

LEAH A. RANSOM, PH.D.

Curriculum Vitae

AOS: Rhetorical analysis of meaning-making through digital technologies,
with a focus on the simulation of selves, worlds, and other agents

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. University of Texas at Austin, May 2025
Major: Communication Studies
Concentration: Rhetoric, Language & Political Communication
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. California State University San Bernardino, 2008
Major: Communication Studies
Thesis: "The Use of Violence as Feminist Rhetoric: Third-wave Feminism in Tarantino's Kill Bill Films"
Chair: Heather Hundley
- B.A. California State University San Bernardino, 2004
Major: Communication Studies
- A.A. Chaffey Community College, 2003

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Lecturer, Communication Studies Department (2015-present)
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Communication Studies (2021-2025)
University of Texas at Austin

Adjunct Faculty, Communication Department (2014)
Bakersfield College

Adjunct Faculty, Communication Department (2013)
Mt. San Antonio College

Adjunct Faculty, Communication Studies Department (2012-2013)
Victor Valley College

Adjunct Faculty, Communication Studies Department (2011-2013)
Antelope Valley College

Adjunct Faculty, Speech Department (2010-2012)
Barstow College

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Communication Studies Department (2008)
California State University San Bernardino

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

(De)constructing the Archival Avatar: How Digitality Complicates the Informational Self
Leah Ransom (Revised & Resubmitted - Nov 2025). *Philosophy & Rhetoric*.

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

Leah A. Ransom (Fall 2023). *Media Ethics Magazine* 36, no. 1.

<https://www.mediaethicsmagazine.com/index.php/reviews>.

Beyond Civility: The Competing Obligations of Citizenship

Ransom, Leah (October 2, 2022). *Argumentation and Advocacy* 58, no. 3-4: 184-86.

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. Augsborg, **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

Leah A. Ransom (November 2024). National Communication Association conference, New Orleans, LA.

Ancient Skepticism as a Precursor to Critical Rhetoric

Leah Ransom (May 2024). Rhetoric Society of America conference, 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

Leah Ransom (May 2024). Rhetoric Society of America conference, Denver, CO.

A Foucauldian Analysis of Control: Bodies in Space

Leah A. Ransom (2023). National Communication Association conference, National Harbor, MD.

Irreconcilable Differences: Feminist Interpretations of The Bride in Kill Bill

Heather L. Hundley & **Leah A. [Ransom] Katona** (2014). Western States Communication Association conference, Anaheim, CA.

The killer bride: A mediated metaphor of third wave feminism in Tarantino's Kill Bill films
Leah A. Ransom (2006). Western States Communication Association conference, Palm Springs, CA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

COMS 101: Introduction to Public Speaking

COMS 102: Principles of Oral Communication

COMS 126: Argument & Advocacy

University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

CLD 301: Introduction to Communication & Leadership

Instructor of Record: Jennifer Jones Barbour

CMS 332D: Digital Ethics

Instructor of Record: Scott Stroud

CMS 339L: Social Interactions in Virtual Environments

Instructor of Record: Dina Inman Ramgolam

CMS 339K: Working Virtually

Instructor of Record: Dina Inman Ramgolam, Natalie B. Andreas

CMS 364K: Gender & Communication

Instructor of Record: E. Johanna Hartelius

CMS 342K: Political Communication

Instructor of Record: Sharon Jarvis

CMS 341: Digital Communications

Instructor of Record: Natalie B. Andreas

CMS 367P: Dark Side of Political Communication

Instructor of Record: Joshua Gunn

Bakersfield College, Bakersfield, CA

COMM B1: Public Speaking

COMM B2: Interpersonal Communication

Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, CA

SPCH1A: Public Speaking

Victor Valley College, Victorville, CA

CMST 107: Family Communication

Antelope Valley College, Lancaster, CA

COMM 101: Introduction to Public Speaking

COMM 103: Processes of Communication

COMM 107: Interpersonal Communication

Barstow College, Barstow, CA

SPCH1: Elements of Public Speaking

California State University San Bernardino, San Bernardino, CA

COMM 120: 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 ASSISTANTSHIPS

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

Conference Reviewer: National Communication Association (Game Studies, Freedom of Expression, Philosophy & Communication), Rhetoric Society of America, International Communication Association (Game Studies)

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

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Communication Association
Rhetoric Society of America
American Philosophical Association