

LEAH A. RANSOM
Curriculum Vitae

Communication Studies Department
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
1 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

805-458-7568
leransom@calpoly.edu
leahransom.com

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Communication Studies, University of Texas at Austin, May 2025
Rhetoric, Language & Political Communication Concentration
Dissertation: "Subjectivity, Simulation, and Signal Bleeding: Playing with Reality in the Remedy Connected Universe"
Committee: E. Johanna Hartelius (chair), Joshua Gunn, Scott Stroud, Kenneth Fleischmann, Shira Chess
- M.A. Communication Studies, California State University San Bernardino, 2008
Thesis: "The Use of Violence as Feminist Rhetoric: Third-wave Feminism in Tarantino's Kill Bill Films"
- B.A. Communication Studies, California State University San Bernardino, 2004
- A.A. Chaffey Community College, 2003

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

(De)constructing the Archival Avatar: How Digitality Complicates the Informational Self
Revised & Resubmitted to *Philosophy & Rhetoric*.

Articles in Preparation

Constrained into Being: Simulation, Participation, and the Rhetorical Production of Subjectivity. Working title. Manuscript in preparation.

Book Chapters

Free Speech and Ethics

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

Book Reviews

A Review of The Ethics of Virtual and Augmented Reality: Building Worlds
(Fall 2023). *Media Ethics Magazine* 36, no. 1.

Beyond Civility: The Competing Obligations of Citizenship
(October 2, 2022). *Argumentation and Advocacy* 58, no. 3-4: 184-86.

Minor Publications

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/>.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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

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

A Foucauldian Analysis of Control: Bodies in Space

National Communication Association (2023). National Harbor, MD.

Irreconcilable Differences: Feminist Interpretations of The Bride in Kill Bill

Heather L. Hundley & Leah A. [Ransom] Katona

Western States Communication Association (2014). Anaheim, CA.

The killer bride: A mediated metaphor of third wave feminism in Tarantino's Kill Bill films

Western States Communication Association (2006). Palm Springs, CA.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

Lecturer, Communication Studies Department (2015-present)

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Communication Studies (2021-2025)

Bakersfield College, Bakersfield, CA

Adjunct Faculty, Communication Department (2014)

Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, CA

Adjunct Faculty, Communication Department (2013)

Victor Valley College, Victorville, CA

Adjunct Faculty, Communication Studies Department (2012-2013)

Antelope Valley College, Lancaster, CA

Adjunct Faculty, Communication Studies Department (2011-2013)

Barstow College, Barstow, CA

Adjunct Faculty, Speech Department (2010-2012)

California State University San Bernardino, San Bernardino, CA

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Communication Studies Department (2008)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

California Polytechnic State University, Communication Studies

Introduction to Public Speaking - *in person, online synchronous, & asynchronous*

Principles of Oral Communication
Argument & Advocacy

University of Texas at Austin, Communication Studies

Introduction to Communication & Leadership
Instructor of Record: Jennifer Jones Barbour

Digital Ethics
Instructor of Record: Scott Stroud

Social Interactions in Virtual Environments – *online synchronous*
Instructor of Record: Dina Inman Ramgolam

Working Virtually – *online synchronous*
Instructor of Record: Dina Inman Ramgolam, Natalie B. Andreas

Gender & Communication
Instructor of Record: E. Johanna Hartelius

Political Communication – *in person and online synchronous*
Instructor of Record: Sharon Jarvis

Digital Communications – *online synchronous*
Instructor of Record: Natalie B. Andreas

Dark Side of Political Communication – *online asynchronous*
Instructor of Record: Joshua Gunn

Bakersfield College, Communication Studies

Public Speaking
Interpersonal Communication

Mt. San Antonio College, Communication Studies

Public Speaking

Victor Valley College, Communication Studies

Family Communication

Antelope Valley College, Communication Studies

Introduction to Public Speaking
Processes of Communication
Interpersonal Communication

Barstow College, Speech Communication
Elements of Public Speaking

California State University San Bernardino, Communication Studies
Public Speaking
Instructor of Record: Heather Hundley

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Televised interview for segment, "Cal Poly Class Teaches Students How to Identify Misinformation." KSBY News (aired February 4, 2025) Available at <https://www.ksby.com/news/news-literacy-project/cal-poly-class-teaches-students-how-to-identify-misinformation>

Interview for story, "Local Educators Share Advice for News Literacy Week." KSBY News (January 28, 2022) Available at <https://www.ksby.com/news/local-news/local-educators-share-advice-for-news-literacy-week>

Interview on The Dave Congalton Show about communication in new relationships. News/Talk 920 AM KVEC (February 5, 2016)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Media Ethics Initiative, Center for Media Engagement (2023-2025)
The University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Rod Hart, Department of Communication Studies (Summer 2022)
The University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Brian Heisterkamp, Department of Communication Studies (2007)
California State University San Bernardino

SERVICE

Cal Poly Public Speaking Course Advisory Committee (April 2026-)

Intramural Speech Tournament Judge, Antelope Valley College (2011-2013)

Conference Reviewer (various & ongoing)

International Communication Association (*Game Studies*)

National Communication Association (*Game Studies, Freedom of Expression, Philosophy & Communication*)

Rhetoric Society of America

Textbook Reviewer

April 2026 – Cognella. (Fassett & Nainby. *Empowering Public Speaking*)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association

National Communication Association

Rhetoric Society of America

Society for Philosophy and Technology

INDUSTRY

Software beta tester (volunteer)

Testing iterations, catching bugs, providing feedback and feature suggestions

Apple, iOS and macOS (2020-present)

The Sentience Company, Agentic AI digital self-replica (April 2026-present)

<https://sentience.com>