

Ashley N. McDonald

Education

University of Texas at Austin / PHD in Communication Studies / (IN PROGRESS) 3.7 GPA | ADVISOR: Dr. E.J. Hartelius | Key Courses : Rhetoric of Expertise | Gender and Communication | Black Political Thought | Alienation and Freedom | Rhetoric of Psychoanalysis

University of Cincinnati / M.A in Communication Studies / (JULY 2019) | 3.9 GPA | Advisor: Dr. Ronald Jackson II | Key Courses: | Organizational Communication | Qualitative Research Methods | Entertainment and Society | Visual Rhetoric |

University of Southern Mississippi / B.A in Communication Studies / (2017) | 3.6 GPA | Advisor: Dr. Lawrence Hosman | Key Courses: Interpersonal Communication | Organizational Communication | Information Literacy | Business Communication | Advanced Persuasion |

Skills

Basic Spanish | | Interpersonal Communication | **Organization** | Leadership | **Research** | **Problem Analyzing** | **Conflict Management** | Crisis Management | **Public Speaking** | Time Management | **Teamwork** | Technical Writing & Transcribing | **Resource Management** |

Publications

The Violence of White Entitlement and the Hypocrisy of Earned Merit
RL Jackson, A McDonald
Departures in Critical Qualitative Research 8 (4), 64-68

(In Review) 'G-ddam canon' - of violent routine and ignored imaginations
A McDonald
Rhetoric and Popular Culture

Leadership

President of Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance at the University of Southern Mississippi (2 Years)
Helped promote and staff the Mississippi Natural Hair Expo

Helped promote and staff the USM GSA's Second Chance Prom
Helped promote and staff the Transgender Day of Remembrance Activities and Vigil at USM
Completed Semester Long Community-Based Capstone Project at Southern Pines Animal Shelter

Research Interests

As a scholar, I work through rhetoric in a multiplicity of contexts, ranging from popular culture to politics and social movements through the context of higher education and classroom settings. I am constantly asking questions of the world around me, rarely with the intent of finding a concrete answer. I like to engage with curiosity and challenging ideas. I study difficult dialogues and discourses, such as racism, radicalism, and what it means to uphold certain ideals.

I work in a critical context, engaging with the work of Fanon, Morrison, Burke, and others through a womanist perspective. I also engage a lot with race and identity and how we form communities around identity in regard to pop culture and fandom. One of my most recent projects was looking at the implications of a broader rhetorical canon as we engage with marginalized communities. I also do work on zines, comics, and poetry as a form of performance study.

Thesis

M.A. Thesis - Discerning Apology from Apologia to Restructure Higher Education's Response to Racist Violations - A Critical-Discursive Exploration of Public Apologies –Completed Under the advisement of Dr. Ronald Jackson II

My thesis project was about apologia and how it is implemented in public apology after racist violations occur on college campuses. I am not taking a traditional approach to the thesis, rather, each of the chapters is meant to be a separate publishable paper with the common theme. It is a goal of mine to be able to expand on this work as a sort of love letter to my community in the sense of both validation and carving out a place for marginalized voices in academe, especially in terms of the rhetoric around race in higher education and the implications of racialized apologia.

Graduate Coursework

COMM 8092 – TEACHING PRACTICUM
COMM 7001 – ADVANCED CRITICAL AND RHETORICAL THEORY
COMM 8088 – VISUAL RHETORIC
COMM 7007- ADVANCED COMMUNICATION THEORY
COMM 7041 - EMPIRICAL COMMUNICATION RESEARCH METHODS
COMM 9042 - THESIS PROJECT HOURS – 6HRS.
COMM 8008 – ADVANCED SURVEY OF ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION
COMM 7006 – ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA AND THE AUDIENCE
COMM 8094 – INTRODUCTION TO GRADUATE STUDIES – COMMUNICATION

COMM 8093 – INTRODUCTION TO GRADUATE STUDIES – COMMUNICATION II
COMM 7042 – QUALITATIVE COMMUNICATION RESEARCH METHODS
CMS 7482 – BURKE AND THE SYMBOLIC FORM
CMS 8003 - VOICES OF CITIZENSHIP
CMS 8008 - GENDER AND COMMUNICATION
CMS 7558 - DIALOGUE
AADS 3042 - BLACK STUDIES THEORY I
AADS 3022 - ALIENATION AND FREEDOM
AADS 3122 - BLACK POLITICAL THOUGHT
CMS 8035 - RHETORIC OF EXPERTISE

Courses Taught

Course Instructor - (28 Students, 6 Sections) - Public Speaking
Teaching Assistant (74 Students) – Grading and Tutoring Rhetoric Theory
Teaching Assistant (85 Students) - Grading and Tutoring Rhetoric of Popular Music
Teaching Assistant (35 Students, 2 Sections) - Gender and Communication
Teaching Assistant (95 Students) - Communication and Leadership
Teaching Assistant (806 Students) - Introduction to Communication

Professional Experience

Pine Lake Fellowship Camp | **Counselor** | (MAY 2011-JUNE 2014)

- **Cared for groups of up to 10 campers**
- **Participated in leadership training**
- **Collaborated with others to keep the program running smoothly**
- **Excelled on a group staff**
- **Worked 24/7 to ensure the safety of campers**
- **Was extensively trained in handling sensitive situations with discretion**

University of Southern Mississippi Residence Life | **Desk Assistant** | (January 2014- May 2017)

- **Acted as a resource for residents and guests**
- **Assisted Hall Directors and Resident Assistants in daily operations**
- **Generated a positive atmosphere in the lobby area by greeting residents**
- **Kept confidential information and documents secure**
- **Was given extensive federal compliance and ethics training**