

Catherine J. Bruns

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities | Department of Communication Studies
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy Fall 2019-Present	<i>Critical Media Studies</i> University of Minnesota—Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN Advisor: Dr. Mary Vavrus
Master of Arts 2017	<i>Environmental Communication and Advocacy</i> James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA Advisor: Dr. Pete Bsumek
Bachelor of Arts 2015	<i>Communication Studies-Theatre Arts, Political Science; Mandarin Chinese minor</i> Cum laude Concordia College, Moorhead, MN Advisor: Dr. Adam Knowlton

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN

Graduate Research Assistant, COLDEX NSF Science and Technology Center, Fall 2022—Present
Graduate Research Assistant, Writing Enriched Curriculum, Spring 2020—Spring 2021
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Communication Studies, Fall 2019
Graduate Instructor of Record, Communication Studies, Fall 2019—Fall 2021

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

Lecturer (full-time 4:5 load), School of Communication Studies, Fall 2018—Spring 2019
Adjunct Faculty (part-time 1:1 load), School of Communication Studies, Fall 2017—Spring 2018
Graduate Instructor of Record, School of Communication Studies, Fall 2016—Spring 2017
Graduate Study Abroad Teaching Assistant, School of Communication Studies, Summer 2016
Graduate Teaching Assistant, School of Communication Studies, Fall 2015—Spring 2016
Graduate Forensics Coach, JMU Speech Team, Fall 2015—Spring 2017

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

Voci, D., **Bruns, C. J.**, Weder, F., & Lemke, S. (2020). Framing the end: Analyzing media and meaning making

during Cape Town's Day Zero. *Frontiers in Communication*, 5(576199).

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fcomm.2020.576199>

Bruns, C. J. (2016). Fracking for fans: The ethos of *Promised Land*. *Carolinas Communication Annual*, 32, 43-58.

<https://carolinascommunication.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/2016-carolinascommunicationannual.pdf>

Bruns, C. J. (2016). From on stage to in office: Examining the success of political actors in eighteenth-century France. *Apollon eJournal*, 6. Retrieved from <http://www.apollonejournal.org/apollon-journal//from-on-stage-to-in-office>

Bruns, C. J. (2015). When East meets West: Analyzing China's historical and cultural impact on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. *New Voices: A Journal of Writing Across the Curriculum*, 25, 8-21.

Chapters

Bruns, C. J. (2021). Grieving Okjökull: Discourses of the Ok glacier funeral. In H. Bødker and H. E. Morris (Eds.), *Climate change and journalism: Negotiating rifts of time* (pp. 121-135). Routledge.

Bruns, C. J. (2020). Sun, sand, and satire: A rhetorical analysis of the Great Barrier Reef's obituary. In C. R. Schmitt, T. R. Castor, & C. S. Thomas (Eds.), *Water, rhetoric, and social justice: A critical confluence* (pp. 249-267). Lexington Books.

Case Studies

Bruns, C. J. (2018). Shifting blame: Addressing the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's complicated ethical responsibility in the Flint water crisis. In B. R. Brunner & C. A. Hickerson (Eds.), *Cases in public relations: Translating ethics into action* (pp. 171-178). New York: Oxford University Press.

Reports

Bruns, C. J. (2021). Pioneer Park Master Plan: Community Engagement, Part 1: Youth Engagement. *Resilient Communities Project (RCP)*. University of Minnesota Digital Conservancy. <https://hdl.handle.net/11299/218994>

Bruns, C. J., Franta, K., Klenz, K., Bansal, V., & Carlson, G. (2020). Pioneer Park Master Plan: Best Practices for Community Engagement. *Resilient Communities Project (RCP)*. University of Minnesota Digital Conservancy. <http://hdl.handle.net/11299/216195>

PRESENTATIONS

Forthcoming Presentations

The Worthy of Nature: Valuations of Glaciers in U.S. and Norwegian Media Discourse. European Communication Research and Education Association, Aarhus, Denmark, 2022.

Competitively Selected Conferences Presentations

Pioneer Park Kids Art Project: Connecting Place to Person in a Virtual Environment. International Environmental Communication Association. **Virtual**, 2021.

(Re)Centering Indigeneity in Ecological Grief. International Environmental Communication Association. **Virtual**, 2021.

Pioneer Park Master Plan: Best Practices for Community Engagement. Eastern Communication Association. **Virtual**, 2021.

Watching It Burn: The Confrontational Rhetoric of “A Very Happy Young Girl.” Midwest Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association. **Virtual**, 2020.

Culture, Communication, and Childish Gambino: A Musical Critique. *Teaching Ideas for Popular Culture Studies (TIPS)* Midwest Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association. **Virtual**, 2020.

Framing the End: Analyzing Media and Meaning Making During Cape Town’s Day Zero. International Communication Association Conference. **Virtual**, 2020.

Day Zero: Discourse of the Cape Town Water Crisis. International Environmental Communication Association. Vancouver, Canada, 2019.

Dollars for Decisions: Encouraging Dialogue in Group Decision Making Processes. *Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFT)* Central States Communication Association. Omaha, NE, 2019.

The Wait for Water: An Analysis of Water.org’s Digital Campaign Messaging Strategies. Central States Communication Association. Omaha, NE, 2019.

Boom Before Bust: Communication of Rhetorical Metaphors of Economic Risk Prior to the 2008 Financial Crisis. National Communication Association. Salt Lake City, UT, 2018. ***Top Paper Panel in the Economics, Communication, and Society Division***

Building a Bridge: Extending the Relevance of Community-Based Conservation in Environmental Public Participation. Virginia Association of Communication Arts and Sciences Conference. Fairfax, VA, 2017.

Sun, Sand, and Satire: A Generic Criticism of the Great Barrier Reef’s Obituary. National Communication Association. Dallas, TX, 2017.

Youth in Action: A Summary, Synthesis, and Analysis of Youth Civic Engagement Practices. National

Communication Association. Dallas, TX, 2017.

Land of 10,000 Theatres: Examining the Cultural Identity of the Twin Cities Theatre Scene. Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association. San Diego, CA, 2017.

History Has Its Eyes On You: A Burkean Analysis of *Hamilton*. National Communication Association. Philadelphia, PA, 2016. ***Second place Top Student Paper Award in the Theatre, Film, and New Multi-Media Division***

Next Steps: An Environmental Campaign Addressing the Flint Water Crisis. National Communication Association Philadelphia, PA, 2016.

Distracted Speaker: Preparing Students for the Unprepared. *Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFT)* National Communication Association. Philadelphia, PA, 2016.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). National Communication Association Pre-conference. Philadelphia, PA, 2016.

Fracking for Fans: The Ethos of *Promised Land*. Florida Communication Association. Orlando, FL, 2016. ***Second place Competitive Communication Scholarship Graduate Paper Award***

Silent Struggles: Tensions Associated with Feelings of Anxiety in Forensic Competitors. Florida Communication Association. Orlando, FL, 2016.

Unscripted Truths: An Analysis of Energy in Depth's The Real Promised Land Campaign. Virginia Association of Communication Arts and Sciences Conference. Fairfax, VA, 2016.

When East Meets West: Analyzing China's Historical and Cultural Impact on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Southeast Regional Conference of the Association of Asian Studies. Harrisonburg, VA, 2016.

When East Meets West: Analyzing China's Historical and Cultural Impact on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Concordia College Celebration of Student Scholarship. Moorhead, MN, 2015. ***Paper Debut and Dean's Choice Session Selection***

I Did Not Have Sexual Relations with That Woman: The Shifting Relationship Between Presidential Scandals and the Media. Concordia College Celebration of Student Scholarship. Moorhead, MN, 2014.

May the Odds Be Ever in Your Favor: Uncovering the Hidden Truth Behind Interpersonal Deception Theory. *Poster presentation* Concordia College Celebration of Student Scholarship. Moorhead, MN, 2014.

Invited Talks

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Department of Communication Studies. Presented my chapter “Grieving Okjökull: Discourses of the Ok glacier funeral.” **Virtual**, February 11, 2022.

Annenberg School for Communication and the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. One of three contributing authors invited to speak at the book launch for *Climate change and journalism: Negotiating rifts of time* (2021). **Virtual**, September 22, 2021.

American Association of University Women. Presented my chapter “Sun, sand, and satire: A rhetorical analysis of the Great Barrier Reef’s obituary.” St. Paul, MN, February 18, 2020.

Workshops Led

Writing Enriched / Research Experience Workshop Series. Co-organizer with Dr. Allison Brenneise and Dr. Mary Vavrus. Department of Communication Studies, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. **Virtual**, Fall 2020-Spring 2021.

Graduate Student Water Workshop Series. Water Network, University of Minnesota. With Evelyn Dsouza, Tyler Seidel, Vinicius Taguchi, and Bailey Tangen. **Virtual**, Fall 2021-Spring 2022.

Workshops Participated

Friday Noon Research Colloquium: Virtual Presentations. Department of Communication Studies, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. **Virtual**, November 13, 2020.

Friday Noon Research Colloquium: Recommendations, Cover Letters, and Interviews. Department of Communication Studies, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. **Virtual**, October 16, 2020.

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

COMM 3263W: Media Literacy (1:1 load Fall 2020-Fall 2021, enrollment 25, ***Asynchronous Online***)

COMM 4250: Cases in Environmental Communication – Study Abroad in Costa Rica (Spring 2020, enrollment 25)

COMM 1313W: Analysis of Argument (Fall 2019, enrollment 25)

COMM 3211: Intro to Media Studies (TA Fall 2019, section enrollment 25)

James Madison University

SCOM 123: Fundamental Human Communication: Group Presentations (Fall 2016-Spring 2017, 1 section Spring 2018, enrollment 30)

SCOM 122: Fundamental Human Communication: Individual Presentations (***4:5 load*** Fall 2018-Spring 2019, 1 section Fall 2017, enrollment 30)

SCOM 121: Fundamental Human Communication: Presentations (TA Fall 2015-Spring 2016, section enrollment 15)

SCOM 413: Communication, Conflict, and Identity – Study Abroad in Ireland (TA Summer 2016, enrollment 19)

HONORS & AWARDS

**Note: Top paper recognitions are identified in the “Presentations” section of this CV*

Fellowships

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Graduate Fellowship, Environmental Humanities, 2022-2023 (\$2,500)

Human in the Data Fellowship, MnDRIVE and Institute for Advanced Study, 2022 (\$7,000)

Summer Graduate Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts, 2021 (\$4,000)

Summer Graduate Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts, 2020 (\$5,000)

Awards

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

RSA Summer Institute Graduate Development Award, Rhetoric Society of America, 2021 (\$400)

President’s Student Leadership and Service Award, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, 2021

Pandemic Year Graduate Student Award, Department of Communication Studies, 2021

Finalist, MetroLab Network Student Cup, 2020 (\$1,000)

James Madison University

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, School of Communication Studies, 2017

Concordia College

Second Place Undergraduate Theatre Scholar Award, Kennedy Center, 2015

Bruce Gronbeck Research Award, Communication Studies-Theatre Arts Department, 2015

Qualifier, American Forensics Association-National Individual Events Tournament, 2014 & 2015

Gloria Long Leadership Through Service Award, Communication Studies-Theatre Arts Department, 2014

Most Improved Returning Individual Events Member, Concordia College Forensics Team, 2014

Most Improved New Individual Events Member, Concordia College Forensics Team, 2013

Grants & Funding

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Research-Creative-Teaching Grant, Department of Communication Studies, 2022 (\$989)

Research-Creative-Teaching Grant, Department of Communication Studies, 2021 (\$258)

Seed Funding, Environmental Humanities Initiative, 2021 (\$530)

James Madison University

Faculty Conference Presentation Grant, Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability, 2019 (\$765)

Research / Travel Grant, Graduate Student Association, 2017 (\$200)

Travel Grant, JMU Graduate School, 2016 (\$500)

Student Travel Grant, NCA Women’s Caucus, 2016 (\$300)

Student Conference Presentation Grant, Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability, 2016 (\$553)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Research

University of Minnesota- Twin Cities

Media and Communication Doctoral Summer School, European Communication Research and Education Association, University of Cádiz, Spain, July 24-30, 2022

Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, “Ecological Feelings | Feeling Ecological: Dwelling in the Anthropocentric Moment” and “Cultural Politics and Activism,” **Virtual**, June 2021

James Madison University

Fall Scholarship Residency, Center for Faculty Innovation, Mountain Valley Retreat Center, November 2-4, 2018

Review and Renew Your Career Institute, Center for Faculty Innovation, May 14-18, 2018

Teaching

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Teaching Assistant and Postdoc Professional Development Program, Center for Educational Innovation, **Virtual**, 2019-2021

Online Teaching Readiness Program, College of Liberal Arts, **Virtual**, July 2021

Teaching in Globally Diverse Classes Certificate Program, Global Programs and Strategy Alliance, **Virtual**, June 2021

Teaching with Writing Online Short Course, Writing Across the Curriculum, **Virtual**, August 17-21, 2020

Online Course Design Seminar, Center for Educational Innovation, **Virtual**, August 2020

Online Teaching and Design Program, UMN Teaching Support, **Virtual**, June-July 2020

Facilitating Challenging Conversations in the Classroom Workshop, Office of Equity and Diversity, January 24, 2020

Teaching With Writing Winter Workshop, Writing Across the Curriculum, January 15, 2020

Teaching With Writing Workshop: Assigning and Assessing Student Writing, Writing Across the Curriculum, August 28, 2019

James Madison University

jmUDESIGN, Center for Faculty Innovation, June 11-15, 2018

Teaching Institute for Graduate Teaching Assistants in Communication, University of Maine, Orono, ME, August 4-7, 2016

SERVICE

Service to the Department, College, or University

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Member, Twin Cities Sustainability Committee, 2021—Present
 Council Member and Chair of Early Career Engagement Subcommittee, Water Council, 2021—Present
 Co-Organizer, Graduate Student Water Workshop Series, 2021—2022
 Moderator, Writing Engaged Curriculum Institute, May 6, 2022
 Panelist, “Climate Action Planning Town Hall” event for the UMN Office of Sustainability, May 4, 2022
 Moderator, “Conversations with Taye Diggs” event for UMN Student Unions & Activities, October 16, 2020

James Madison University

Member, MadRush Undergraduate Research Conference Planning Committee, 2018
 Moderator, JMU General Education Student Conference, October 5, 2018
 Moderator, JMU General Education Student Conference, September 22, 2017
 Mentor, School of Communicator Studies Graduate Teaching Assistants, 2016—2017

Service to the Discipline

Graduate Student Representative and Member of Conference Planning Committee, International Environmental Communication Association Board, 2022—Present
 Member, COLDEX Early Career Engagement Committee, 2022—Present
 Panel Organizer and Chair, “Resilient Engagement: Overcoming 2020 Through Creative Community Problem Solving,” ECA, 2021
 Panel Moderator, NCA Environmental Communication Division, 2018
 Conference Submission Reviewer, NCA Environmental Communication Division, 2018
 Conference Submission Reviewer, NCA Economics, Community, and Society Division, 2018
 Graduate Student Representative, NCA Women’s Caucus, 2016

Service to the Community

Member, United States Global Leadership Coalition Minnesota State Advisory Council, 2021—Present
 Member, USGLC Next Gen Global Leaders Network, 2020-2021
 Fellow, Resilient Communities Project & The City of Little Canada, June 2020—December 2020
 Member, Minnesota Public Radio Generation Listen Advisory Council, 2019—2020

Service to Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society

Member, ODK National Advisory Council, 2018—2020
 Member, ODK Student Advisory Board, 2016—2018
 Facilitator, ODK Drive-In Workshop, February 4, 2017

AFFILIATIONS

Memberships

International Environmental Communication Association
 National Communication Association
 European Communication Research and Education Association

Honor Societies

Omicron Delta Kappa, National leadership honor society

Pi Kappa Delta, National collegiate speech and debate honor society

Pi Sigma Alpha, National political science honor society