

Department of Communication Studies
Department of African and African American Studies
LSU Roger Hadfield Ogden Honors College

Educational Background

PhD in Communication Studies	May 2019
Louisiana State University	
Dissertation: The Rhetoric of Sickle Cell Anemia	
M.A. in Communication Studies	May 2013
Louisiana State University	
Thesis: To Speak as a Human, a Modern and as an American: Blues Rhetoric in Cornel West's Prophetic Pragmatism	
B.S. in Biology	
Southern University A&M College	May 2000

Academic Appointments

Louisiana State University	
Senior Instructor	August 2018-Present
Graduate Teaching Assistant	August 2013-July 2018

Publications

Forthcoming text: The Rhetorical Life of Sickle Cell Anemia-Johns Hopkins University Press

Journal Article

Robvais, R. We Are No Longer Invisible: Project On Rhetoric of Inquiry 15:1. (2020)

Book Chapters

"Birmingham Is Really on Mars": White Innocence and A Good Conscience" in The Routledge Handbook of Rhetoric and Power, ed. Dr. Nathan Crick, Routledge Taylor & Francis Press (2024)

"COVID and Pre-existing Conditions: Racialized Myths and the Invisible Traces of White Supremacy" in Covid and...How to Do Rhetoric in a Pandemic, eds. Dr. Emily Winderman, Dr. Allie Rowland, Dr. Jen Malkowski, Michigan State University Press (2023)

"Drawing the Color Line: The Bi-Racialism of T. Lothrop Stoddard" in The Rhetoric of Fascism, ed. Dr. Nathan Crick, University of Alabama Press (2021)

Book Reviews

Managing Diabetes: The Cultural Politics of Disease, by Jeffrey A. Bennett. Southern Communication Journal. (2020)

Rhetoric Through Everyday Things, by Scot Barnett & Casey Boyle eds. Technical Communication Quarterly. (2018)

Blood Sugar: Racial Pharmacology and Food Justice in Black America, by Anthony Ryan Hatch Technical Communication Quarterly. (2018)

Hearing the Hurt: Rhetoric, Aesthetics, & Politics of the New Negro Movement, by Eric King Watts. Rhetoric Society Quarterly, 44:5, 502-505. (2014)

Awards

LSU Highly Prestigious Award 2026
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship 2025
American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship 2024
Robert L. Amborski Excellence in Teaching Award LSU Honors College 2024
NAACP @LSU African and African American Studies Faculty Award 2024
NAACP @LSU Magnolia Award-Faculty/Staff Spring 2023
NAACP @LSU African and African American Studies Faculty Award 2023
LSU CxC Distinguished Communicator May 2021
Judy Segal Top Paper Award, Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Symposium
September 14, 2020
Africana Teaching Award-LSU African, African American Studies Spring, 2020.
Distinguished Dissertation Award-College of Humanities and Social Sciences
January 23, 2020

Guest Lecturer

LSU-Alpha Epsilon Delta Speaker Spring 2024
ARC Network-ADVANCE Equity in STEM Community Convening-Invited Speaker –
June 2023
Bates College-May 2023
ARC Network-A Stem Equity Brain Trust-Emerging Research Workshop-Invited Panelist-
2022
University of Minnesota-Friday Noon Research Colloquium-2021
Louisiana State University-The Rhetoric of Sickle Cell Anemia Health and Science
Communication-2020

Conference Presentations

“The White Man’s Guilt”: History that Flatters and Dignifies, Impaled Like a Butterfly on a Pin,
Presented at Rhetoric Society of America, May 2026.

The American Medical Association, Dr. Aletha Maybank, Health Equity, and Racial Justice
Presented at National Communication Association, November 2022.

How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? Sickle Cell Pain Crises and the Gaze of Shame, Presented at
National Communication Association, November 2022

Restaurants, Civil Rights, and the Politics of Place, Presented at National Communication
Association, November 2022.

Critical Reflections on Medicine in ARSTM, Presented at National Communication Association,
November 2022.

No Need to Change: The Rhetorical Blame of Pre-existing Conditions, Rhetoric Society of America, May 2022.

The Rhetorical Invisibility of Whiteness in Wearing a Mask, Rhetoric Society of America, May 2022.

Service

To The Department

AAAS Public Health & Wellness Search Committee Spring 2024

Edwin K. Hunter Search Committee Spring 2021

Equity and Justice Committee Fall 2020-Fall 2022

Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee Spring 2020

AAAS Recruitment Committee Fall 2019-Present

Judge, Mardi Gras Alumni Classic Forensics Tournament, Louisiana State University, February 2020.

Judge, Mardi Gras Alumni Classic Forensics Tournament, Louisiana State University, February 2018.

Judge, Mardi Gras Alumni Classic Forensics Tournament, Louisiana State University, February 2016.

Judge, Mardi Gras Alumni Classic Forensics Tournament, Louisiana State University, February 2014

To The University

HSS Pre-Scholars Academy-Speaker Summer 2024

HSS Pre-Scholars Academy-Speaker Summer 2023

New Graduate Student Orientation Summer 2021

HSS Pre-Scholars Academy Summer 2021

HSS Pre-Scholars Academy August 8, 2020

HSS Welcome Week Guest Speaker August 22, 2019

HSS Academy Guest Speaker August 10, 2019

Judge, Louisiana High School Rally, Louisiana State University, April 2014.

Judge, Louisiana High School Rally, Louisiana State University, April 2015.

Judge, Louisiana High School Rally, Louisiana State University, April 2016.

Judge, Louisiana High School Rally, Louisiana State University, April 2017.

To The Discipline

Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Editorial Board Member

Peer Review Service for Rhetoric of Health & Medicine August 2022

ARSTM-NCA Chair Top Student Papers Panel November 19, 2021

Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology and Medicine-Social Media Manager, November 2020-November 2022

Discussion Hub Leader-Rhetoric of Health & Medicine Symposium-September 2021

Rhetoric of Health & Medicine Symposium Planning Committee 2021
Discussion Hub Leader-Rhetoric of Health & Medicine Symposium- September 18, 2020.
Peer Review Service for Rhetoric of Health & Medicine-August 4, 2020

To The Community

Louisiana Center for Health Equity-Board Member, 2023