

Jessica R. Houf

Curriculum Vita

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Research Interests

Rhetoric of Science, Technology, and Medicine | Medical Humanities | Feminist Science & Technology Studies | Histories of Medicine | Cultural Studies | Animal Studies

Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication & Media Studies, School of Communication, Louisiana Tech University, 2021 – Present.

Graduate Faculty, School of Communication, Louisiana Tech University, 2021 – Present.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Communication & Media Studies, School of Communication, Louisiana Tech University, 2020 – 2021.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Communication, University of Utah, 2018 – 2019.

Education

PhD, Communication, University of Utah, 2018

Dissertation, *Bacteria, Bodies, and Boundaries: A Critical Genealogy of Clostridium difficile and the Human Body*. Advisor: Kent A. Ono. Committee: Paula Treichler, Len Hawes, Robin Jensen, and Nadja Durbach.

Certificate of Completion, School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, Summer 2014

MA, American Cultural Studies, Bowling Green State University, 2005

BS, Sociology and Women's Studies, Central Michigan University, 2003

Research Honors and Awards

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Department of Communication, University of Utah, 2018 – 2019

Graduate Fellowship, Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah, 2016 – 2017

Student Teaching Award, Department of Communication, University of Utah, 2015 – 2016

Publications

Articles

2021. “Fecal Microbiota Transplants: Toward A Healthy Disgust Skepticism.” Accepted for publication in the journal *Medical Humanities*.
2020. “Boundary Work and Boundary Objects: Synthesizing Two Concepts for Moments of Controversy.” In *The Journal of Technical Writing & Communication*, 51(3), 293 – 312.
2017. “The Microbial Mother Meets the Independent Organ: Cultural Discourses of Reproductive Microbiomes.” In *The Journal of Medical Humanities*, 40, 329 – 345.

Book Reviews

2015. Book Review of Carolyn Skinner's *Women Physicians and Professional Ethos in Nineteenth-Century America*. In *Peitho*, 17(2), 253-258.

Works in Progress

Book

Bacteria, Bodies, and Boundaries: A Critical Genealogy of Clostridioides difficile and the Germ Theory of Subjectivity. Under contract with Michigan State University Press.

Research Collaboration

Friz, A. & Houf, J. *Using rhetorical focus groups to understand and combat COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy*. Under review for a grant from the Royalty Research Fund at University of Washington (September 2021).

Presentations

Invited Talks

2019. “Bacteria and the Human Microbiome: Finding *Clostridioides difficile* in the Archive.” Public Reading, Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, Colorado. 19 February.

Conference Papers and Presentations

2018. “Making the Micobiome Sens-able.” National Communication Association, Spotlight Series, Salt Lake City, Utah. 8-11 November.
2018. “Blender, Strainer, Enema, Conflict: *Clostridium difficile* and Fecal Microbiota Transplants.” National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, Utah. 8-11 November.
2017. Sun, Y., Yeo, S. K., McKasy, M., Houf, J., & Shugart, E. “Disgust, need for affect, and responses to microbiome research.” Accepted to the 67th International Communication Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA. 25-29 May.

2017. "Intersectionality, Bacteria, and Human Bodies." Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference, Dayton, OH. 4-7 October.
2016. Houf, J. R. (Presenter), McKasy, M., Sun, Y., Yeo, S., Shugart, E., Dilger, E., Urban, J., & Mandl, S. "Examining Media Coverage of Microbiomes: A Content Analysis." The World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR), Austin, TX. 10-12 May.
2016. Yeo, S., Sun, Y., Houf, J. R., McKasy, M., Shugart, E., Dilger, E., Urban, J., & Mandl, S. "The Influence of Affect and Need for Orientation on Systemic and Hueristic Information Processing of Scientific Issues." The American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), Austin, TX. 12-15 May.
2015. "'The Future of Humanity' Rests on the *Microbial Mother* and the *Organ of Difference*: A Critical Analysis of Gender in the Human Microbiome." National Communication Association, Las Vegas, Nevada. 19-22 November.
2015. "A Critical Analysis of Gender, Risk, and the Human Microbiome." International Society for the History, Philosophy and the Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB), Montréal, Quebec. 5-10 July.
2014. "Microbes and Sex Difference: A Corporeally Vulnerable Intervention in Human Microbiome Discourse." Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender, San Francisco, CA. 16-19 October.
2014. "Some of My Best Friends are Germs': A Critique of the Human as Superorganism." Cultural Studies Association, Salt Lake City, Utah. 21-31 May.
2014. "Animality." Seminar Presenter. Cultural Studies Association. University of Utah. 21-31 May.
2014. "'Womanhood' vs. 'Scientific Rationality': Creating the 19th Century Woman Physician with Elizabeth Blackwell and Mary Putnam Jacobi." Western States Communication Association, Anaheim, CA. 14-18 February.
2013. "Conceptualizing Our Encounter with the Human Microbiome: Re-thinking Superorganism as Companion Species." Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender, Houghton, Michigan. 10-13 October.
2013. "Who is the 'Human' in Human Microbiome Communities?: Thinking about the Posthuman Subject with Derrida." Cultural Studies Association, Chicago, Illinois. 23-25 May.
2005. "This is Jane. How Can I Help: Building Coalitions and Performing Activism." Graduate Women's Studies Student Association Symposium, Toronto, Ontario. 12-13 April.

Conference Panels and Sessions Organized

2018. Houf, J., Friz, A., and Councilor, KC. "Sensory Playground: Communicating the Body through Experimentation and Innovation." National Communication Association Spotlight Series, Salt Lake City, UT. 8-11 November.
2018. Stockton, K. B., Blanchard, G., Mihalopoulos, N., Sharifan, T., Hancock, H., and Luikenaar, R.A.C. "Trans Health and the Intertwining of Sex and Gender." Sex and Gender Health Education Summit, Salt Lake City, UT. 8-10 April.

2017. Friz, A., Houf, J., Brunner, B., Masri, H. "Traversing Rhetorical Terrains Using Actor-Network Theory (ANT): Studies of Science, Immigration, Social Movements, and Sex." National Communication Association Conference, Dallas, TX. 16-19 November.
2017. Kinney, T., Houf, J., Chapman, R., Singer, S., Ramirez, C. "Igniting Feminist Rhetorical Revolution Through Intersectionality: An Interactive Session." Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference, Dayton, OH. 4-7 October.
2014. "Merchandising, Microbes, and Placentas: Explorations in Consuming the Female Body." Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender, San Francisco, CA. 16-19 October.
2014. "Unorthodox Unions: The Discourse of Female Enclaves Troubling Women's Rights Activism." Western States Communication Association, Anaheim, CA. 14-18 February.

Guest Lectures & Talks

2021. "Don't Let Medical History Repeat Itself." Presentation for the BARC COMMONs, Louisiana Tech University, May 4.
2020. "It Goes Without Saying: Tips for Crossing the Undergraduate to Graduate School Divide." Presentation for the BARC COMMONs, Louisiana Tech University,
2018. "Bacteria, Bodies, and Boundaries: Critical Genealogy and Bacterial Rhetorics." Roots of Modern Rhetoric Undergraduate Course, Colorado Mesa University, November 16.
2017. "Blender, Strainer, Enema, Conflict: Differences in Disgust between Medical Practitioners and Patients Over Fecal Microbiota Transplants." Work-In-Progress Talk, Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah. January 31.
2016. "Technologies and the Body: Visualizing the Body's Interior." Dr. Ono's Rhetoric of Science Graduate Seminar, University of Utah. March 29.
2014. "Intersexed Infants: The Medical Construction of Gender." Dr. Ono's Intercultural Communication Class, University of Utah. November 25.

Refereed Workshop and Symposium Participation

2019. Rhetoric Society of America, Summer Institute, Medical Rhetorics in the Archive, 3-6 June, University of Maryland.
2019. Critical Genealogies, 9-11 May, University of Oregon.
2017. Critical Genealogies 15-16 September, University of Utah.

Teaching

Visiting Assistant Professor, Louisiana Tech University, September 2020 – May 2021

Course: Introduction to Communication, Department of Communication & Media Studies

- An introduction to basic human communication including interpersonal, small group, organizational, and intercultural with a focus on managing personal and public

communication.

Course: Health Communication, Department of Communication & Media Studies

- A focused examination on how communication is intertwined with issues of health and medicine.

Course: Introduction to Advertising, Department of Communication & Media Studies

- An introduction to the history of advertising and its development into a major economic and cultural force in the United States.

Course: Qualitative Research Methods, Department of Communication & Media Studies

- A course that introduces students to the development, ethics, and epistemology of qualitative research methods.

Course: Business & Professional Communication, Department of Communication & Media Studies

- This course focuses on constructing one's professional identity in STEM professions through communication.

Teaching Assistant, University of Utah, May 2015 – May 2016

Course: Communication and Gender, Department of Communication

- This course explores representations of gender in media using theories from cultural studies, film and gender studies, and communication studies.

Course: Introduction to Quantitative Communication Research, Department of Communication

- This course is an introduction to quantitative research methods in communication research.
- Teaching Assistant to Dr. Sara K. Yeo and Dr. Connie Bullis. Responsibilities included grading, managing labs, and meeting with students.

Course: Intercultural Communication, Department of Communication

- This course takes a critical/cultural perspective to understand intercultural relations and communication.

Teaching Assistant, University of Utah, August 2012 – December 2013

Course: Writing and Rhetoric, University Writing Program,

- The course focus is teaching basic research and writing skills for academic audiences within the frame of rhetoric.

Adjunct Instructor, Salt Lake Community College, January 2011 – January 2012

Course: Introduction to the Humanities, Department of Humanities, Language and Culture

- The course focus is teaching critical thinking through exploring the disciplines within the humanities and questioning the products and works of various cultures.

Service and Committee Work

National Service

- 2021. Manuscript Reviewer, *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*
- 2020. Manuscript Reviewer, *New Media and Society*
- 2018. Submission Reviewer, Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference.
- 2018. Submission Reviewer, Critical Genealogies Workshop.
- 2014. Editorial Assistant, *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*.
- 2014. Host Committee, Cultural Studies Association, University of Utah.
- 2013. Manuscript Reviewer, *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*.

University Service

- 2021. Self-Study Committee, School of Communication, Louisiana Tech University.
- 2017. Local Planning Committee for the Sex and Gender Health Education Summit.
- 2017. Founder and member of the Maud May Babcock Doctoral Writing Society (est. 2013).
- 2011. ePortfolio Faculty Development Cohort, Salt Lake Community College.

Professional Experience

Project Manager & Paralegal, Parr Brown Gee & Loveless, Salt Lake City, UT, 2019 – 2020

- Managed a multimillion dollar Receivership Estate claims process.
- Coordinated a legal team of 10 attorneys, 4 paralegals, and 4 legal assistants.
- Completed a content analysis that resulted in summary judgment in favor of the Receivership Estate.
- Wrote fact sheets and case updates for the Receiver's website.
- Handled requests for information from claimants, attorneys, and the public.

Graduate Research Assistant, for Kent A. Ono, Department Chair, University of Utah, 2014 – 2015

- Editorial Assistant, *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*.
- Teaching observer of Intercultural Communication in Fall 2014 and Asian American Film Studies in Spring 2015.

Faculty Writing Fellow, University Writing Center, University of Utah, 2013 – 2014

- Provided writing assistance to faculty for grants, articles for publication, research proposals, and reports.

Clinic Manager, Planned Parenthood, Washington, DC 2005 – 2007

- Managed all aspects of clinic operations: scheduling, training, supplies, and labs.
- Organized a multi-clinic labor union for clinic employees.
- Counseled patients regarding their reproductive health.

Graduate Assistant, Institute for the Study of Culture and Society, Bowling Green, Ohio, 2004 – 2005

- Co-managed a Lecture Series, Institute Fellows, and Faculty Research and Writing Groups.
- Created itineraries for visiting lecturers which included scheduling meetings, reserving campus facilities and A.V. Equipment.
- Documented institute events, participation, and budget resources for annual report.
- Wrote text for institute marketing materials in collaboration with the director.

Internship, Bowling Green County Museum, Bowling Green, Ohio, 2004

- Accessioned the historical clothing collection.
- Provided guided tours for museum visitors.

Volunteer Work

Utah Harm Reduction Coalition, Salt Lake City, UT, 2018 – 2019

- HIV/Hep C Testing at Women’s Center Syringe Exchange

Utah AIDS Foundation, Salt Lake City, UT, 2015 – 2018

- HIV/STI Test Site Lab Technician

Washington Humane Society, Washington, DC, 2008 – 2009

- Animal Adoption Counselor

Center For Choice, Toledo, OH, 2004-2005

- Patient Advocate

Planned Parenthood of Toledo, OH, 2004

- Costume Designer for Jane: Abortion and the Underground, a theatrical fundraiser

Nature's Nursery a Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, White House, OH, 2003-2005

- Animal Caretaker

Honors and Awards

2014. Awarded a Travel Grant to attend the SCT for \$500 from the College of Humanities, University of Utah.

2014. Awarded a Travel Grant to attend the SCT for \$400 from the Graduate College, University of Utah.

2014. Awarded a Travel Grant to attend the SCT for \$500 from the Department of Communication, University of Utah.
2006. Manager of the Year Award, Planned Parenthood of Metro Washington, DC.
2005. Promoted to Clinic Manager via Staff Petition to the CEO, PPMW, DC.
- 2004-2005. Graduate Assistantship, Institute for the Study of Culture and Society, BGSU, Ohio.
- 2003-2004. Graduate Research Assistantship, Ethnic Studies, BGSU, Ohio.
- 2003-2004. Graduate Research Assistantship, Women's Studies, BGSU, Ohio.
- 2001-2003. Koopman Social Science Scholarship, Central Michigan University.
- 2002-2003. Leslie Lieberman Social Science Scholarship, Central Michigan University.

Computer Skills

- Web CT
- Canvas
- Moodle
- Linux Mint
- Ubuntu 16.10
- Libre Office 5.0
- Wordpress, Yola, Blogger

Memberships

National Communication Association

Cultural Studies Association

Critical Genealogies Workshop

Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender

Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology, and Medicine