

SVILEN V. TRIFONOV, Ph.D.
Curriculum Vitae
Department of Communication Studies
University of Georgia
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EDUCATION

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities **Minneapolis, Minnesota**
Doctor of Philosophy, Communication Studies *June 2018*
Advisors: Karlyn Kohrs Campbell & Zornitsa Keremidchieva
Dissertation title: “The Rhetorical Dimensions of Citizenship: Undocumented Immigrants
Defining Their Identity and Place in the ‘Nation of Immigrants’”

University of Colorado at Boulder **Boulder, Colorado**
Master of Arts, Communication *August 2013*
Advisor: Lisa A. Flores
Thesis title: “New Forms of Exclusion and Manifestations of Racism in Barack Obama’s
Rhetoric of Immigration Reform”

Concord University **Athens, West Virginia**
Bachelor of Arts in Communication Arts *May 2010*
Summa Cum Laude

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Department of Communication Studies, University of Georgia 2022-Present
Lecturer
· Introduction to Public Speaking - Fall 2022, Spring 2023
· Advanced Public Communication - Fall 2022
· Introduction to Rhetorical Criticism – Spring 2023

Toronto Debate Academy 2022-Present
Virtual Instructor
· Teacher and coach for public speaking courses for beginners

Department of Communication Studies, University of Georgia 2019-2022
Instructor
· Introduction to Public Speaking - Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020,
Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022
· Introduction to Rhetorical Criticism – Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021
· Rhetoric of the Civil Rights Movement – Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022

Department of Communication Studies, Winona State University 2018-2019
Instructor
· Introduction to Public Speaking - Fall 2018
· Introduction to Speech Communication – Spring 2019

Department of Communication Studies, University of Minnesota 2013-2018
Graduate Instructor

- Introduction to Public Speaking - Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Summer 2018
- Persuasive Speaking and Speech Writing – Fall 2015 – Spring 2017; Spring 2018
- Introduction to Rhetorical Criticism – Spring 2015
- Introduction to Crisis Communication – Fall 2017

Teaching Assistant

- Introduction to Rhetorical Theory – Fall 2014

Department of Communication, University of Colorado at Boulder 2011-2013
Teaching Assistant

- Introduction to Public Speaking - Fall 2011 – Spring 2013

Teaching Interests:

- Social Movements and Civic Engagement, Citizenship, Race, Rhetorical Criticism, U.S. Immigration Politics, Organizational and Crisis Communication.

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Trifonov, S. (2023). The Rhetoric of Illiberal Democracy: Viktor Orbán’s Narratives of National Ascent and a Nation in Peril. *Journal for the History of Rhetoric*, vol. 26, no. 1, pp. 59-77.

Trifonov, S. (2019). (Re)Defining American: Intersectionality and Coalition Building in the Rhetoric of Jose Antonio Vargas. *Southern Communication Journal*.
[DOI:10.1080/1041794X.2019.1656768](https://doi.org/10.1080/1041794X.2019.1656768)

Trifonov, S. (2017). Performing prudence: Barack Obama’s defense of NSA surveillance programs. *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*, vol. 20, no. 1, pp. 28-46.
[DOI:10.1080/15362426.2016.1271752](https://doi.org/10.1080/15362426.2016.1271752)

Trifonov, S. (2016). Twenty-five years of democracy, twenty-five years of social protest: The role of the carnivalesque in Bulgaria’s 2013 antigovernment protests. *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*, vol. 10, no. 3, pp. 237-254. [DOI: 10.1080/17513057.2016.1267254](https://doi.org/10.1080/17513057.2016.1267254)

Book Chapters

Trifonov, S. (accepted for publication, 2023). Whistleblower Rhetoric: Mistreatment of Migrant Children in U.S. Detention Facilities. Final revision submitted for the edited volume *From a Whisper to a Movement: Investigating the Shared Rhetorical Spaces of Whistleblowing and Social Protest* (eds. Joshua Guitar and Alan Chu).

Trifonov, S., & Sotirova, N. (accepted for publication, 2023). Political Prudence in Times of Protest: The Rhetoric of Bulgaria’s President Rumen Radev. Final revision submitted for the edited volume *Presidential Rhetoric and Culture in Central and Eastern Europe* (ed. Rebecca Townsend).

Trifonov, S. (2020). DREAMer Narratives: Redefining Immigration, Redefining Belonging. In *Migration, Identity, and Belonging: Defining Borders and Boundaries of the Homeland*, eds. Kumarini Silva and Margaret Franz. New York: Routledge.

Book Reviews

Trifonov, S. (2016). Book review: Tom Chafin, *Met His Every Goal? James K. Polk and the Legends of Manifest Destiny*. *Southern Communication Journal*, vol. 81, no. 3, pp. 184-186. [DOI:10.1080/1041794X.2016.1154099](https://doi.org/10.1080/1041794X.2016.1154099)

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Trifonov, S., & Sotirova, N. (In progress). The Myth of the Bulgarian Emigrant: Cultural Citizenship and Narratives of Belonging.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Citizenship and immigration rhetoric, Civil Rights Rhetoric, Intersectional approaches to race, gender & citizenship, Social movement rhetoric, Critical/Cultural Studies, Presidential rhetoric, Rhetorical theory and criticism.

COMPETITELY SELECTED PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 - *Political Prudence in Times of Protest: The Rhetoric of Bulgaria's President Rumen Radev* (first author, co-written with Nadezhda Sotirova, Ph.D.), Rhetoric Society of America Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD.
- 2021 - *Losing the American Dream: Pentadic Analysis of Narratives of Bulgarian Emigration* (first author; co-written with Nadezhda Sotirova, Ph.D.), Top papers panel - Russian Communication Division and Communication Association of Eurasian Researchers, National Communication Association, Seattle, WA
- 2020 - *Hungary at the Crossroads of Democracy and Authoritarianism: Viktor Orbán's Narratives of National Ascent and Nation in Peril*, National Communication Association, Indianapolis, IN (virtual conference due to COVID-19)
- 2020 - *The Carnavalesque President: Selina Meyer in HBO's Veep*, Rhetoric Society of America, Portland, OR (conference canceled due to COVID-19).
- 2018 - *Border Angels, migrant Life, and U.S. border enforcement*, National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2018 - *From Hollywood to the Oval Office: Reagan and Trump playing with hypermasculinity*, National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2018 - *Still a nation of immigrants? The legacy and relevance of the U.S. nation's founding myth*, National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2018 - *Protesting borders: Immigration and Citizenship in Early 21st Century United States*, Rhetoric Society of America, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2017 - *Denaturalizing the alien-citizen divide: A discourse theory of citizenship revisited*, National Communication Association, Dallas, TX.

- 2017 - *DREAMer empowerment: Cristina Jimenez's enactment of citizenship through feminine rhetorical style*, National Communication Association, Dallas, TX.
- 2017 - *Arguing belonging and rearticulating citizenship through feminine style*, NCA/AFA Summer Conference on Argumentation, Alta, UT.
- 2017 - *Creating an alternative to being "illegal": Jose Antonio Vargas and the politics of undocumentedness in contemporary United States*, Central States Communication Association, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2016 - *The role of the American jeremiad in immigration reform debates*, National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2016 - *Twenty-five years of democracy, twenty-five years of social protest: The role of the carnivalesque in Bulgaria's 2013 anti-government protests*, National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2016 - *Prudential claims in Barack Obama's rhetoric about Edward Snowden and NSA surveillance*, National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2016 - *Senate Bill 744 and the myth of comprehensive immigration reform*, National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2016 - *There's no smoke without a fire...or is there?: Aristotle's enthymeme (re)revisited*. Central States Communication Association, Grand Rapids, MI.
- 2015 - *James Polk's slavery compromise: Westward expansion at all costs*. National Communication Association, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2015 - *War at the border: Political and media portrayals of "illegal" immigration as an attack on the United States*. National Communication Association, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2015 - *Immigrant bodies and the border fence: Toward a materialist rhetoric of borders*. National Communication Association, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2015 - *The United States of Surveillance: Secrecy, intelligence, and change under the presidency of Barack Obama*. Midwest Winter Workshop, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
- 2014 - *Silencing rhetorical voices of the Other*, National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2014 - *A match made in heaven? James Polk's agenda of territorial expansion and the ideology of Manifest Destiny*, Doing Rhetoric at the U, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2014 - *The absence of race in Barack Obama's rhetoric of immigration – securing the hegemonic normativity of whiteness*, **Top Three Papers in Rhetoric and Public Address**, Western States Communication Association Convention, Anaheim, CA.
- 2013 - *Immigration and neoliberalism: Viewing immigrants as economic entities*, National Communication Association, Washington, DC.
- 2013 - *Construction of nationhood and American identity through identifying otherness*, National Communication Association, Washington, DC.

- 2013 - *A look at Ron Paul's 'Has Capitalism Failed?' address through a dramatistic lens*, Rocky Mountain Communication Association, Loveland, CO.
- 2013 - *The reorganization of General Motors: Public perception and the socially constructed image of the company*, Western States Communication Association Convention, Reno, NV.
- 2013 - *The ideological effects of Cold War politics on logical empiricism and American philosophy of science*, Western States Communication Association Convention, Reno, NV.
- 2012 - *Racism against Roma in Bulgarian society, Where Are You From?: A Symposium on Immigration, Mobility and Citizenship*, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC.

INVITED RESEARCH TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 - *From A Whisper to a Movement: Investigating the Shared Rhetorical Spaces of Whistleblowing and Public Protest*, Panelist and presenter, National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA
- 2021 - *Transforming Pedagogical Practices in Rhetorical Criticism*, Organizer and presenter, National Communication Association, Seattle, WA.
- 2020 - *Professionalization and Precarity: Between Career and Self-Care*, Panelist and presenter. Friday Noon Research Colloquium, University of Minnesota.
- 2020 - *Rhetorical citizenship and ways of belonging in the nation-state*, Invited lecture at the University of Minnesota - Morris (virtual presentation due to COVID-19).
- 2020 - *Hungary at the crossroads of Democracy and Authoritarianism: Viktor Orbán's Narratives of National Ascent and a Nation in Peril*. Department Colloquium, Department of Communication Studies, University of Georgia.
- 2018 - *(Re)Defining American: Intersectionality and coalition building in Jose Antonio Vargas's postcolonial rhetoric*. Global Race, Ethnicity and Migration Lecture Series, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, January 31, 2018.
- 2017 - *Border Angels and the biopolitics of migrant life*. Friday Noon Research Colloquium, University of Minnesota.
- 2017 - *Speaking to international audiences*. Teaching workshop for advisors in International Student and Scholar Services, University of Minnesota, July 2017.
- 2017 - *Feminine style and enactments of citizenship*. Wednesday Noon Research Colloquium, University of Minnesota.

HONORS & AWARDS

- *Third Place for Best Research Poster "DREAMer Empowerment,"* International Graduate Research Showcase, University of Minnesota, November 2017.
- *Karlyn Kohrs Campbell Graduate Student Teaching Award*, University of Minnesota, 2017.
- *Old Buffalo Doctoral Research Award*, University of Minnesota, April 2017.
- *Doctoral Honors Seminarian*, National Communication Association, July 2016.

- *Scott, Jensen, and Campbell Fellowship in Rhetoric*, University of Minnesota, Summer 2016.
- *Graduate Student Scholar Award*, University of Minnesota, May 2016.
- *Top Three Papers, Rhetoric and Public Address*, Western States Communication Association, February 2014.
- *Masters Instructor of the Year*, Eta Phi CU-Boulder Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, 2013, Department of Communication, University of Colorado at Boulder.
- *Top Graduate Paper Award*, Rocky Mountain Communication Association, April 2013.
- *Ronald R. Burgher Outstanding Student in Communication Arts 2009-2010*, Concord University, May 2010.

SERVICE APPOINTMENTS

- Book Award subcommittee member and reviewer, Rhetoric Society of America, 2022.
- Curriculum and syllabus committee for Introduction to Public Speaking, Department of Communication Studies, University of Georgia, Summer 2020.
- Manuscript reviewer, *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology* (one manuscript).
- Submission reviewer, Public Address Division, National Communication Association, 2014 - Present.
- Submission reviewer, Rhetoric and Public Address Division, Western States Communication Association Convention, 2014 - 2016.
- Faculty respondent and submission reviewer, St. Thomas Undergraduate Communication Research Conference 2016.
- Curriculum design committee - Digital Citizenship and Communication, Winona State University, 2018 - Present.
- Lambda Pi Eta Faculty Advisor, Winona State University, 2018 - Present.
- Student representative, Graduate Curriculum Committee, Department of Communication Studies, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, 2015 - 2017.
- Textbook selection committee - Introduction to Public Speaking, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, 2014.
- Elected communication studies department representative at Council of Graduate Students, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, 2013 - 2014.
- Elected communication department representative at United Government of Graduate Students, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2012 - 2013.

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Communication Theory and Methods

- Communication Research and Theory, Dr. Lisa Flores, 2011
- Theory & Philosophy of Organization, Dr. Timothy Kuhn, 2012
- Qualitative Research Methods, Dr. David Boromisz-Habashi, 2012
- Readings in Communication Theory, Dr. Robert Craig, 2013
- The Internet Revolution in Science and Scholarship, Dr. Alan Gross, 2014

Primary Research Area: Rhetorical Theory and Criticism

- Readings in Rhetoric, Dr. Peter Simonson, 2011
- Contemporary Rhetorical Criticism, Dr. Lisa Flores, 2012

- Introduction to Rhetorical Criticism, Dr. Karlyn Campbell, 2014
- History and Criticism of U.S. Public Address, Dr. Karlyn Campbell, 2013
- The Rhetorical Tradition: Classical Period, Dr. Richard Graff, 2014
- Rhetoric in Early Modern Period: Civic Rhetoric & Counsel, Dr. Arthur Walzer, 2015
- Major Figures in the Rhetorical Tradition: Modern Era, Dr. Ronald Greene, 2013
- Rhetoric of Social Change, Dr. Patricia Malesh, 2011
- Rhetorics of Social Movements, Dr. Ronald Greene, 2015
- Rhetoric of Inquiry, Dr. John Jackson, 2012
- Reassembling the Social in Rhetoric and Communication, Dr. John Ackerman, 2012
- Materialist Philosophies in Rhetoric and Communication, Dr. Ronald Greene, 2014

Secondary Research Area: Media, Culture, and Immigration

- Critical Media Studies: Theory and Methods, Dr. Catherine Squires, 2013
- Media & War: Propaganda, Militainment, Peace Comm., Dr. Mary Vavrus, 2014
- Cultural Fallout: The Cold War and its Legacy, Dr. Elaine May, 2014
- Readings and Research in Immigration History, Dr. Erika Lee, 2015

REFERENCES

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