

OLIVIA SARA GELLAR

University of Texas at Austin
Department of Communication Studies

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EDUCATION

- The University of Texas at Austin* PhD, Communication Studies May 2026
Concentration: Rhetoric, Language, & Political Communication
Dissertation: TBD
Advisor: Dr. Johanna Hartelius
- The University of Texas at Austin* M.A., Communication Studies May 2022
Concentration: Rhetoric, Language, & Political Communication
Thesis: *Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death on a Ventilator:
How the Rhetoric of Freedom Amplified Reactionary Populism
Online During the COVID-19 Pandemic*
Advisor: Dr. Johanna Hartelius
- Ithaca College* B.A., Culture & Communication, Spanish May 2020
Concentration: Media Literacy and Education
Thesis: *Media Spectacle and the Christchurch Massacre*
Advisor: Dr. Robert Sullivan
Summa Cum Laude, GPA: 3.94

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Nationalism, whiteness, conspiracy, propaganda, misinformation, expertise, opposition, accountability, media spectacle

PUBLICATIONS

- E. Johanna Hartelius and Olivia S. Gellar, "Secrecy and Pseudoscience in the 'Real Battle' of COVID-19 Anti-Vaccination Arguments" *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*. (Accepted; Expected publication in 2023)

UNDER REVIEW

- Olivia S. Gellar and Michael Butterworth, "Kyrie Irving, Vaccine Hesitancy, and the Politics of Rugged Individualism," *Communication and Democracy*

SCHOLARSHIP IN PROGRESS

- Olivia S. Gellar, "Our Life is What Our Thoughts Make It: How the Red Pill Community Co-Opted Stoicism for their Own Gain," Public Address, (Competitive Paper submitted to the National Communication Association, National Harbor, Maryland, 2023).
- Braidyn S. Lazenby and Olivia S. Gellar, "Mister, I'll Make a Man Out of You: Understanding Attribution Theory Through Incel Forums on Reddit," *Human Communication and*

Technology, (Competitive Paper submitted to the National Communication Association, National Harbor, Maryland, 2023).

Michael L. Butterworth and Olivia S. Gellar, "Coffee and Cowboys: The Rhetorical Convergence of Sport, Militarism, and White Male Victimization," *Rhetorical Communication and Theory*, (Competitive Paper submitted to the National Communication Association, National Harbor, Maryland, 2023).

Olivia S. Gellar and Joshua Gunn, "Institutionalized Racism and the Implications of Lip Service: How the Eyes of Texas Committee Report Acts as Racial Gaslighting," *Intended Submission to Critical Cultural Studies Journal Summer 2023*.

PUBLISHED PUBLIC FACING WORK

Annual Report on Politics in Sport, Center for Sports Communication and Media, Co-Authored Paper with Dr. Michael Butterworth, "Branding Coffee and Conservative Politics with the Dallas Cowboys" *The University of Texas at Austin*, January 2023.

Annual Report on Politics in Sport, Center for Sports Communication and Media, Co-Authored Paper with Dr. Michael Butterworth, "Kyrie Irving, Athlete Voice, and Vaccine Hesitancy." *The University of Texas at Austin*, January 2022.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Olivia S. Gellar, "When Intent is Favored: How the Investigation into 'The Eyes of Texas' Acts as a Site of Racial Gaslighting," *Critical/Cultural Theory*, (Competitive Paper Accepted to National Communication Association, New Orleans, Louisiana 2022).

Olivia S. Gellar and Michael Butterworth, "Kyrie Irving, Vaccine Hesitancy, and the Politics of Rugged Individualism," *Public Address*, (Competitive Paper Accepted to National Communication Association, New Orleans, Louisiana 2022).

Olivia S. Gellar, "The American Sweetheart Antithesis: Subverting Complacency in the USA Gymnastics Senate Judiciary Hearing," *Student Section*, (Competitive Paper Accepted to National Communication Association, New Orleans, Louisiana 2022).

Olivia S. Gellar, "Breaking the Fourth Wall Through Social Media: The Impact of Direct Address at the Capitol Insurrection," *Digital Rhetoric*, (Competitive Paper accepted to the Rhetoric Society of America Conference, May 2022).

E. Johanna Hartelius and Olivia S. Gellar, "Anti-vaccine Arguments Then and Now: Masculine Techne during the COVID-19 Pandemic," *Digital Rhetoric* (Competitive Paper accepted to Rhetoric Society of America Conference, May 2022).

Olivia S. Gellar, "QAnon and the Conspiracy Genre: How the Call for Independent Research Alters the Need for Truth," *Rhetoric and Public Address*, (Competitive Paper accepted to the Southern States Communication Association, April 2022).

Olivia S. Gellar, “‘Plandemic: The Hidden Agenda Behind COVID-19,’” James L. Golden Award Session, (Competitive Paper presented at the National Communication Association, Seattle, WA, November 2021.) **Laureate Group*

Olivia S. Gellar, “Expert Ethos and Mockumentary Conspiracy: How ‘Plandemic: The Hidden Agenda Behind COVID-19’ Uncovers the Construction of Expertise,” Student Section, (Competitive Paper presented at the National Communication Association, Seattle, WA, November 2021).

UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCES

Olivia S. Gellar, “Terrorism Spectacle and the Christchurch massacre,” Oral Presentation, (Competitive Paper planned to present at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research, Bozeman, Montana, March 2020). **Cancelled due to COVID-19**

Olivia S. Gellar, “Does rhetoric create crisis or does crisis create rhetoric: The Kavanaugh vs Ford Hearing and the rhetorical situation,” (Poster Presentation presented at the Ithaca College Summer Scholars Research Exhibition, November 2020).

Olivia S. Gellar and Keanna Morales, “‘The images you see are the ones you want to be: looking at body image representation in youth culture,’” (Presented at Ithaca College, 19th Annual James J. Whalen Academic Symposium, April 2016).

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

Graduate Research Assistant for the Global Engagement Committee, Fall 2022-Spring 2023
Worked closely with GEC Chair Shiv Ganesh to ensure the Moody College of Communication maintained its commitment to global research, scholarship and participation through the creation of a minor, hosting events, bringing scholars to campus, and making sure current students have a sense of community. Role included convening meetings, attending meaningful subcommittee conversations, and acting as a task manager on a taskforce of over 25 members.

Coding work for Dr. Rodrick P. Hart, Summer 2022

Documenting how American politicians have been “constructed” by the press, by ordinary citizens, and by politicians themselves between 1948 and the present.

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS

Awards:

Graduate

Outstanding Masters Student of the Year May 2022
Department of Communication, The University of Texas at Austin

Rodrick P. Hart Student Achievement Award Recipient April 2021
Moody College of Communication, The University of Texas at Austin

Laureate Group James. L Golden Outstanding Student Essay in Rhetoric November 2021
National Communication Association

Outstanding 1st Year Masters Student May 2021
Department of Communication, The University of Texas at Austin

Undergraduate

Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship Award (\$8,500) May 2020

Communication Studies Departmental Honors May 2020
Department of Communication Studies, *Ithaca College*
Thesis: "Terrorism Spectacle and the Christchurch massacre"

Emerson Humanities Collaboration Award June 2019

Anne Siegel '81 Memorial Scholarship May 2019

Campus Center Scholarship May 2019

Dean's List December 2016-May 2020

Presidential Scholarship August 2016

Honors:

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society February 2019

Oracle Honors Society November 2018

Lambda Pi Eta Communications Honor Society November 2017

Sigma Delta Pi Modern Language Honor Society November 2017

INVITED GUEST LECTURES

Celebrity Rhetoric (2023). Josh Gunn. Guest lecture on QAnon and the Cult of Conspiracy. The
University of Texas at Austin

TEACHING

Graduate Instructor

Department of Communication Studies, Moody College of Communication, *The University of
Texas at Austin*

CMS 306M: Professional Communication Skills Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Communication Studies, Moody College of Communication, *The University of
Texas at Austin*

UGS 303: Communicating America through Baseball Spring 2022
Dr. Michael Butterworth

CLD 320: Facilitated Leadership Dr. Lawrence Schooler	Spring 2022
CMS 332K: Theories of Persuasion-WB Assistant Professor of Instruction Brendon Bankey	Fall 2021
CMS 332K: Theories of Persuasion-WB Dr. Matthew McGlone	Spring 2021, Summer 2021
CMS 332K: Theories of Persuasion-WB Dr. Barry Brummett	Fall 2020
CMS 335K: Intercultural Communication Dr. Jurgen Streeck	Fall 2020

Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts, *The University of Texas at Austin*

SOC 302: Introduction to the Study of Society Instructor Agueda Ortega	Summer 2023
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Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

School of Humanities and Sciences, Department of Modern Languages, *Ithaca College*

SPAN10100: Elementary Spanish I Dr. Gladys Verona Lacy	Fall 2018- Spring 2020
SPAN10100: Elementary Spanish I Dr. Rivka Greene	Spring 2017
ICSM: 20000: Principles of Peer Mentoring and Leadership Amber Cloke	Fall 2017, 2018, 2019

SERVICE

Discipline Services

Reviewer, National Communication Association Student Section	2023
Reviewer, National Communication Association First Amendment Studies	2023
Reviewer, National Communication Association Rhetorical Theory and Communication	2022
Reviewer, National Communication Association Student Section	2022
Invited Reviewer, Digital Humanities Quarterly	2021

Reviewer, National Communication Association Student Section	2021
Reviewer, Rhetoric Society of America Digital Rhetoric, Rhetorical Criticism	2021
Reviewer, Central States Communication Association Rhetorical Theory and Criticism	2021

Departmental Services

Graduate Service

Treasurer, Communication Student Graduate Community The University of Texas at Austin	May 2022- May 2023
Vice President, Communication Student Graduate Community The University of Texas at Austin	May 2021- May 2022
Graduate Peer Mentor, Teaching Assistant Training Leader The University of Texas at Austin	January 2022
New Student Mentor The University of Texas at Austin	Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
Assistant Event Coordinator, <i>Afterwards</i> : Post Colloquia Conversation The University of Texas at Austin	Fall 2021
Orientation Organizer The University of Texas at Austin	August 2021

Undergraduate Service

Judge, Perialas Prize for Persuasive Oratory Ithaca College	Fall 2018, Fall 2019
Executive Board Member, Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society Ithaca College	Fall 2018 - Spring 2020

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Communication Association
Rhetoric Society of America
Southern States Communication Association

RELEVANT SKILLS: Languages: English, Spanish (Fluent), Italian (Intermediate)