

Antonio de Velasco

Department of Communication
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University Positions

Associate Professor (2011-) Department of Communication and Film, University of Memphis

Assistant Professor (2005-2011) Department of Communication and Film, University of Memphis

Education

Ph.D., 2005, Rhetoric, Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts, Emory University

B.A., 1996, English and Political Science, Guilford College

Publications

Books

Rethinking Rhetorical Theory, Criticism, and Pedagogy: The Living Art of Michael C. Leff (first editor; co-edited with John Angus Campbell and David Henry) (Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2016)

- Reviewed by Leah Ceccarelli, *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 22 (2): 323–26.

Rhetoric: Concord and Controversy (first editor; co-edited with Melody Lehn) (Longrove, IL: Waveland Press, 2011)

Centrist Rhetoric: The Production of Political Transcendence in the Clinton Presidency (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2010)

- Reviewed by Dave Tell, *Rhetoric and Public Affairs* 14 (2011): 581-85; Martín Carcasson, *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 41 (2011): 418-20; Michael A. Genovese, *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* 48 (2010).

Journal Articles

“Redemptive Exclusion: A Case Study of Nikki Haley’s Rhetoric on Syrian Refugees.” *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 23.4 (2020) (second author, with Noor Ghazal Aswad).

“‘I’m a Southerner, too’: Black Southern Counterpublics and Confederate Monuments in Memphis, Tennessee.” *Southern Communication Journal* 84.4, (2019), 233-245.

“Martin Luther King Jr., W.E.B. Du Bois, and Attitudes Toward Change” (second author, with Jonathan M. Smith) *Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric* 8 (2018), 146-156.

“Living Art: The Rhetorical Humanism of Michael Leff,” (third author with John Angus Campbell and David Henry) *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 13 (2010): 707-16.

“Rethinking Perelman’s Universal Audience: Political Dimensions of a Controversial Concept.” *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 35 (2005): 47-64.

Book Chapters

“A Cautionary Note on Context, Memory, and the Regulation of Black Womanhood.” *The Conceit of Context*. Charles Morris III and Kendall Phillips, eds. (New York: Peter Lang, 2020), 263-269.

“(Re)establishing Presidential Identity: Women Candidates and the Gender Issue.” *Gender, Race and Social Identity in American Politics*. Lori Montalbano, ed. (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2019), 75-95. (second author, with Jonathan M. Smith)

“Transgressive Eloquence: bell hooks, Cicero and the Aims of Rhetorical Pedagogy.” *Sizing Up Rhetoric*. David Zarefsky and Elizabeth Benacka, eds. (Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, 2007), 393-7.

Book Reviews

The Present State of Scholarship in the History of Rhetoric: A Twenty-First Century Guide. Lynée Lewis Gaillet, with Winifred Bryan Horner, ed. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 14 (2011): 182-85.

Purpose, Practice, and Pedagogy in Rhetorical Criticism. Jim A. Kuypers, ed. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 19 (2016): 169-173.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Faith-Based Social Change and Social Media.” (with Brian Heslop) *Encyclopedia of Social Media and Politics*, Kerric Harvey, ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, 2014.

“James Carville.” *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Vol. 18: Media*. M. Allison Graham, ed. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011), 213.

“Jerry Falwell.” *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Vol. 18: Media*. M. Allison Graham, ed. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011), 240.

“Pat Robertson.” *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Vol. 18: Media*. M. Allison Graham, ed. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011), 345.

“Rhetoric.” (with Michael Leff) *The Linguistics Encyclopedia, 3rd ed.* Kirsten Malmkjær, ed. (London: Routledge, 2009), 456-61.

Editorials and Thinkpieces

“What Trump and Strickland share: A dangerous obsession with law and order,” [MLK50: Justice Through Journalism](#), August 7, 2020.

“Can Memphis’ Mayor Honor MLK while Taking Stands MLK would have Opposed?: The Politics of Civil Rights Commemoration in the Trump era,” [MLK50: Justice Through Journalism](#), February 23, 2018.

“Crimson Tide: Republicans’ Worldview Successful in South, and Beyond,” *The Commercial Appeal*, October 31, 2010. V1

Presentations and Lectures

“‘Treat Me Like a Lady’: Ida B. Wells, History, and What Rhetoric Means.” Rhetoric Society of America, Denver, CO, May 2024.

“Bob Dylan, Bill Clinton, and the Problem of Epideictic.” Rhetoric Society of America, Denver, CO, May 2024.

“*Centrist Rhetoric Revisited*.” Central States Communication Association, St. Louis, Missouri, April 2023. [Top Panel in the Political Communication Interest Group]

“Critical Race Theory and Context.” Crosstown High School, May 2021. [invited presentation]

“Nature, Solidarity and Change: ‘Chimes of Freedom’ at the first Clinton Inaugural.” World of Bob Dylan Conference, Institute for Bob Dylan Studies, Tulsa, Oklahoma, June 2019.

“I’m a Southerner, too: Regional Rooting, Black Counterpublics, and Confederate Statuary in Memphis.” National Communication Association, Las Vegas, Nevada, November 2018.

“History v. History: On Conflicting Appeals to a Regional Past.” Southern States Communication Association, Nashville, TN, April 2018.

“Comments on Memphis Activism and ‘Art, Race, and Violence.’” *Art/Race/Violence: A Collective Response*, Memphis, Tennessee, January 2018. (Invited Response)

“A Cautionary Note on Representation, Memory, and the Regulation of Black Womanhood.” Fifteenth Biennial Public Address Conference, Syracuse, New York, October 2016. (Invited Response).

“Three Points on Affect, Emotion, and Rhetoric.” National Communication Association, Las Vegas, Nevada, November 2015.

“Ethico-Rhetorical Timescapes of Civility.” Southern States Communication Association, Tampa, Florida, April 2015.

“Rhetoric and Public Argument in Marco Rubio’s Immigration Discourse.” Southern States Communication Association, Tampa, Florida, April 2015.

“Tracing a Shift: Rhetoric, Time, and Cunning in the Emergence of Black Pessimism.” National Communication Association, Chicago, Illinois, November 2014 (Invited Response).

“The Pedagogical Claim: Rhetoric and the Borders of Identity.” Rhetoric Society of America, San Antonio, TX, May 2014.

“Interdisciplinary Invention.” Interdisciplinary Futures: A Symposium to Celebrate 60 Years of Emory University’s Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts, Atlanta, Georgia, October, 2013.

“Strategies of Appreciation: Controversy, Surprise, and Student Engagement.” Indiana University’s 18th Annual Preparing Future Faculty Conference, Bloomington, Indiana, February, 2013 (Invited Lecture).

“Obama’s Shadow: Rhetoric and Public Address Pedagogy in these Times.” Tennessee Communication Association, Knoxville, Tennessee, October 2012.

“Does Presidential Rhetoric Matter?: Reframing the Efficacy Debate.” Rhetoric Society of America, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 2012.

“Rhetorical Closure, Civic Legacy, and the Opening of the Clinton Presidential Library.” Southern States Communication Association, Little Rock, Arkansas, March 2011.

“Pedagogical Ethos and the Resilience of Rhetoric’s Teaching Mission.” National Communication Association, San Francisco, California, November 2010.

“The Constitution of Public Argument: A Clinic on Rhetoric, Engagement, and Health Care Policy.” Rhetoric Society of America, Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 2010.

“How Obama Lies: The Best Case for the Worst Things You’ve Heard about Healthcare Reform.” Southern States Communication Association, Memphis, Tennessee, April 2010.

“Obama Time!: Defining ‘This Defining Moment.’” National Communication Association, Chicago, Illinois, November 2009.

“The Production of Political Transcendence.” National Communication Association, Chicago, Illinois, November 2009.

“Racial Dilemmas of Centrist Rhetoric: Clinton, Souljah, and the Whiteness Effect.” Rhetoric Society of America, Seattle, Washington, May 2008.

“Constructing the Universal Audience: Appeals to Reason in the Rhetoric of Marijuana Legalization.” *The Promise of Reason: The New Rhetoric After 50 Years*, Eugene, Oregon, May 2008.

“Taking Rhetoric Personally: Bill Clinton, Bob Dylan, and a Self-Reflexive Criticism of Constitutive Rhetoric.” National Communication Association, Chicago, Illinois, November 2007. (Panel Chair).

“This Alchemic Center: A Burkean Metaphor in the Communication Classroom.” National Communication Association, San Antonio Texas, November 2006.

“Rhetorically Constituting the Presidency and Its Subjects: The Case of Reagan and Bush II.” National Communication Association, San Antonio, Texas, November 2006. (Panel Chair and Respondent).

“Writing in the Nude: Reflections on Criticism, Reflexivity, and ‘Supporting Our Troops.’” Lecture Series in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Arkansas State University, October 2006. (Invited Lecture).

“Transgressive Eloquence: A New Subjectivity for the Rhetorical Critic.” Rhetoric Society of America, Memphis, Tennessee, May 2006.

“Attitudes Towards Topoi: Dissociation, de Gourmont and Perspective By Incongruity.” National Communication Association, Boston, Massachusetts, November 2005.

“‘Who Do You Think You’re Talking To?:’ Audience, Invention and Practical Reason in the Work of Chaïm Perelman.” Rhetoric Society of America, Austin, Texas, May 2004.

“Not Quite a Conversation: A Response to Lawrence Levine’s presentation of *The People and the President: America’s Conversation with FDR*.” Atlanta Seminar in Comparative History of Labor, Industrialization, Technology, and Society Roundtable, Georgia Institute of Technology, April 2002. (Invited Response)

“A Rhetoric of Recentering: Bill Clinton, Oklahoma City, and the Government Shutdown.” Literature and Democracy Conference, Emory University, February 2002.

Teaching Experience

University of Memphis

Doctoral Seminars

- Communication/English 8820: Rhetoric and Cultural Studies, 2006
- Communication 8616: Contemporary Rhetorical Theory, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2024
- Communication 8820: Rhetorical Pedagogy, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2019, 2023
- Communication 8362: Presidential Rhetoric, 2011
- Communication 8013: Seminar in Political Communication, 2015
- Communication 8616: Rhetorical Criticism, 2022

Directed Readings

- Communication 7374: Latinidades, 2024
- Communication 8993: Critical, Rhetorical, and Afrocentric Pedagogy, 2021
- Communication 8993: Rhetoric, Politics, and Media Representation, 2019
- Communication 8993: Rhetoric and Immigration, 2018
- Communication 8993: Materialities of Communication, 2012
- Communication 8993: Argumentation and Controversy, 2010, 2012
- Communication 8993: The New Rhetoric, 2010
- Communication 8993: Sports and Communication in America, 2009
- Communication 8993: Rhetoric, Politics, the Public Sphere, 2007

Undergraduate Courses

- Communication 3321: Argumentation and Advocacy, 2020, 2022, 2023
- Communication 4365: Place, Community, Communication, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2022, 2024
- Communication 4360: American Eloquence, 2011
- Communication 4013: Communication in Political Campaigns, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2019, 2019, 2020
- Communication 3001: Rhetoric and Civic Controversy, every semester since 2006 except for three semesters
- Communication 2381: Oral Communication, 2007, 2009-2011, 2012-2019, 2020, 2022, 2024
- Communication 4381: Senior Seminar in Rhetoric, 2005-06
- UNHP 1100: University Honors Program Forum, 2012-2013, 2015-2024

Emory University

Undergraduate Courses

- American Studies 385: Rhetoric, Culture and the 2004 Election, 2004
- English 101: Rhetoric and Composition, 2001, 2003
- American Studies 112: American Identities: Rhetorics of Identification, 2002

Doctoral Advising and Committee Service

Dissertations Directed

Dr. Henrietta Giles, 2024 (co-directed with Katherine G. Hendrix)
Dr. Adam Hughes, 2022
Dr. Noor Ghazal Aswad, 2022
Dr. Sarah Mayberry Scott, 2019
Dr. Earle Fisher, 2018
Dr. J.R. Briscoe, 2017
Dr. William Schraufnagel, 2017
Dr. Reginald Bell, 2015
Dr. Brian Heslop, 2015
Dr. Merci Decker, 2015
Dr. Melody Lehn, 2013
Kaitlin Graves (in progress)
Jonathan Bridenbaker (in progress)
Samantha Guajardo (in progress)

Dissertation Committees Served On

Dr. Pierre Vincent, 2024
Dr. Abby Arnold-Patti, 2023
Dr. Natonya Listach, 2023
Dr. DiArron M. 2023
Dr. Lionell “Badu” Smith 2023
Dr. Ayo Morton, 2023
Dr. Kiersten Bloom, 2023
Dr. Tyler Stafford, 2021
Dr. Damariyé Smith, 2021
Dr. Keven Rudrow, 2020
Dr. Dianna Watkins-Dickerson, 2020
Dr. Carolyn Block, 2019
Dr. Stephen McKellips, 2019
Dr. Andrew Carter, 2019
Dr. Kalemba Kizito, 2019
Dr. Kyle Christensen, 2018
Dr. Scarlett Hester, 2017
Dr. Marcus Hassell, 2015
Dr. Pat Loeb, 2013
Dr. Claire Rhodes, 2013
Dr. Jennifer Jackson, 2012
Dr. Mittie Carey, 2012
Dr. Morgan Ginther, 2011

Dr. Paul Wangsvick, 2011
Dr. Kimberly Johnson, 2010
Dr. Shirley Oakley, 2010
Dr. Christopher Oldenburg, 2009
Dr. Jill Greenman, 2008
Stephanie Butera (in progress)
Micheal Clinton (in progress)
Solomon Cochren (in progress)
Russell Woods (in progress)
Jason Mikel (in progress)
L'Oreal Stephens (in progress)

Master's Advising and Committee Service

Theses Directed

Jodie Gobler, 2007

Exams Directed

Aidan Boatman, 2019

Mark Nagel, 2011

Steven Medlock, 2008

Special Projects Directed

Kirstin Cheers, 2023

Catherine Eakin, 2021

Sydney Burngasser, 2016

Jennifer Valenzuela (in progress)

Master's Committees Served On

Aaron Dechant, 2019

Bradly Knox, 2017

Kristen Ball, 2015

Vivian Brandhoff-Danis, 2015

Sara Curtis, 2007

Awards, Grants and Fellowships

University of Memphis

- University of Memphis, Benjamin W. Rawlins Jr. /Union Planters Professorship 2020-2021 (\$8000 per year)
- University of Memphis Alumni Association "Eye of the Tiger" Award, 2019
- University of Memphis Faudree University Professorship, 2019-2021 (\$5000 per year)
- University of Memphis Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching Award, 2011 (\$2000)
- University Faculty Research Grant in the Arts and Humanities, 2007 (\$4500)
- College of Communication and Fine Arts' New Faculty Research Grant, 2006 (\$4500)

Service

Peer Review

- *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, 2020-, editorial board
- *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, (two essays reviewed in 2020)
- *Communication Studies*, 2012-2016, associate editorial board; 2011 (one essay)
- *Composition Forum*, 2010 (one essay)
- *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, 2008 (one essay)
- *Southern Communication Journal*, 2014-2018, editorial board, two essays reviewed in 2020

Thirteenth Biennial Public Address Conference

- Director, 2012

National Communication Association

- Public Address Division Nominating Committee, 2012-13
- Reviewer for Public Address Division, 2011-
- Douglas W. Ehninger Distinguished Rhetorical Scholar Award Committee, 2009-11

Rhetoric Society of America

- Dissertation Award Committee, 2013-
- Gerard A. Hauser Graduate Scholarships Award Committee, 2010 (Chair) and 2012

Tennessee Communication Association

- Panel Respondent, 2009

Southern Colloquium on Rhetoric

- Participant, 2008-

Southern States Communication Association

- Michael M. Osborn Teacher-Scholar Award committee, 2021- 2023
- Reviewer for Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference, 2021

University of Memphis

- Communication Rhetoric/Media Search Committee, 2024
- Departmental 25th Anniversary of the PhD program committee, 2022-23
- Departmental Visiting Lecturer committee, 2020-2
- Lambda Pi Eta Faculty advisor, 2020-
- Communication Media Studies Faculty Search Committee, 2020 (chair)
- Eminent Faculty Award Selection Committee, 2020-
- University Tenure and Promotion Appeal Committee, 2018-2019 (presidential appointment)
- Directed “King, Communication, & the Legacy of Civil Rights” conference, 2018
- University Faculty Athletics Committee, 2017- (presidential appointment)
- Communication Department Chair Search Committee (chair), 2017
- Visiting Assistant Professor of Rhetoric Search Committee (chair), 2016
- University Search Committee for Registrar, 2016
- University Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Task Force, 2014-15
- University Council on Graduate Studies, 2014-7
- College of Communication and Fine Arts Graduate Council, 2014-

- University Quality Enhancement Plan Committee (for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reaccreditation), 2014-15 (presidential appointment)
- African American Rhetoric Faculty Search Committee, 2015
- Health Communication Faculty Search Committee, 2012
- Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching Award Committee, 2011-2018
- Graduate Research Forum Judge, 2011, 2012
- Communication Department Graduate Committee, 2010-2019, 2021
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2005-06, 2011-2013, 2020, 2023-
- Communication Department Chair Search Committee, 2011
- Faculty Senator, 2010-2012
- Communication Department Library Representative, 2005-2014
- John Angus Campbell Graduate Teaching Award Judge, 2009-2010
- Commencement Pronouncer, 2009, 2011
- Communication New Media Faculty Search Committee, 2010 (chair)
- Communication Theory Faculty Search Committee, 2008
- University Faculty Research Grant Selection Committee, 2008-9
- Rhetoric and Technical Communication Faculty Search Committee, 2007
- Website Overhaul Committee, 2007
- Broadcast and Electronic Media Faculty Search Committee, 2006
- Outreach Committee, 2005-7
- Chaired Workshop for Graduate Students on Academic Job Market, 2005-08
- Chaired Departmental Reading Group on “Language and Politics,” 2005-08