

LEAH A. RANSOM, ABD

Communication Studies Department
California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly)
1 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
leransom@calpoly.edu / leahransom@utexas.edu
805-458-7568 (cell)

TEACHING POSITIONS HELD

2021-present	University of Texas at Austin <i>Teaching Assistant, Communication Studies Department</i>
2015-present	California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo <i>Lecturer, Communication Studies Department</i>
2014	Bakersfield College <i>Adjunct Faculty, Communication Department</i>
2013	Mt. San Antonio College <i>Adjunct Faculty, Communication Department</i>
2012-2013	Victor Valley College <i>Associate Faculty, Communication Studies Department</i>
2011-2013	Antelope Valley College <i>Adjunct Faculty, Communication Studies Department</i>
2010-2012	Barstow College <i>Adjunct Faculty, Speech Department</i>
2008	California State University San Bernardino <i>Teaching Assistant, Communication Studies Department</i>

COURSES

University of Texas at Austin

CLD 301: Introduction to Communication & Leadership, Large Lecture
CMS 332D: Digital Ethics
CMS 339L: Social Interactions in Virtual Environments, Synchronous
CMS 339K: Working Virtually, Synchronous
CMS 364K: Gender & Communication
CMS 342K: Political Communication
CMS 341: Digital Communications, Synchronous
CMS 367P: Dark Side of Political Communication, Asynchronous

Cal Poly

COMS 101: Intro to Public Speaking - Lecture, Synchronous, Asynchronous

COMS 102: Principles of Oral Communication

COMS 126: Argument & Advocacy

Bakersfield College

COMM B1: Public Speaking

COMM B2: Interpersonal Communication

Mt. San Antonio College

SPCH1A: Public Speaking

Victor Valley College

CMST 107: Family Communication

Antelope Valley College

COMM 101: Introduction to Public Speaking (w/Honors Option)

COMM 103: Processes of Communication (w/Honors Option)

COMM 107: Interpersonal Communication (w/Honors Option)

Barstow College

SPCH1: Elements of Public Speaking

California State University San Bernardino

COMM 120: Public Speaking

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Communication Studies, 2025 (Anticipated)

Department of Communication Studies - Rhetoric, Language, & Political Communication

Moody College of Communication

The University of Texas at Austin

Working Dissertation Title: Simulacra: Simulation in Gaming and the Illusory Nature of Reality

Advisor: Dr. Johanna Hartelius

Committee: Dr. Joshua Gunn, Dr. Scott Stroud, Dr. Kenneth Fleischmann

MA Communication Studies, 2008

Department of Communication & Media

College of Arts and Letters

California State University San Bernardino

Thesis Title: The Use of Violence as Feminist Rhetoric: Third-wave Feminism in

Tarantino's Kill Bill Films

Chair: Dr. Heather Hundley

BA Communication Studies, 2004
Department of Communication & Media
College of Arts and Letters
California State University San Bernardino
Emphasis: Human Communication (Interpersonal)

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK CHAPTERS

Free Speech and Ethics

Dex Parra, Leah Ransom, and Scott R. Stroud. Ransom, Leah (2023). In *Media, Ethics, and Democracy*, edited by Scott R. Stroud, 37–53. University of Texas at Austin, 2023.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP / PEDAGOGIC MATERIALS

The Ethics of Skinvertising

Trent A. Probeck, Leah A. Ransom, and Scott R. Stroud (April 18, 2024). Media Ethics Initiative at the Center for Media Engagement. Moody College of Communication.

<https://mediaengagement.org/research/the-ethics-of-skinvertising/>.

Scientists as Superheroes?

Finja I. Augsburg, Leah A. Ransom, and Scott R. Stroud (February 21, 2024). Media Ethics Initiative at the Center for Media Engagement. Moody College of Communication.

<https://mediaengagement.org/research/scientists-as-superheroes/>.

The Ethics of Amazon Alexa

Lauren Byrd, Leah A. Ransom, and Scott R. Stroud (August 29, 2023). Media Ethics Initiative at the Center for Media Engagement. Moody College of Communication.

<https://mediaengagement.org/research/the-ethics-of-amazon-alexa/>.

BOOK REVIEWS

A Review of The Ethics of Virtual and Augmented Reality: Building Worlds

Leah A. Ransom (Fall 2023). *Media Ethics Magazine* 36, no. 1.

<https://www.mediaethicsmagazine.com/index.php/reviews>.

Beyond Civility: The Competing Obligations of Citizenship

Ransom, Leah (October 2, 2022). *Argumentation and Advocacy* 58, no. 3–4: 184–86.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10511431.2022.2088133>.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

(De)constructing the Archival Avatar: How Digitality Complicates the Informational Self
Leah A. Ransom (November 2024). National Communication Association conference, New Orleans, LA.

Ancient Skepticism as a Precursor to Critical Rhetoric
Leah Ransom (May 2024). Rhetoric Society of America conference, Denver, CO.

The Devil’s Greatest Trick is to Convince You that QAnon is a Lie: Meta-Conspiracy Beliefs and the Practice of Guarding Against the Devil
Leah Ransom (May 2024). Rhetoric Society of America conference, Denver, CO.

A Foucauldian Analysis of Control: Bodies in Space
Leah A. Ransom (2023). National Communication Association conference, National Harbor, MD.

Irreconcilable Differences: Feminist Interpretations of The Bride in *Kill Bill*
Heather L. Hundley & Leah A. Katona (2014). Western States Communication Association conference, Anaheim, CA.

The killer bride: A mediated metaphor of third wave feminism in Tarantino’s *Kill Bill* films
Leah A. Ransom (2006). Western States Communication Association conference, Palm Springs, CA.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

2023-present	Graduate Research Assistant Media Ethics Initiative, Center for Media Engagement Moody College of Communication The University of Texas at Austin
2022	Graduate Research Assistant Dr. Rod Hart, Department of Communication Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
2007	Research Assistant Dr. Brian Heisterkamp, Department of Communication Studies, California State University San Bernardino

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Digital Games	Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Extended Reality (XR)
Ethics/Digital Ethics	Social Epistemology
“Self” and subjectivity in digital spaces	Ancient Skepticism
Conspiracy Theories	

FELLOWSHIPS

Moody Fellowship Supplement Moody College of Communication, University of Texas at Austin	2022-2025
Provost Fellowship Supplement The Graduate School, University of Texas at Austin	2021-2022
Graduate Recruitment Fellowship The Graduate School, University of Texas at Austin	2021-2025

PROFESSIONAL/PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

CMS 398T: Supervised Teaching in Communication Studies University of Texas at Austin, Fall 2021	
CSU's Sexual Misconduct Prevention Program (Title IX) California State University Skillsoft Certification Course, annually since November 2020	
Introduction to Online Teaching and Learning Cal Poly Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology, San Luis Obispo, July 2020	
Inclusive Course Design Cal Poly Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology, San Luis Obispo, August 2020	
Creating Accessible Content Cal Poly Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology, San Luis Obispo, August 2020	
CSU's Discrimination Harassment Prevention Program for Supervisors California State University Skillsoft Certification Course, annually since March 2020	
eLearning Series: Introduction to Screencasting Cal Poly Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology, San Luis Obispo, Spring 2015	

SERVICE

Professional Service

2024	Conference Submission Reviewer, National Communication Association Game Studies Division, Freedom of Expression Division, Philosophy and Communication Division
2023	Conference Submission Reviewer, National Communication Association Game Studies Division

Conference Submission Reviewer, Rhetoric Society of America

2022 Conference Submission Reviewer, International Communication Association
Game Studies Interest Group

2011 Conference Submission Reviewer, Western States Communication Association
Media Studies Interest Group

Forensics Service

2011-2013 Intramural Speech Tournament Judge, Antelope Valley College

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

National Communication Association
Rhetoric Society of America

Western States Communication Association
American Philosophical Association

ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES

Spanish: Intermediate Listener, Novice Speaker