

Catherine J. Bruns

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

Doctor of Philosophy Fall 2019-May 2024 (Exp.)	<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
Bachelor of Arts 2015	<i>Communication Studies-Theatre Arts, Political Science; Mandarin Chinese minor</i> Cum laude Concordia College, Moorhead, MN

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN

- Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Oldest Ice Exploration (COLDEX) National Science Foundation Science and Technology Center, Spring 2022—Present
- Graduate Instructor of Record, Communication Studies, Fall 2019—Fall 2021
- Graduate Research Assistant, Writing Enriched Curriculum, Spring 2020—Spring 2021
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Communication Studies, Fall 2019

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

- Lecturer, School of Communication Studies, Fall 2018—Spring 2019
- Adjunct Faculty, 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

Refereed Journal 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.

Book 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.
- **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). Oxford University Press.

Non-Refereed White Papers

- Roop, H.A., **Bruns, C.J.**, Huffman, D., and Neff, P. (2023). *COLDEX Strategic Communication Plan*. Plan prepared for the Center for Oldest Ice Exploration by the University of Minnesota COLDEX Knowledge Transfer Team and the University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership, Saint Paul, MN, USA.
- **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>

Submissions Under Review

- **Bruns, C. J.**, & Andersen, I. V. The Worth of Nature: Valuations of Glaciers in Alaskan and Norwegian Media Discourse. Under review at *Environmental Communication*.

PRESENTATIONS

Forthcoming Presentations

Bruns, C.J., Roop, H.A., Timm, K., & Steig, E. Building Media Relationships, Exchanging Climate Science: Reflections from a Piloted Climate Journalism Workshop at the 2nd Ice

Core Open Science Meeting. Accepted for oral presentation at the Midwest Climate Resilience Conference, Duluth, MN.

Competitively Selected Paper Presentations

- **Bruns, C. J.** Wine, Water, and Ways of Life: Mapping Community Wine Knowledge in Andalucía, Spain. International Environmental Communication Association. Harrisonburg, VA, 2023.
- **Bruns, C. J.,** Huffman, D., & Roop, H. A. Storying Polar Landscapes: U.S. Newspaper Discourses of Antarctica in the 21st Century. International Environmental Communication Association. Harrisonburg, VA, 2023.
- **Bruns, C. J.,** Roop, H. A., & Huffman, D. Mapping the Future: Establishing a Relational Baseline for COLDEX Knowledge Exchange. American Geophysical Union. **Virtual**, 2022.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Reflections from the (Grape) Field: Integrating Community Wine and Climate Knowledge in Bottom-Up Research Design. American Geophysical Union. **Virtual**, 2022.
- **Bruns, C. J.,** & Andersen, I. V. The Worths of Nature: Valuations of Glaciers in U.S. and Norwegian Media Discourse. European Communication Research and Education Association, Aarhus, Denmark, 2022.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Pioneer Park Kids Art Project: Connecting Place to Person in a Virtual Environment. International Environmental Communication Association. **Virtual**, 2021.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Pioneer Park Master Plan: Best Practices for Community Engagement. Eastern Communication Association. **Virtual**, 2021. ***Panel Organizer and Chair***
- **Bruns, C. J.** Watching It Burn: The Confrontational Rhetoric of “A Very Happy Young Girl.” Midwest Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association. **Virtual**, 2020.
- Weder, F., & **Bruns, C. J.** Framing the End: Analyzing Media and Meaning Making During Cape Town’s Day Zero. International Communication Association. **Virtual**, 2020.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Day Zero: Discourses of the Cape Town Water Crisis. International Environmental Communication Association. Vancouver, Canada, 2019.
- **Bruns, C. J.** *The Wait for Water*: An Analysis of Water.org’s Digital Campaign Messaging Strategies. Central States Communication Association. Omaha, NE, 2019.
- **Bruns, C. J.** 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***
- **Bruns, C. J.** Building a Bridge: Extending the Relevance of Community-Based Conservation in Environmental Public Participation. Virginia Association of Communication Arts and Sciences. Fairfax, VA, 2017.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Sun, Sand, and Satire: A Generic Criticism of the Great Barrier Reef’s Obituary. National Communication Association. Dallas, TX, 2017.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Youth in Action: A Summary, Synthesis, and Analysis of Youth Civic Engagement Practices. National Communication Association. Dallas, TX, 2017.

- **Bruns, C. J.** 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.
- **Bruns, C. J.** 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***
- **Bruns, C. J.** Next Steps: An Environmental Campaign Addressing the Flint Water Crisis. National Communication Association. Philadelphia, PA, 2016.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). National Communication Association. Philadelphia, PA, 2016.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Fracking for Fans: The Ethos of *Promised Land*. Florida Communication Association. Orlando, FL, 2016. ***Second place Competitive Communication Scholarship Graduate Paper Award***
- **Bruns, C. J.** Silent Struggles: Tensions Associated with Feelings of Anxiety in Forensic Competitors. Florida Communication Association. Orlando, FL, 2016.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Unscripted Truths: An Analysis of Energy in Depth's The Real Promised Land Campaign. Virginia Association of Communication Arts and Sciences. Fairfax, VA, 2016.

Competitively Selected Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFTS) Presentations

- **Bruns, C. J.** Culture, Communication, and Childish Gambino: A Musical Critique. Midwest Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association. **Virtual**, 2020.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Dollars for Decisions: Encouraging Dialogue in Group Decision Making Processes. Central States Communication Association. Omaha, NE, 2019.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Distracted Speaker: Preparing Students for the Unprepared. National Communication Association. Philadelphia, PA, 2016.

Non-Competitively Selected Presentations & Talks

- **Bruns, C. J.** Ice Cores & Grapevines: An Unexpected Friendship. COLDEX All-Hands Meeting. **Virtual**, July 17, 2023.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Rising Seas: Representations of Climate Change and Antarctica in U.S. Newspaper Coverage. Water Network, University of Minnesota. **Virtual**, May 5, 2023.
- **Bruns, C. J., Mosher, M., & Quartz, S.** Communicating Climate in the Classroom. University of Minnesota Department of Communication Studies. **Virtual**, March 31, 2023.
- **Bruns, C. J., Joyer, M., & Quartz, S.** Preliminary Exam Workshop. University of Minnesota Department of Communication Studies. **Virtual**, March 24, 2023.
- **Bruns, C. J.** "Palo Cortado": The Evolution of a Dissertation. MnDRIVE Human in the Data Fellowship Program and Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Minnesota. **Virtual**, February 24, 2023.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Pressing for Answers: Reflections on Wine and Climate Adaptation Research in Andalucía, Spain. Environmental Humanities Initiative, University of Minnesota. **Virtual**, February 17, 2023.

- **Bruns, C. J.** Reflections from the (Grape) Field: Integrating Community Wine and Climate Knowledge in Bottom-Up Research Design. Water Network, University of Minnesota. **Virtual**, December 9, 2022.
- **Bruns, C. J., & COLDEX ECR Community.** Early Career Researcher Contributions to COLDEX: Year 1. COLDEX Annual Meeting. Oregon State University, September 16, 2022.
- Roop, H. A., **Bruns, C. J., & Huffman, D.** Mapping the Future: Establishing a Relational Baseline for COLDEX Knowledge Exchange. COLDEX Annual Meeting. Oregon State University, September 16, 2022.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Finding My Way: Mapping a Graduate Research Identity. University of Minnesota Department of Communication Studies. **Virtual**, August 31, 2022.
- **Bruns, C. J.** The Worths of Nature: Valuations of Glaciers in U.S. and Norwegian Media Discourse (Part 1). COLDEX Early Career Researchers Monthly Meeting. **Virtual**, June 13, 2022.
- **Bruns, C. J.** Grieving Okjökull: Discourses of the Ok Glacier Funeral. University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Department of Communication Studies. **Virtual**, February 11, 2022.

Invited Presentations

- One of three contributing authors invited to present at the book launch for *Climate change and journalism: Negotiating rifts of time* (2021). Annenberg School for Communication and the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. **Virtual**, September 22, 2021.
- Sun, Sand, and Satire: A Rhetorical Analysis of the Great Barrier Reef's Obituary. American Association of University Women. St. Paul, MN, February 18, 2020.

Events & Workshops Led

- Journalism & Climate Communication Workshop. With Dr. Heidi Roop & Dr. Kristin Timm. U.S. Ice Core Open Science Meeting, University of Washington, May 8-9, 2023.
- COLDEX Early Career Researcher Day. With Julia Marks Peterson and Shuai Yan. COLDEX Annual Meeting, Oregon State University, September 14, 2022.
- Science Communication: Audience, Kairos, and Distilling Your Message. COLDEX Research Experience Undergraduates Workshop Series. **Virtual**, July 13, 2022.
- Graduate Student Water Workshop Series. With Evelyn Dsouza, Tyler Seidel, Vinicius Taguchi, and Bailey Tangen. Water Network, University of Minnesota. **Virtual**, Fall 2021-Spring 2022.
- Writing Enriched / Research Experience Workshop Series. With Dr. Allison Brenneise and Dr. Mary Vavrus. Department of Communication Studies, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. **Virtual**, Fall 2020-Spring 2021.

Forthcoming Workshops

- Science Communication Theory and Practice Overview: Engaging Diverse Audiences and Distilling Your Message. With Dr. Heidi Roop. DEEPICE Training School in

Communication, Hotel Restaurant Meielisalp, Leissigen, Switzerland, **Forthcoming September 4, 2023.**

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 122: Fundamental Human Communication: Individual Presentations (***4:5 load*** Fall 2018-Spring 2019, 1 section Fall 2017, enrollment 30)
- SCOM 123: Fundamental Human Communication: Group Presentations (Fall 2016-Spring 2017, 1 section Spring 2018, 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*

University of Minnesota

Fellowships

- Hella Mears Graduate Fellowship in European Studies, Center for German and European Studies, 2023 (\$6,000)
- Summer Graduate Fellowship, Literacy and Rhetorical Studies, 2023 (\$1,500)
- Graduate Fellowship, Environmental Humanities Initiative, 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)

Grants

- IonE Fall Mini Grant, Institute on the Environment, 2022 (\$3,000)
- Graduate Student Travel Grant, Center for German & European Studies, 2022 (\$2,500)
- Research-Creative-Travel Grant, Department of Communication Studies, 2022 (\$989)
- Research-Creative-Travel Grant, Department of Communication Studies, 2021 (\$258)
- Seed Funding, Environmental Humanities Initiative, 2021 (\$530)

Awards

- Graduate Student Scholarship Award, Department of Communication Studies, 2023
- President's Student Leadership and Service Award, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, 2021
- Pandemic Year Graduate Student Award, Department of Communication Studies, 2021

Teaching Programs and Certifications

- 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

Grants

- 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)

Awards

- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, School of Communication Studies, 2017

Honors

- 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 Programs and Certifications

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

Concordia College

Awards

- Bruce Gronbeck Research Award, Communication Studies-Theatre Arts Department, 2015
- Gloria Long Leadership Through Service Award, Communication Studies-Theatre Arts Department, 2014

Honors

- Qualifier, American Forensics Association-National Individual Events Tournament, 2014 & 2015
- Most Improved Returning Individual Events Member, Concordia College Forensics Team, 2014
- Most Improved New Individual Events Member, Concordia College Forensics Team, 2013

External Sources

Grants

- Early Career Researcher Scholarship Funding, COLDEX, 2023 (\$2,500)

Awards

- Inclusive Leadership Award, COLDEX, 2023
- RSA Summer Institute Graduate Development Award, Rhetoric Society of America, 2021 (\$400)
- Finalist, [MetroLab Network Student Cup](#), 2020 (\$1,000)
- Second Place Undergraduate Theatre Scholar Award, Kennedy Center, 2015

Honors

- Participant in Media and Communication Doctoral Summer School, European Communication Research and Education Association, University of Cádiz, Spain, July 24-30, 2022
- Participant in Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, “Ecological Feelings | Feeling Ecological: Dwelling in the Anthropocentric Moment” and “Cultural Politics and Activism,” **Virtual**, June 2021

Teaching Programs and Certifications

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

SERVICE

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

- Council Member and Chair of Early Career Engagement Subcommittee, Water Council, 2021—Present
- *Open Rivers* Graduate Student Editorial Committee, *Open Rivers: Rethinking Water, Place & Community* Journal, 2022—2023
- Member, Minnesota Water Resources Conference Early Career Subcommittee, 2022
- Member, Twin Cities Sustainability Committee, 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

Discipline and Research Community

- Research Team Member, Media and Climate Change Observatory (MeCCO), 2023–Present
- IECA Graduate Student Representative, COCE Planning Committee Member, and Chair of COCE Graduate Student Pre-Conference Planning Committee, International Environmental Communication Association (IECA), 2022–Present
- Committee Member, U.S. Ice Core Open Science Meeting Planning Committee, 2022–2023
- Committee Member, COLDEX Early Career Researcher Committee, 2022–2023
- Committee Member, COLDEX Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, 2022–2023
- Panel Moderator, National Communication Association 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
- Journal Manuscript Reviewer, *Society & Natural Resources*, *Journal of Applied Communications*

City, State, and National Community

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

Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society

- Council Member, ODK National Advisory Council, 2018–2020
- Council Member, ODK Student Advisory Board, 2016–2018

AFFILIATIONS

Memberships

- International Environmental Communication Association
- American Geophysical Union

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