

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

Extremism, whiteness, conspiracy, neoliberalism, misinformation, expertise, opposition, accountability, media spectacle

PUBLICATIONS

- Olivia S. Gellar** and Michael Butterworth, “Kyrie Irving, Vaccine Hesitancy, and the Politics of Rugged Individualism,” *Communication and Democracy* 58, no.1 (October 2023): 47-69.
- E. Johanna Hartelius and **Olivia S. Gellar**, “Secrecy and Pseudoscience in the ‘Real Battle’ of COVID-19 Anti-Vaccination Arguments” *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*. (Forthcoming in Issue 26.4)

SCHOLARSHIP IN PROGRESS

- 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*, Fall 2024.
- Olivia S. Gellar, “God’s Children are Not for Sale’: Exploring Countersubversive Affect in *Sound of Freedom*,” Intended Submission to *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, December 2024

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- Olivia S. Gellar, “God’s Children are Not for Sale’: Exploring Countersubversive Affect in *Sound of Freedom*,” Public Address, (Competitive Paper submitted to the National Communication Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 2024).
- Olivia S. Gellar, “Idealizing Individualism: The Civitas Institute’s Threat to Public Good” First Amendment Studies, Freedom of Expression (Competitive Paper submitted to National Communication Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 2024). ***Top Paper Panel**
- Olivia S. Gellar, “Driven by Fear: Narcissistic Rhetoric and the Compliance of Capitalism in QAnon,” Public Rhetoric, (Competitive Paper submitted to the Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Denver, Colorado, May 2024).
- Olivia S. Gellar, “Foiling the Evidence: How the Affect of White Victimhood Functions with and through Anti-Trans Rhetoric,” Rhetorical Pedagogy, (Competitive Paper submitted to the Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Denver, Colorado, May 2024).
- 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, “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).

PUBLISHED PUBLIC FACING WORK

Annual Report on Politics in Sport, Center for Sports Communication and Media, Co-Authored Paper with Ana Sofie Meyer "Meritocratic Racism: Ron Desantis and the Politics of Language in Sports" *The University of Texas at Austin*, January 2024.

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.

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

Institute for Research on Male Supremacism, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA. *Mentee*, 2023-Present.

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.

Assessment Assistant for the Center for the Skills and Experience Flags, Spring 2022

Read and graded undergraduate work based on writing flag requirements to help gauge if a course was adhering to flag standards.

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

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| Anne Siegel '81 Memorial Scholarship | May 2019 |
| Campus Center Scholarship | May 2019 |
| Dean's List | December 2016-May 2020 |
| Presidential Scholarship | August 2016 |

Honors:

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| 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*

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| CMS 306M: Professional Communication Skills | Fall 2022, Spring 2023 |
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Graduate Teaching Assistant

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

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

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, *Afterwards*: 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 (NCA)

Rhetoric Society of America (RSA)

Association for Internet Researchers (AoIR)

Southern States Communication Association (SSCA)