg Area School District, Bloomsburg, PA, 2024-2027.

Chair, Buildings, Grounds, & Athletics Committee, Bloomsburg Area School District, 2024-2026.

Member, Joint Operating Committee, Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School, 2025-2027.

MEMBERSHIPS

Professional

National Communication Association

Religious Communication Association

Rhetoric Society of America

The Thoreau Society

DOSSIER

References available upon request.