



I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

ABOUT ME

My peer-reviewed research can be found in *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, *Communication and Democracy*, the *Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric*, the *Howard Journal of Communications*, the *Western Journal of Communication*, and the *Southern Communication Journal*.

I instruct courses in Research Methods, Rhetorical Theory & Criticism, Communication Theory, and Health Communication.

PUBLICATIONS

Wernecke, C. J. (2025). "Prayer Warriors Needed!" The Warrior-Priest Archetypal Metaphor in American Cancer & COVID Rhetorics. ***Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric***. 15(1): 58-74. Special Issue: *Religious Rhetoric Will Set You Free: The Conceit of Liberation in the Religious Discourse of Contemporary America*.

Wernecke, C. J. (2024). Priming "American Carnage:" Reality Television and Donald J. Trump. ***Critical Studies in Media Communication***. 41(4): 334-348.

Horan, S. M., Craw, E. S., Cobb, T. L., & Wernecke, C. J. (2024). *Connecting Communication Theory and Practice: From Classroom to Boardroom*. Kendall Hunt Publishing Company.

Wernecke, C. J. & Massignan, V. (2023). "Is this real? Or has this been happening inside my head?" The Wizarding World of Harry Potter as a Constructed Site of (Artificial) Collective Memory, Identity, and Resistance. ***Communication & Democracy***. 57(2): 230-251.

Wernecke, C. J. (2022). Mythologizing Madiba: Myth, Resistance, and the Globalized Post-Presidency in Barack Obama's Nelson Mandela Lecture Series Address. ***Howard Journal of Communications***. 34(2): 132-150.

Wernecke, C. J. (2021). "A New Moonshot:" Exploring the Metaphoric Shift in American Cancer Discourse. ***Southern Communication Journal***. 86(4): 335-348.

Wernecke, C. J. (2021). Gazing into the Past: Post-Presidential Collective Memory and Political Scopophilia at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Museum. ***Western Journal of Communication***. 85(4): 507-526.

EDUCATION**Georgia State University****May 2023**

Ph.D. | Public Communication – Rhetoric & Politics
Dissertation: *Rhetorics of Cancer in America*
Committee Chair: Carol K. Winkler, Ph.D.

Texas State University**May 2016**

M.A. | Communication Studies – Rhetoric & Politics

DePaul University**June 2014**

B.A. | Political Science – Media & American Politics

PUBLICATIONS (FORTHCOMING)

Wernecke, C. J. & Burnette, A. E. (April 2025). "That Was the First Time in History That Anyone Bothered to Write That Down": Mythologizing the Declaration of Independence in *The West Wing*. In M. Stuckey (Ed.), *Used, Abused, and Sidelined: Debating the Declaration*. Pennsylvania State University Press.

Wernecke, C. J. (Late 2025). (Re)visiting the Jimmy Carter Presidential Museum: The Identificatory Force of Political Scopophilia. In M. A. L'Heureux and K. D. Silva (Eds.), *Imagining Presidential Legacies: Critical Perspectives on Presidential Libraries and Museums*. University Press of Kansas.



ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

AWARDS

Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track) Aug 2024-present

University of North Carolina Wilmington

Courses (Selected):

- COM 200: Research Methods
- COM 305: Communication Theory
- COM 500: Research Methods (Graduate)

Postdoctoral Researcher Aug 2023 - July 2024

Texas State University's Translational Health Research Center

Research Projects:

- Cancer Patient Narrative Repository
- "Turning Points" Relational Paradigm to Cancer Patient Narratives
- Co-authored undergraduate textbook - *Connecting Communication Theory and Practice: From Classroom to Boardroom*

Graduate Instructor Aug 2017 - May 2023

Georgia State University

Instructor of Record for:

- SCOM 4800: Communication & Diversity (Capstone Course; Online)
- SCOM 4450: Rhetorical Theory & Criticism
- SCOM 4450: Rhetorical Theory & Criticism (Online)
- SCOM 2050: Media, Culture, and Society
- SCOM 1000: Human Communication
- SCOM 1000: Human Communication (Online)
- JOUR 1000: Introduction to Mass Communication
- JOUR 1000: Introduction to Mass Communication (Online)

Adjunct Instructor Oct 2016 - May 2017

Harper College

Instructor of Record for:

- SPE 101: Fundamentals of Speech Communication

Basic Course Administrator May 2015 - May 2016

Texas State University

Trained Instructors for and Administered:

- COMM 1310: Fundamentals of Human Communication
- I assisted in the development, design, and implementation of the Teaching & Learning Academy training program required for all adjunct faculty and graduate assistants teaching COMM 1310, an NCA recognized "program of excellence."

Graduate Instructor Aug 2014 - May 2016

Texas State University

Courses Taught:

- COMM 1310: Fundamentals of Human Communication

- *Top Paper Panel in Rhetorical & Communication Theory Division (2024)* - National Communication Association
- *Robert Bostrom Young Scholar Award* - Southern States Communication Association
- *Carol Winkler Outstanding Teaching Award* - Georgia State University

TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS

- *Teaching & Learning Academy* Certified Instructor
- Average Teaching Evaluation Score Between 4.5 to 4.9/5
- Students noted that I "cared about [their] wellbeing not just [their] academic status" and that I was "easily accessible" and made class "very engaging and entertaining" with consistent "positive energy."
- Another student wrote that I "always pursued questions and encouraged students to speak up" and contribute to the class discussion without "any negative pressure" to do so.

TEACHING MENTORSHIP

- Virtually mentored graduate instructors from *Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development in Cairo, Egypt* in undergraduate pedagogy.
- Virtual bi-monthly sessions focused on student-centered learning, critical pedagogy, and classroom management ranging from the emotional to the administrative, as well as building rapport with peers, supervisors, and students.



CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS (SELECTED)

- Wernecke, C.J. (April 2025). The 10 Commandments in Louisiana's Classrooms as a Catalyst of/for Resistance? Paper to be presented on panel titled "Rhetoric as an Anchor: Re-mooring First Amendment Freedoms in the South" at the annual **Southern States Communication Association** Conference in Norfolk, Virginia.
- Horan, S.M., Craw, E.S., & Wernecke, C. J. (March 2025). Solving Contemporary Issues by Applying Theory to Practice: Strategies for Fostering Translation. Short Course to be presented at the annual **Eastern Communication Association** Conference in Buffalo, New York.
- Wernecke, C. J. (November 2024). The "War on Cancer" as a Constitutive Metaphoric Formation of American Cancer Discourse. Paper presented at the annual **National Communication Association** Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. **(Top Paper Panel in Rhetorical & Communication Theory Division).**
- Wernecke, C. J. (October 2024). The "War on Cancer" and Constitutive Corporality in My Chemical Romance's "Welcome to the Black Parade" Music Video. Paper presented on panel titled "Representations of Masculinity, Cancer, and Advertisements in Media" at the **Southern Popular Culture Association's** Conference in Greenville, South Carolina.
- Wernecke, C. J. (May 2024). The Constitutive Materiality of American Cancer Culture's Iconic Objects. Paper presented at the **21st Biennial Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America** in Denver, Colorado.
- Wernecke, C. J. (April 2024). Ideographs in Nebula: Understanding the (Reactionary) Rhetorical Foundation of DEI Bans in Higher Education. Paper for panel titled "(Ex)communicating (Un)belonging: Exploring Recent Threats to Free Speech in the South" presented at the annual **Southern States Communication Association** Conference in Frisco, Texas.
- Wernecke, C. J. (March 2024). The Constitutive Consequences of Cancered Bodies. Poster presented at the Translational Health Research Center at Texas State University's annual **Health Scholar Showcase** in San Marcos, Texas.
- Wernecke, C. J. & Burnette, A.E. (November 2023). "That Was the First Time in History That Anyone Bothered to Write That Down": Mythologizing the Declaration of Independence in *The West Wing*. Presentation for panel previewing forthcoming Penn State University volume titled *Used, Abused, and Sidelined: Debating the Declaration* at the annual **National Communication Association** Conference in National Harbor, Maryland.
- Wernecke, C. J. (April 2023). The Inglorious MTG and the Manufactured Reaction to CRT. Presentation for panel titled "Free Speech Battles Across the South" at the annual **Southern States Communication Association** Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida.
- Wernecke, C. J. & Massignan, V. (November 2022). "Is this real? Or has this been happening inside my head?" The Wizarding World of Harry Potter as a Constructed Site of (Artificial) Collective Memory, Identity, and Resistance. Paper presented at the annual **National Communication Association** Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Wernecke, C. J. (May 2022). Constitutive Rhetoric & Negative Identification in Political and Popular Culture Discourses on Cancer. Paper presented at the **20th Biennial Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America** in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Wernecke, C. J. (April 2021). Dwight D. Eisenhower, Billy Graham, and the Construction of <Crusade> as an Ideograph in the Cold War. Paper virtually presented to the annual **Southern States Communication Association** Conference in Norfolk, Virginia. **(Top Paper Panel in the American Society for the History of Rhetoric Division)**
- Wernecke, C. J. (April 2021). Declaring War on COVID: The Use of Martial Metaphors in Disease Discourses. Invited Panel Presentation for a virtual panel entitled "Metaphor in the Time of Coronavirus" at the annual **Southern States Communication Association** Conference in Norfolk, Virginia.
- Wernecke, C. J. (November 2019). Mythologizing Madiba: Myth, Resistance, and the Globalized Post-Presidency in Barack Obama's Nelson Mandela Lecture Series Address. An earlier version of this paper was presented at the annual **National Communication Association** Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Dicker, A. & Wernecke, C. J. (August 2019). Apologia, Argument, and Philosophical Pairs in American Political Discourse. An earlier version of this paper was presented at the biennial **NCA/AFA Argumentation Conference** in Alta, Utah.
- Wernecke, C. J. (April 2019). "Prayer Warriors Needed!" The Warrior-Priest Archetypal Metaphor in American Cancer & COVID Rhetorics. An earlier version of this paper was presented (under a different title) at the annual **Southern States Communication Association** Conference in Montgomery, Alabama. **(Robert Bostrom Young Scholar Award Winner)**
- Wernecke, C. J. (April 2019). Death by Gaslight: Defining Political Gaslighting in the Context of the Trump Administration's Family Separation Policy. Paper presented at the annual **Southern States Communication Association** Conference in Montgomery, Alabama.
- Wernecke, C. J. (November 2018) Gazing into the Past: Post-Presidential Collective Memory and Political Scopophilia at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Museum. An earlier version of this paper was presented at the annual **National Communication Association** Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Wernecke, C.J. (October 2024). "A New Moonshot:" Exploring the Metaphoric Shift in American Cancer Discourse. Virtual Presentation on article for graduate students in Dr. Ann Burnette's COMM 5345 Political Communication course at Texas State University.
- Wernecke, C.J. & Massignan, V. (November 2023). "Is this real? Or has this been happening inside my head?" The Wizarding World of Harry Potter as a Constructed Site of (Artificial) Collective Memory, Identity, and Resistance. Invited Virtual Presentation on article for Professor Aaron Dicker's Rhetorical Theory & Criticism course at the University of South Carolina.
- Wernecke, C.J. (March 2022). "Adding Rhetoric to Your Repertoire of Research Methods." Invited Virtual Presentation for first year medical students in Dr. Christy Ledford and Dr. Folami Powell's MEDI 6300 Introduction to Clinical Research Methods course at Augusta University.

SERVICE

- Peer-Reviewer for *Critical Studies in Media Communication* and the *International Journal of Communication*
- Immediate Past Chair – American Society for the History of Rhetoric – SSCA
- Peer Reviewer for NCA, SSCA, RSA, and the UHC Undergraduate Conference
- Respondent & Panel Chair – SSCA, RSA, and the UHC Undergraduate Conference
- Member: Public Address, Political Communication, Health Communication, Freedom of Speech Divisions – NCA & SSCA
- Past President – Communication Studies Graduate Association – Georgia State University

POSITION REFERENCES

Carol Winkler, Ph.D.

Dissertation Advisor – Georgia State University

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404-304-1312

Lois Agnew, Ph.D.

Associate Provost – Syracuse University

lpagnew@syr.edu
315-443-1728

Sean Horan, Ph.D.

Department Chair – Fairfield University

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