Cara A. Finnegan

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Professional Summary

Professor, Department of Communication, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2015-present.

Advisor, Office of Research Advising and Proposal Development (RAPD), Office of Vice Chancellor for Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2025-present.

University Scholar, University of Illinois system, 2017-20.

Public Voices Fellow with The Op Ed Project, University of Illinois system, 2019-20.

Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2016-17.

Associate, Center for Advanced Study, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2015-16.

Associate Head, Department of Communication, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2015-2022. (On leave 2016-17.)

Conrad Humanities Scholar, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2012-2017.

Interim Associate Dean, Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, January-August 2015.

Associate Professor, Department of Communication, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2005-2015.

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Communication, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2010-2014.

Director of Oral and Written Communication (CMN 111-112), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1999-2009.

Assistant Professor, Department of [Speech] Communication, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1999-2005.

Affiliated (zero-time) appointments in Center for Writing Studies (2004-present), School of Art and Design (2006-present), Department of Gender and Women's Studies (2009-present), and Center for Social and Behavioral Sciences (2023-present), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

William S. Vaughn Visiting Fellow, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University, 2006-2007.

Education

Ph. D. Communication Studies, Northwestern University
Degree Awarded: June 1999
Concentration: Rhetorical Studies

M. A. Communication, University of Maine
Degree Awarded: May 1995
Concentration: Rhetorical Studies

B. A. University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, Minnesota)
Degree Awarded: May 1992 (*summa cum laude*; Aquinas Scholar)
Majors: Communication; Journalism
Minor: English

Research

National Research Awards, Honors, and Grants

Distinguished Scholar Award, Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association, 2021.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Open Book Award, 2020. Award shared with University of Illinois Press that funded an open access, e-book version of Photographic Presidents: Making History from Daguerreotype to Digital.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship for University Teachers, 2016-17. Awarded to facilitate work on book project, Photographic Presidents: Making History from Daguerreotype to Digital.

Winans-Wichelns Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Rhetoric and Public Address, National Communication Association, 2016. For Making Photography Matter: A Viewer's History from the Civil War to the Great Depression.

Outstanding Book Award, Visual Communication Division, National Communication Association, 2015. For Making Photography Matter: A Viewer's History from the Civil War to the Great Depression.

William S. Vaughn Visiting Fellow, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University, 2006-07.

Golden Monograph Award, National Communication Association, 2006. For "Recognizing Lincoln: Image Vernaculars in Nineteenth Century Visual Culture." Rhetoric & Public Affairs 8 (Spring 2005): 31-58.

New Investigator Award, Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association, 2005. Given to a scholar who has developed a substantive and innovative research program within eight years of receiving the doctoral degree.

Excellence in Visual Communication Research Award, Visual Communication Division, National Communication Association, 2005. For "Recognizing Lincoln: Image Vernaculars in Nineteenth Century Visual Culture." Rhetoric & Public Affairs 8 (Spring 2005): 31-58.

Diamond Anniversary Book Award, National Communication Association, 2004. For Picturing Poverty: Print Culture and FSA Photographs (Smithsonian, 2003).

Campus Research Awards, Honors, and Grants

Humanities Release Time Award, Campus Research Board, University of Illinois, Spring 2025.

University Scholar, 2017. Status awarded to University of Illinois system faculty (three campuses) who have demonstrated excellence across all areas of scholarship, teaching, and service.

Associate, Center for Advanced Study, University of Illinois, 2015-16. Competitive, campus-wide research fellowship awarded to tenured faculty.

Conrad Humanities Professorial Scholar, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois, 2012-2017. Awarded to associate professors in the college "who are established or emerging leaders with exceptionally strong scholarly recognition and significant promise for continued achievement."

Arnold O. Beckman Award, Campus Research Board, University of Illinois, October 2014. For Photographic Presidents; named a project of "unusual distinction and promise."

Arnold O. Beckman Award, Campus Research Board, University of Illinois, October 2012. For Making Photography Matter; named a project of "unusual distinction and promise."

Humanities Release Time Award, Campus Research Board, University of Illinois, Spring 2004.

Campus Research Board Grant, University of Illinois, May 2000.

Dissertation Award, School of Speech, Northwestern University, May 1999.

Publications

Books

Finnegan, Cara A. Photographic Presidents: Making History from Daguerreotype to Digital. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2021. Open access digital e-book funded by National Endowment for the Humanities, 2022.

- Pre-publication reviews in Publisher's Weekly, Foreword Reviews, and Booklist

- Reviewed by Journal of American Culture (2021), Air Mail (2021), Journal of American History (2022); Congress and the Presidency (2022); Rhetoric & Public Affairs (2022)

Finnegan, Cara A. Making Photography Matter: A Viewer's History from the Civil War to the Great Depression. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2015. (Paperback 2017.)

- Winner of Winans-Wichelns Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Rhetoric and Public Address, National Communication Association, 2016.
- Winner of Outstanding Book Award, Visual Communication Division, National Communication Association, 2015.
- Reviewed by SHGAPE (Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, 2015), Journal of American History (2016), American Historical Review (2016), Choice (2015), Southern Journal of History (2016), Annals of Iowa (2016), Journal of American Studies (2017), Technology and Culture (2017), Quarterly Journal of Speech (2018), Rhetoric & Public Affairs (2018), Rhetoric Society Quarterly (2018).

Olson, Lester C., Cara A. Finnegan, and Diane S. Hope, eds. Visual Rhetoric: A Reader in Communication and American Culture. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2008.

- Reviewed in Journal of Communication (2008), Quarterly Journal of Speech (2009), Southern Journal of Communication (2010).

Finnegan, Cara A. Picturing Poverty: Print Culture and FSA Photographs. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Books, 2003.

- Winner of Diamond Anniversary Book Award, National Communication Association, 2004.
- Reviewed in American Historical Review (2006), Quarterly Journal of Speech (2006), Technology and Culture (2006), American Quarterly (2005), Journal of Canadian History (2005), Journal of American Studies (2004), Journal of American History (2004), American Periodicals (2004), Argumentation and Advocacy (2004), Columbia Journalism Review (2003), Journalism History (2003).

Articles and Book Chapters

Bruce, Caitlin F. and Cara A. Finnegan. "Visual Rhetoric in Flux: A Conversation," Rhetoric & Public Affairs, 24.1-2 (2021): 89-108.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Read Before Archiving," Journal for the History of Rhetoric 23.1 (2020): 107.

Finnegan, Cara A. "The Daguerreotype, Republican Style, and Theories of the Public Image." Explorations in Media Ecology, 17.4 (2018): 459-64.

Finnegan, Cara A. "The Critic as Curator." Rhetoric Society Quarterly, 48.4 (2018): 405-410.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Slave Photographs in *Lincoln*." Rhetoric & Public Affairs, 18.1 (2015): 129-34.

Finnegan, Cara A. and Marissa Wallace, "Origin Stories and Dreams of Collaboration: Rethinking Histories of the Communication Course and the Relationships Between English and Speech," Rhetoric Society Quarterly 44.5 (2014): 401-426. Lead essay.

Finnegan, Cara A. and Anita J. Mixon. "Art Controversy in the Obama White House: Performing Tensions of Race in the Visual Politics of the Presidency." Presidential Studies Quarterly 44.2 (June 2014): 244-66.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Picturing Presidents: Visual Politics Inside the Obama White House." In The Rhetoric of Heroic Expectations: Establishing the Obama Presidency. Eds. Jennifer Mercieca and Justin Vaughn (College Station: Texas A&M Press, 2014), 209-34.

Kang, Jiyeon and Cara A. Finnegan. "Gross Iconoclasm." Argumentation and Advocacy (Winter 2013): 228-230.

Finnegan, Cara A. and John M. Murphy. "Introduction: Lincoln's Rhetorical Worlds." Rhetoric & Public Affairs (Fall 2010): 343-47.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Studying Visual Modes of Public Address: Lewis Hine's Progressive Era Child Labor Rhetoric." In The Handbook of Rhetoric and Public Address. Eds. Michael Hogan and Shawn J. Parry-Giles (London: Blackwell Publishing, 2010). 250-70.

Finnegan, Cara A. "'Liars May Photograph': Image Vernaculars and Progressive Era Child Labor Rhetoric." POROI: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Rhetorical Analysis and Invention 5.2 (November 2008): 94-139.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Rhetoric and Visuality." The International Encyclopedia of Communication (ed. Wolfgang Donsbach), Volume 9. Wiley-Blackwell (Oxford, UK and Malden, MA), 2008. 4364-66. Revised and updated 2014 with co-author Katie L. Irwin.

Finnegan, Cara A. and Jennifer Jones Barbour. "Visualizing Public Address." Rhetoric & Public Affairs 9 (Fall 2006): 489-532.

Finnegan, Cara A. "FSA Photography and New Deal Visual Culture." American Rhetoric in the New Deal Era: Volume 7 of Rhetorical History of the United States. Ed. Thomas Benson. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2006. 115-55.

Finnegan, Cara A. "What is This a Picture Of? Some Thoughts on Images and Archives." Rhetoric & Public Affairs 9 (Spring 2006): 116-23.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Communication as Vision." Communication As…Perspectives on Theory. Eds. Gregory J. Shepherd, Jeffrey St. John, and Ted Striphas. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2006. 60-66.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Recognizing Lincoln: Image Vernaculars in Nineteenth Century Visual Culture." Rhetoric & Public Affairs 8 (Spring 2005): 31-58. Reprinted in Lester C. Olson, Cara A. Finnegan, and Diane S. Hope, eds. Visual Rhetoric: A Reader in Communication and American Culture (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE, 2008).

Finnegan, Cara A. and Jiyeon Kang. "'Sighting' the Public: Iconoclasm and Public Sphere Theory." Quarterly Journal of Speech 90 (November 2004): 377-402. Lead essay.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Review Essay: Visual Studies and Visual Rhetoric." Quarterly Journal of Speech 90 (May 2004): 231-48.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Doing Rhetorical History of the Visual: The Photograph and the Archive." Defining Visual Rhetorics. Eds. Charles Hill and Marguerite Helmers. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum, 2004. 195-214.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Survey and Survey Graphic." Poverty in the United States: An Encyclopedia, Eds. Gwendolyn Mink and Alice O'Connor. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2004. 700.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Elastic, Agonistic Publics: John Dewey's Call for a Third Party." Argumentation and Advocacy 39 (Winter 2003): 161-73.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Image Vernaculars: Photography, Anxiety, and Public Argument." Proceedings of the 5th Conference of the International Society for the Study of Argumentation. Ed. Frans H. van Eemeren et al. Amsterdam: Sic Sat, 2003. 315-18.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Documentary as Art in *U.S. Camera*." Rhetoric Society Quarterly 31 (Spring 2001): 37-67.

Finnegan, Cara A. "The Naturalistic Enthymeme and Visual Argument: Photographic Representation in the 'Skull Controversy'." Argumentation and Advocacy 37 (Winter 2001): 133-49.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Social Engineering, Visual Politics and the New Deal: FSA Photography in *Survey Graphic*." Rhetoric & Public Affairs 3 (Fall 2000): 333-62.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Darkening O.J.: Visual Argument and Controversy." Argument at Century's End: Reflecting on the Past and Envisioning the Future. Ed. Thomas A. Hollihan. Annandale, VA: National Communication Association, 2000. 235-43.

Finnegan, Cara A. "The Appearance of Argument: Public Space and Public Time in the Documentary Photograph." Argument in a Time of Change: Definitions, Frameworks, Critiques. Ed. James F. Klumpp. Annandale, VA: National Communication Association, 1997. 208-13.

Reviews

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Mick Gidley, *The Grass Shall Grow: Helen Post Photographs the Native American West* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2020), *Great Plains Quarterly*, 42.1-2 (Winter-Spring 2022): 163. Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Revealing the Visual Logics of Sensational News," review of Amanda Frisken, Graphic News: How Sensational Images Transformed Nineteenth-Century Journalism (University of Illinois Press, 2019), Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, 20.1 (Jan. 2021): 196. Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Jane Aspinwall and Keith Davis, Golden Prospects: Daguerreotypes of the California Gold Rush (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019), Western Historical Quarterly, 51.4 (2020): 470-71. Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Tanya Sheehan, Study in Black and White: Photography, Race, Humor (University Park: Penn State Press, 2018), Journal of American History, 107.3 (Dec. 2020). Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Laurie M. Gries, Still Life with Rhetoric (Logan: Utah State University Press, 2015), Quarterly Journal of Speech 103.4 (2017): 415-18. Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Sharon Ann Musher, Democratic Art: The New Deal's Influence on American Culture (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015), for Journal of American History, 103.1 (2016): 243. Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Carol Quirke, Eyes on Labor: News Photography and America's Working Class (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), for American Historical Review, 118.4 (2013): 1202-1203. Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Amy Louise Wood, Lynching and Spectacle: Witnessing Racial Violence in America, 1890-1940 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009), Southern Communication Journal, 75.5 (2010): 527-30. Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Kate Sampsell-Willmann, Lewis Hine as Social Critic (Oxford: University Press of Mississippi, 2009), Rhetoric & Public Affairs 13.4 (Winter 2010): 741-45. Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Richard Steven Street, Everyone Had Cameras: Photography and Farmworkers in California, 1850-2000 (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008), American Historical Review (October 2010): 1170-1171. Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Robert Hariman and John Louis Lucaites, No Caption Needed: Iconic Photographs, Public Culture, and Liberal Democracy (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), Rhetoric Society Quarterly 40 (Winter 2010): 94-97. Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Anne Whiston Spirn, Daring to Look: Dorothea Lange's Photographs and Reports from the Field (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008), Quarterly Journal of Speech 95 (Nov. 2009): 471-73.

Abelmann, Nancy, Susan G. Davis, Cara A. Finnegan, and Peggy J. Miller. "What is StoryCorps, Anyway?" Review of Dave Isay, Listening Is An Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life From The Storycorps Project (New York: Penguin Press, 2007), Oral History Review 36.2 (2009): 255-60.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Amos Kiewe, FDR's First Fireside Chat: Public Confidence and the Banking Crisis (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2007), Rhetoric & Public Affairs 12.2 (2009): 337-39. Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of John Raeburn, A Staggering Revolution: A Cultural History of Thirties Photography (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2006), American Historical Review (December 2007): 1564-65. Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Michael Kammen, Visual Shock: A History of Art Controversies in American Culture (New York: Knopf, 2006). Rhetoric & Public Affairs 10.4 (Winter 2007): 741-44.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of David Holloway and John Beck, eds., American Visual Cultures (London: Continuum, 2005). Quarterly Journal of Speech 92 (August 2006): 322-24.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Geoffrey L. Buckley, Extracting Appalachia: Images of the Consolidation Coal Company, 1910-1945 (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2004). Journal of Appalachian Studies 12 (Spring 2006): 162-63. Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. Review of Colleen McDannell, Picturing Faith: Photography and the Great Depression (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004). American Historical Review (February 2006): 221-22. Invited.

Finnegan, Cara A. "Television as Historian." Review of Gary R. Edgerton and Peter C. Rollins, eds., Television Histories: Shaping Collective Memory in the Media Age (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2001). Review of Communication 3 (April 2003): 154-57. Invited.

Invited Lectures

"Reading the Pictures Salon: Looking at Key Images from Campaign 2024," International Center of Photography, New York, NY, Oct. 2024.

"Public Images of the Presidency: A Conversation with Pete Souza, Cara Finnegan, Theon Hill, and Allison Prasch," University of Wisconsin-Madison, Apr. 2024.

"Ways of Reading the Pictures," keynote speaker, International Visual Literacy Association conference, Oct. 2023.

"The Evolution of Presidential Photography," Warren G. Harding Symposium, Ohio State University-Marion, July 2023.

"Photographing George Washington," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Illinois, Dec. 2021.

"The Last Photographs of William McKinley," Department of Political Science, Clemson University, Nov. 2021.

"Photographic Presidents," Evanston History Center, Evanston, Illinois, Oct. 2021.

"Photographic Presidents: How Photography and the Presidency Grew Up Together," International Photography Museum and Hall of Fame, St. Louis, May 2021.

"The Candid Camera Presidents: Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt." University of Southern California Visual Studies Institute, March 2020.

"Presidents and the History of Photography," DePauw University Undergraduate Honors Conference, April 2019.

"Barack Obama and the Age of Social Media," Bernard Brock Memorial Lecture, Wayne State University, March 2019.

"The Last Photographs of William McKinley," Visual Rhetoric Symposium, Northwestern University, Feb. 2019.

"What Studying Presidents Can Teach Us About the History of Photography," presentation to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees meeting, Sept. 2018.

"Barack Obama's Visual Archive." Penn State Information and Humanities Conference, Sept. 2018.

"Photographic Archives for Our Times: Barack Obama in the Age of Social Media." J. Jeffrey Auer Lecture, Department of English, Indiana University, April 2018.

"The Camera Politic: American Presidents and the History of Photography from the Daguerreotype to the Digital Revolution." Keynote Lecture, University of St. Thomas Undergraduate Communication Research Conference, April 2016.

"The Fleeting Visual Politics of the Candid Camera." Bruce Gronbeck Lecture, University of Iowa, Feb. 2016.

"A Presidency in Pictures." Chicago Humanities Festival, Nov. 2015. Video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hu0IX68sW5Y&feature=youtu.be

"Herbert Hoover and the Fleeting Visual Politics of the Candid Camera." Texas A&M University, Sept. 2015.

"The Presidential Camera: Histories of Photography through the Executive Lens." Department of Communication, Georgia State University, Oct. 2014.

"How Photography Has Changed in the Last Twenty-Five Years." Invited presentation for panel on Media, Technology, and the Humanities at Robert Penn Warren Center's 25th Anniversary Celebration, Vanderbilt University, Sept. 2013.

"Picturing the Presidents: Authorizing Obama Through White House Art." Rhetoric Forum, University of Richmond, April 2013.

"'Photography Good, But Hell of a Subject for a Salon': Reading Photography's Viewers." Department of Communication Arts and Sciences, Penn State University, February 2012.

"'Photography Good, But Hell of a Subject for a Salon': Reading Photography's Viewers." Department of English, University of Wisconsin-Madison, December 2011.

"Reading Photography's Viewers: Public Reception of Photographs from the Civil War to the Great Depression." Department of English, Carnegie Mellon University, October 2011.

"The Flickr President: The Visual Politics of the Obama White House." Invited plenary speaker for American Cultures in a Digital Age conference, Vanderbilt University, March 2011.

"The Visual Politics of Childhood." Plenary response, Biennial Public Address Conference, University of Pittsburgh, September 2010.

"Images of Art/The Art of the Image: Visual Politics in the Obama White House." Obama Phenomenon Conference, Texas A&M University, March 2010.

"Visualizing the Economic Downturn." American Studies Program, Vanderbilt University, February 2009.

Invited response to Elizabeth Young's lecture, "Portrait and Parody: Lincoln in Visual Culture," Lincoln and Cultural Value symposium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 2008.

"Speaking of Photography: Recognition and the Art of Imagining Visual Politics." Invited plenary speaker for Visible Memories Conference, Syracuse University, October 2008.

"Viewing the Visual Republic." Plenary response, Biennial Public Address Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 2008.

"Blogging Visual Politics." Keynote panel at Fourth Kern Conference on Visual Communication, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY, April 2008.

"The Mumler Spirit Photographs Trial: Visual Culture, Rhetorical Response, and the Sanctioning of Imagination." Department of Communication, University of Alabama, March 2008.

"Photography's Publics: Viewer Agency and the Mumler Spirit Photographs Trial." Third Midwest Winter Workshop, Indiana University, January 2008.

"The Mumler Spirit Photographs Trial: Visual Culture, Rhetorical Response, and the Sanctioning of Imagination." College of Communication, University of Texas, December 2007.

"Picturing Poverty: American Documentary Photography in the 1930s." University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, February 2007.

"Praising Photography's Witness: Hurricane Katrina and the Visual Tradition of the FSA." Department of Communication, University of Memphis, December 2006.

"Teaching Visual Rhetoric." Peabody School of Education, Vanderbilt University, November 2006.

"Praising Photography's Witness: Image Vernaculars and American Visual Traditions." Plenary speaker, Biennial Public Address Conference, Vanderbilt University, October 2006.

"Image Vernaculars: Rhetorics of Photography in American Public Culture." Third Kern Conference on Visual Communication, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY, April 2006.

"The Visual Politics of American Poverty." Keynote address, Communication Day, Eastern Illinois University, February 2006.

"Visualizing the Working Child: Image Vernaculars of Progressive Era Child Labor Rhetoric." School of Communication, Northwestern University, July 2005.

"Visualizing Democratic Deliberation." Brigance Colloquy on Rhetoric and Democratic Citizenship, Wabash College, April 2005.

"Recognizing Lincoln: Image Vernaculars of Nineteenth Century Visual Culture." Department of Speech Communication, University of Georgia, March 2005.

"The Circulation of the FSA Photographs in 1930s Print Culture." Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, Hyde Park, NY, March 2005.

"Picturing Poverty: FSA Photographs in LOOK Magazine." Department of Communication Arts, University of Wisconsin-Madison, May 2002.

"Images of Poverty in Depression Photography." Department of Communication Studies, Northwestern University, May 2000.

Conference Presentations

"Inviting Vision: A Roundtable on the Present and Future of Visual Rhetoric." Rhetoric Society of America, May 2022.

"Same as it Ever Was: Democracy, Violence, and White Supremacy," documentary short produced for NCA panel on January 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, Nov. 2021. Featured interview subject.

"Scholarship as Creative Work/Creative Work as Scholarship," panelist for RSA Remote event sponsored by Rhetoric Society of America, March 2021.

"Archiving History, Archiving Identity: Visual Culture and the Rhetorical Construction of History, Politics, and Subjects," National Communication Association, Dallas, TX, Nov. 2017.

"The Candid Camera and the Changing Visual Values of Political Space." International Society for the History of Rhetoric, London, UK, July 2017.

"Visual Communication Scholar Spotlight: Cara Finnegan." National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA, Nov. 2016.

"Pursuing Grant-Funded Research in Communication: Challenges and Opportunities Across the Discipline." Panel discussion, National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA, Nov. 2016.

"Archival Activism." Panel discussion, National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA, Nov. 2016.

"*Fortune* Magazine and the New Visual Politics of the Candid Camera." Print Matters: Histories of Photography and Illustrated Magazines Workshop, CUNY/Rutgers/New York Public

Library, April 2016.

"On Becoming Professional." Roundtable for graduate students and junior faculty at National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, November 2014.

"Writing a Microhistory of the Verbal Communication Course at the University of Illinois: Archival Lessons and Challenges." Co-authored with Marissa Wallace. Paper presented at National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, November 2014.

"Rhetorical Studies' Origin Stories: How a Local Example Challenges our Histories of the Communication Course." Co-authored with Marissa Wallace. Paper presented at Rhetoric Society of America, San Antonio, TX, May 2014.

"Visualizing the Authentic Lincoln." Paper presented at National Communication Association, Washington, D.C., November 2013.

"Honoring the Life and Work of Diane S. Hope." Paper presented at National Communication Association, Washington, D.C., November 2013.

"Doing Visual Politics in Real Time: Reading the Optics of Now." Invited organizer of "supersession" panel at Rhetoric Society of America conference, Philadelphia, May 2012.

"The Visual Voices of Children in the Early 20th Century Child Labor Debate." Paper presented at the National Communication Association, New Orleans, November 2011.

"Barbie Zelizer on Imagination." Invited panelist for discussion of Zelizer's *About to Die: How News Images Move the Public*. National Communication Association, New Orleans, November 2011.

"Authorizing Obama: Flickr's Presidential Rhetoric." Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, St. Louis, August 2011.

"The Role of Context and Archival Research in the Criticism Course." Panel organizer and presenter, NCA Summer Conference on Teaching Rhetorical Criticism/Critical Inquiry, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, July 2010.

"The Role of Writing in the Criticism Course." Panel organizer and presenter, NCA Summer Conference on Teaching Rhetorical Criticism/Critical Inquiry, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, July 2010.

"The Rhetorical Criticism Course as a Writing Course." Spotlight session on rhetorical criticism pedagogy at Rhetoric Society of America conference, Minneapolis, May 2010.

"The Legacy of Northwestern's Rhetoric Program." Panel participant, Northwestern University Conference to Honor David Zarefsky, Evanston, IL, May 2009.

"Seeing Ghosts: The Mumler Spirit Photography Trial and the Politics of Viewership." Rhetoric Society of America conference, Seattle, WA, May 2008.

"Amateurs Arise: Experiments in Old/New Media." Rhetoric Society of America conference, Seattle, WA, May 2008.

"Performative Traditions of Visual Rhetoric: Farm Security Administration Photography After Hurricane Katrina." National Communication Association convention, Chicago, IL, November 2007.

"The Visual Canary in the Mineshaft of Communication: How Intellectual Property Shapes Intellectual Activity." Participant in roundtable discussion at National Communication Association convention, Chicago, IL, November 2007.

"Speaking of Photography: Visual Culture, Historical Images, and the Problem of Response." Visual Democracy Conference, Center for Global Communication and Culture, Northwestern University, November 2007.

"The Working Child as Productive Citizen: Image Vernaculars of Pro-Child Labor Rhetoric." Rhetoric Society of America conference, Memphis, TN, May 2006.

"Multimodality, Visuality, Publicity." National Communication Association, Boston, MA, November 2005.

"Pursuing Photographic Artifacts." National Communication Association, Boston, MA, November 2005.

"The Working Child as Productive Citizen." Alta Argumentation Conference, Alta, UT, August 2005.

"Reflections on *Picturing Poverty: Print Culture and FSA Photographs*." National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, November 2004.

"Image Vernaculars and Iraq War Photography." Rhetoric Society of America, Austin, TX, May 2004.

"Varieties of Visual Experience." Participant in panel discussion on merging the practice of visual art with scholarship. National Communication Association, Miami, FL, November 2003.

"Borrowed Words, Borrowed Images." National Communication Association, Miami, FL, November 2003.

"Visual Rhetoric and Social Change." Invited organizer for Keynote "Master Panel" on Visual Rhetoric, William Kern Conference on Visual Communication: Rhetorics and Technologies, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY, April 2003.

"Rhetorical Circulation and Visual Politics." Presenter at Keynote "Master Panel" on Visual Rhetoric, William Kern Conference on Visual Communication: Rhetorics and Technologies, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY, April 2003.

"Visual Culture in Action: Visual Rhetorics of Public Affairs." Organizer and co-chair (with Anne T. Demo) of day-long pre-conference seminar exploring intersections of rhetorical studies and visual culture. National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, November 2002.

"Circulation, Visual Culture, and the Public: Is Public Sphere Theory Iconophobic?" Seminar presentation (co-authored with Jiyeon Kang) at "Visual Culture in Action: Visual Rhetorics of Public Affairs" seminar, National Communication Association, November 2002.

"Image Vernaculars: Photography, Anxiety, and Public Argument." International Society for the Study of Argumentation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 2002.

"What is the Place of Rhetorical History in Visual Rhetoric?" Rhetoric Society of America, Las Vegas, NV, May 2002.

"Visual Rhetoric and Rhetorical History: Exploring the Connections," organizer and presenter for roundtable discussion. National Communication Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2001.

"Progressive 'Activism' vs. New Deal 'Propaganda': Re-Reading the Photographic Practices of Dorothea Lange." National Communication Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2001.

"Dewey in Context," invited presenter for roundtable discussion, "Radicalizing the Roots of Public Sphere Studies: John Dewey in the Twenty-First Century." National Communication Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2001.

"The Lincoln Daguerreotype Controversy: Rhetorics of Recognition and Identification in Digital Culture." Visual Communication: Rhetorics and Technologies conference at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY, March 2001.

"The Lincoln Daguerreotype Controversy." National Communication Association, Seattle, WA, November 2000.

"Not Intended for Framing: Documentary as Art in *U. S. Camera*." Rhetoric Society of America, Washington, DC, May 2000.

"Visual Rhetorics and the Myth of the Migrant: The FSA Visualizes 'The Real Joads'." National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, November 1999.

"Social Engineering and Photographic Representation: Resistance of the Icon to the Logos in *Survey Graphic*." Top Three Paper in American Studies Division, National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, November 1999.

"Images in Controversy: 'Wooden Nickel Pictures' and Photographic Representation in the Depression." Top Three Paper in Argumentation and Forensics Division, National Communication Association, New York, NY, November 1998.

"Photography and Emotion: An Analysis of Dorothea Lange's 'Migrant Mother'." National Communication Association, New York, NY, November 1998.

"Articulating the Between-Space: Photography and Mimesis." National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, November 1997.

"What If Your Wilderness Is My Home? The Boundary Waters Controversy." Speech Communication Association, San Diego, CA, November 1996.

"Unity in Diversity: Official English Redefines America." Speech Communication Association, San Diego, CA, November 1996.

"Threads of Charity: The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt in a Comic Frame." Speech Communication Association, San Antonio, TX, November 1995.

"Discourses of Charity: Reclaiming Burke's Comic Frame." Eastern Communication Association, Pittsburgh, PA, April 1995.

"A Performance of Mourning: The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt as Personal Narrative." Western States Communication Association, Portland, OR, February 1995.

"Production for Reproduction: Grunge, Benjamin and the Challenge to Popular Culture." Eastern Communication Association, Washington, DC, April 1994.

Teaching

Teaching and Service Awards and Honors

LAS COVID Impact Award, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 2021.

Faculty Mentoring Award, Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association, 2017.

LAS Faculty Fellow, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teaching Academy (LASTA), University of Illinois, 2009-2010.

Campus Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, University of Illinois, 2005-06.

Dean's Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois, 2005-06.

James A. Hagan Teaching Fellow, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois, 2004-2005. $3000.00 grant for course development.

Alumni Discretionary Fund Award, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois, 2003-2004. $1000.00 award for exceptional service to the College.

"List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students," University of Illinois. Every semester eligible since joining the faculty in Spring 1999.

Teaching Assistant Fellow, Searle Center for Teaching Excellence, Northwestern University, 1997-98.

Courses Taught at the University of Illinois

Graduate Courses
Rhetoric in Context
Writing Rhetorical Histories
Current Issues in Rhetorical Theory
The Problem of the Public
Concepts in Visual Rhetoric
Advanced Historical and Critical Methods
Visual Politics of U.S. Public Culture
Visual Rhetoric: The Farm Security Administration Photography Project
Rhetorics of Sight, Sound, and Sense
Writing in Graduate School
Picturing Health (online Health Communication master's program)
Introduction to Communication Graduate Study

Combined Graduate/Undergraduate "Bridge" Courses
Gender and Rhetoric (CMN 450)
Rhetorical Criticism (CMN 423)

Undergraduate Courses
Photography and Public Life (CMN 396; CHP 396: Campus Honors program section)
Visual Politics (CMN 340)
Visual Politics online (CMN 340 – course designer)
Oral and Written Communication I & II (CMN 111-112)
Art History (History of Photography), Odyssey Project (Spring 2011)

Plus various independent study courses at graduate and undergraduate level

Courses Taught at Northwestern University (1995-1998)

The New Rhetoric and the Rhetorical Turn (Comm E25): Teaching assistant
Contemporary Issues in Freedom of Speech (Comm C30-1): Teaching assistant
Public Speaking (GSP A02): Sole instructor

Courses Taught at the University of Maine (1993-95)

Fundamentals of Public Communication (SPC 103): Sole instructor

Interdisciplinary Campus Engagement at the University of Illinois

"Photography and U.S. Presidents Throughout History," Campus Honors Program Scholar Adventurers Series, Nov. 2024.

Panelist, University of Illinois Press Digital Marketing Symposium, April 2021.

Co-moderator, "*RBG*: Virtual Conversation with the Filmmakers," Women and Gender in Global Perspectives program panel discussion about Ruth Bader Ginsburg documentary with directors Julie Cohen and Betsy West, Feb. 2021.

Moderator, “Publishing the Second Book” panel, University of Illinois Press symposium, Feb. 2020.

“History of Writing and Speaking Courses at Illinois.” With Kelly Ritter. Center for Writing Studies Brownbag, March 2018.

“Photographing George Washington: Presidents, Portrait Photography, and the Building of National Memory.” Center for Advanced Study symposium, April 2016.

Art History instructor, Odyssey Project, Spring 2011.

Moderator, Keynote Session (featuring Marita Sturken), Memory and the Visual Conference, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, April 2011.

“The Flickr President: The Visual Politics of the Obama White House.” Modern Art Colloquium, School of Art and Design, April 2011.

Rhetorical Studies Reading Group, sponsored and funded by Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities. Co-founder 2006-07; participant/co-leader 2006-2011.

Director, “Lincoln’s Rhetorical Worlds” Speaker Series, Fall 2008-Fall 2009. PI on grant funded by Lincoln Bicentennial Committee. Grant amount: $14,750.00.

“Election 2008: Rhetoric and Politics.” Organizer/moderator for Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities panel, October 2008.

“The Mumler Spirit Photographs Trial and the Sanctioning of Imagination.” Modern Art Colloquium, School of Art and Design, February 2008.

“FSA Photography After Hurricane Katrina.” Department of Speech Communication Colloquium, November 2007.

American Studies Working Group, sponsored by the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, 2000-2005. Co-founder.

“Recognizing Lincoln: Image Vernaculars in Nineteenth Century Visual Culture.” Center for Writing Studies Brown Bag Series, December 2004.

“Image Vernaculars: A Rhetorical History of Photographic Evidence.” Modern Art Colloquium, School of Art and Design, April 2004.

“Recognizing Lincoln: Image Vernaculars in Nineteenth Century Visual Culture.” American Studies Working Group, April 2004.

Visual Culture Reading Group, sponsored by the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, 2001-2002. Co-founder.

“Picturing Poverty: Print Culture and FSA Photographs.” Presentation to Negotiating Text and the Arts Reading Group, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, March 2004.

"Photography and Print Culture: The Case of the FSA." Modern Art Colloquium, School of Art and Design, March 2002.

"Audience(s) In and Around *The Domain of Images*." Exploring *The Domain of Images* Symposium, Center for Advanced Study, April 2001.

Center for Advanced Study, "Initiative on *The Domain of Images*," Spring 2001.

Service

Federal Agency Service

Proposal reviewer, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Spring 2025.

Faculty Fellowship Review Panel (round 2), National Endowment for the Humanities (American Literature and Studies panel), Summer 2021.

Summer Stipend Review Panel (round 1), National Endowment for the Humanities (Communication, Media, Rhetoric & Language), Fall 2019.

Disciplinary Service

External Department Reviewer

Department of Communication Studies, Colorado State University, 2019

Promotion and Tenure Reviewing

External reviewer for tenure and promotion case (doctoral institution), 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021 (2), 2023, 2025

External reviewer for promotion to full professor case (doctoral institution), 2017 (2), 2018, 2019 (2), 2022, 2025 (3)

External reviewer for promotion to full professor case (liberal arts institution), 2013, 2018, 2023.

External reviewer for tenure and promotion case (liberal arts institution), 2012, 2015, 2018, 2021.

External reviewer for tenure and promotion case (research/MA institution), 2012, 2015, 2019.

Editorial Service

Advisory Board, Penn State University Press Troubling Democracy series

Advisory Board, Penn State University Press Transdisciplinary Rhetoric series

Advisory Board, University Press of Mississippi Race, Rhetoric, and Media series

Book review editor, Quarterly Journal of Speech, 2010-2013.

Co-editor, "Lincoln's Rhetorical Worlds," special issue of Rhetoric & Public Affairs, Fall 2010.

Editorial Board, Rhetoric & Public Affairs, 2008-present.

Editorial Board, Rhetoric Society Quarterly, 2016-2021.

Editorial Board, Rhetoric Review, 2008-2014.

Editorial Board, Quarterly Journal of Speech, 2005-2010; 2017-present.

Editorial Board, Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies, 2006-2008.

Editorial Board, Communication Studies, 2004-2006.

Reviewer, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2005-2006.

Textbook reviewer, 1999-2009. Allyn and Bacon; Bedford/St. Martin's; Oxford; McGraw-Hill.

Invited Manuscript Reviewer

International Journal of Communication, 2014
Academy of Management Review, 2013
Advances in the History of Rhetoric, 2011
Communication Theory, 2010
Visual Communication Quarterly, 2008, 2020
Western Journal of Communication, 2008, 2009
Philosophy and Rhetoric, 2005
Rhetoric & Public Affairs, 2005, 2006, 2007
Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies, 2005
Rhetorica Scandinavia, 2005
Journal of American History, 2005-2006, 2013
Rhetoric Society Quarterly, 2004, 2010
Argumentation and Advocacy, 2002
Presidential Studies Quarterly, 2001, 2008, 2017
Communication Review, 2001
Southern Communication Journal, 1998, 2017, 2021
College English, 2016
Communication Quarterly, 2017
Photography and Culture, 2020, 2023
Journal for the History of Rhetoric, 2023
Lehigh University Press, 2014 (book manuscript)
Bloomsbury Press (UK), 2014 (book proposal), 2025 (book manuscript)
University of Alabama Press, 2011 (book proposal)
University of South Carolina Press, 2011 (book proposal)
University of Illinois Press, 2008, 2009, 2015 (book manuscripts)
Southern Illinois University Press, 2008 (book manuscript)
University of Copenhagen, 2009 (book manuscript)

Ohio State University Press, 2018 (book manuscript)
University of Texas Press, 2018 (book manuscript), 2024 (blurb)
University of California Press, 2024 (blurb)

Professional Organization Service

National Communication Association

Publications Council, 2018-20
Midcareer Scholar's Writing Retreat, co-facilitator, 2018
Judge, James L. Golden Student Essay in Rhetoric Award, 2014
Nominating Committee, 2010-2011
Co-organizer, NCA Summer 2010 Conference on Criticism Pedagogy, 2008-2010
Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division
Immediate Past Chair, 2010-2011
Chair, 2009-2010
Vice Chair, 2008-09 (planned 2008 convention program)
Vice Chair-Elect, 2006-07
Nominating Committee (chair, 2000; member, 2005)
Awards Committee (chair, 2004; member, 2002-2003)
Paper Reviewer, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011
Panel Chair, 2000
Respondent, 2004, 2007, 2009
Public Address Division
Nichols Award Committee, 2010
Chair, Winans-Wichelns Book Award Committee, 2005
Campbell-Benson Prize Committee, 2016-18 (chair 2018)
Respondent, 2014
American Studies Commission: Paper Reviewer, 1999, 2000
Environmental Studies Commission: Panel Chair, 2002
Argumentation and Forensics Division: Respondent, 2006
Visual Communication Division
Awards Committee member, 2004
Respondent, 2004, 2006, 2007
Panel Chair, 2004, 2005
Paper Reviewer, 2006
Assistant Conference Coordinator, Doctoral Honors Conference, 1998

Rhetoric Society of America

Co-organizer, Visual Rhetoric Mini-Institute, 2020 RSA Conference (cancelled-COVID)
Co-Director, 2016 RSA Conference, Atlanta (2014-2016)
Board of Directors, 2010-2013 (elected by full membership)
Associate Director, 2013 RSA Institute at University of Kansas
Workshop Co-Leader (with Anne Demo), RSA Institute, June 2013
Chair, RSA Awards Committee, 2010-2012
Nominating Committee, 2011
Rhetoric Society Quarterly editor search committee, 2010
Senior Scholar, Research Network, 2010 and 2012 RSA conferences
Hauser Award (Top Student Paper) committee, 2010
Panel Chair, 2000, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014

Panel Respondent, 2006, 2010
Session organizer for RSA panel slot at NCA, 2017
Conference submission reviewer, 2014, 2018

Midwest Winter Workshop, 2006-14: speaker and faculty mentor,
keynote speaker 2020, panelist 2024

University of Illinois Service

University System

University Scholars Selection Committee and Subcommittee Chair, 2019-20, 2020-21

Featured Researcher, Board of Trustees meeting, Sept. 2018

Participant, Board of Trustees Retreat, July 2017

Search Committee, Director of University of Illinois Press, 2015

Urbana-Champaign Campus

Research Design Advisor, RAPD (Research and Project Development), Office of Vice Chancellor for Research, 2025-present

Diversity and Equity in Promotion and Tenure Workshop Leader, Provost's Office and College of LAS, 2022-present

Center for Social and Behavioral Sciences Steering Committee, 2023-25

Provost's Public Engagement Task Force, 2019-20, Fall 2020

HRI/Mellon Interseminars Working Group, Steering Committee, Future Committee 2018-21, 2024-25

NEH Summer Stipends campus-level review, 2024

University of Illinois Alumni Association, invited speaker for "Alumni College" virtual event, Feb. 2021. Presented a virtual talk, "Photographic Presidents: How Photography and the Presidency Grew Up Together."

Emerging Areas in the Humanities Strategic Plan Task Force, 2017-18

National/International Scholarships Program, Beinecke scholarship application review committee, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Campus Strategic Plan faculty-staff workshop, Dec. 2017

Presenter, NEH Fellowship Information Session, Office of Vice Chancellor for Research, 2017, 2022

Search Committee, Director of Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, 2015.

Advisory Committee, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (IPRH), 2009-2011.

Stewarding Excellence, Chancellor's Project Team (review of Graduate College), 2010.

Director, CMN 111-112: Oral and Written Communication, 1999-2009.

Campus representative to the State of Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education Communication panel, 2010-2011.

Occasional reviewer of proposals to Campus Research Board.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

LAS Dean Search Committee, 2020-21 (appointed)

LAS COVID Fall Semester Planning Committee, 2021 (appointed)

LAS Executive Committee, 2018-20 (elected)

LAS Policy Development Committee, 2017-18 (appointed)

Department of Spanish, LAS, ad hoc committee for faculty salary equity review, March-April 2018

Advisory Board, Trowbridge Initiative in American Cultures, 2017-20

Chair, Spanish and Portuguese Department Head Evaluation Committee, 2015-16.

Faculty Presenter for New Student Recruitment events, 2015, 2016, 2018.

Art in Architecture Committee for Lincoln Hall, 2012-2014.

Executive Committee, Center for Writing Studies, multiple years over time (most recently 2021-22)

Graduate Programs Committee, Center for Writing Studies, 2003-present

Faculty Fellow, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teaching Academy, 2009-2010.

Search Committee for Director of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teaching Academy (LASTA), 2009.

Committee on Committees, 2008-2010.

Committee for Review of Head of Writing Studies, Spring 2008.

Humanities Council Scholarship and Honors Committee, 2004-2006.

Subcommittee on Oral Assessment, Center for Writing Studies, December 2000.

Graduate College

Graduate College Leadership Award committee, 2018

Graduate College Image of Research Award committee, 2015, 2016, 2018

Interim Associate Dean, January-August 2015. Areas of emphasis: Humanities and arts courses, programs, and policy; interdisciplinary initiatives; training for directors of graduate study and department contacts; faculty mentoring of graduate students.

Graduate College Conversations on the Humanities group, 2013-14.

Graduate College Mentoring Workshop, Participant/Moderator, Spring 2011.

"Scholarly Writing as Creative Work," workshop for Graduate College Career Services Office, 2004-2008.

School of Art and Design

Faculty Juror, Arena Artium (graduate student paper competition), College of Fine and Applied Arts, Spring 2004.

Department of Communication

Associate Head, 2015-2022 (appointed; on leave during 2016-17). Duties included: coordinating undergraduate instruction (e.g., class schedule, instructional assignments, instructional budget), curricular review, advising the Head on personnel, budget, and curricular matters, serving ex officio on department advisory committee, overseeing intra-department communication and social media activity, participating in staff searches, coordinating department newsletters.

Director of Graduate Studies, 2010-2014 (appointed).

Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, 2007-2011 (appointed).

Committee Work

Advisory committee, 2005-2006; 2007-2009 (elected); 2016, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 (ex-officio), 2023-25 (elected)

Diversity/Equity working group, 2008 (appointed); 2021 (ex-officio)

Faculty search committee, 2004-05; 2007-08; 2008-09; 2009-10; 2010-2011, 2019 (chair), 2022 (chair), 2023 (chair), 2024 (chair)

Academic advisor search committee, 2018 (chair), 2021 (chair)

Graduate Admissions and Financial Aid committee, 2001-2003 (appointed); 2010-2014 (chair).

Merger committee, 2006 (appointed).

Illini Tradition Awards committee, 2000-2001; 2009-2010; 2017-18 (appointed); chair 2018-19.

Capricious Grading committee, 1999-2000; 2005-2006; 2009-2010 (elected).

Ad hoc committee on the undergraduate curriculum, 2005-2006; 2007-08 (appointed).

Colloquium committee, 2002-2004; 2024-25 (appointed).

Co-organizer (with graduate student leads) of annual Undergraduate Research Spotlight, 2021, 2022

Teaching observations for third-year review, tenure, and promotion cases, 2007-present

Research and teaching narrative drafts for tenure-track and specialized faculty promotion cases, 2012-present

Official department mentor to junior faculty colleagues, 2014-present.

Presenter, professional development sessions for graduate students, 2001-present

Advising/Mentoring (all at University of Illinois)

Doctoral advising (current students)
Mackenzie Caddell, Communication
Erica Kolson, Communication
Kathleen Murphy, Communication

Doctoral advising (former students)
Pamela Axtman-Barker, Ph.D., Communication, 2023
Richard Besel, Ph.D., Speech Communication, 2007
Troy Cooper, Ph.D., Communication, 2014
Daniel DeVinney, Ph.D., Communication, 2023
Katie Irwin, Ph.D., Communication, 2017
Robin Jensen, Ph.D., Speech Communication, 2007
Jennifer Jones Barbour, Ph.D., Speech Communication, 2006
Jiyeon Kang, Ph.D., Communication, 2009
Jillian Klean-Zwilling, Ph.D., Communication, 2017
Anita Mixon, Ph.D., Communication, 2017
John Moist, Ph.D., Communication, 2022
Laura Stengrim, Ph.D., Communication, 2016 (co-advisor)
Gabriela Tscholl, Ph.D., Communication, 2024

Doctoral committees (current students)
Andrew Bowman, English/Writing Studies (ABD)
Sharayah Cochran, Art History (ABD)
Victoria Fields, Communication (ABD)

Michael Klajbor, Communication (ABD)
Ketan Krishna, Media and Cinema Studies (ABD)
Tanya Melendez, Communication (ABD)
Maggie Murphy, Communication

Doctoral committees (former students)

Donovan Bisbee, Ph.D., Communication, 2020
Katie Bruner, Ph.D., Communication, 2021
George Boone, Ph.D., Communication, 2015
Peter Campbell, Ph.D., Communication, 2013
Gisela Carbonell-Coll, Ph.D., Art History, 2009
Kevin Coe, Ph.D., Speech Communication, 2008
Donovan Conley, Ph.D., Speech Communication, 2004
Ana Lisa Eberline, Ph.D., Communication, 2025
Jeremy Engels, Ph.D., Speech Communication, 2006
Mattea Garcia, Ph.D., Communication, 2011
Wallace Golding, Ph.D., Communication, 2025
Gregory Goodale, Ph.D., Speech Communication, 2007
Ian Hill, Ph.D., Communication, 2012
José Izaguirre, Ph.D., Communication, 2020
Kathleen Lamp, Ph.D., Communication, 2009
Mark LaVoie, Ph.D., Communication, 2016
Jennifer Mercieca, Ph.D., Speech Communication, 2003
Sabrina Marsh, Ph.D., Communication, 2012
Christa Olson, Ph.D., English/Writing Studies, 2010
Vincent Pham, Ph.D., Communication, 2011
James Purdy, Ph.D., English/Writing Studies, 2006
Pamela Saunders, Ph.D., English/Writing Studies, 2017
Lauren Seitz, Ph.D. Communication, 2025
Rohini Singh, Ph.D., Communication, 2016
Jonathan Stone, Ph.D., English/Writing Studies, 2015
Allwyn Tellis, Ph.D., Speech Communication, 2006
Adam Thomas, Ph.D., Art History, 2014
David Tokarz, Ph.D., Communication, 2019
Courtney Caudle Travers, Ph.D., Communication, 2014
Marissa Lowe Wallace, Ph.D., Communication, 2016
Nikki Weickum, Ph.D., Communication, 2019

Master's program advising (former students)

Lauren Buisker, M.A., Communication, 2021
Katie Bruner, M.A., Communication, 2015
Troy Cooper, M.A., Speech Communication, 2006
Kate Ditewig-Morris, M.A., Communication, 2014
Robin Jensen, M.A., Speech Communication, 2003
Daniel Larson, M.A., Speech Communication, 2003
Sarah Mannone, M.A., Speech Communication, 2006
Paul McKean, M.A., Communication, 2013
Vincent Pham, M.A., Speech Communication, 2006
Allison Vernon, M.A., Communication, 2021
Cuixia Zhu, M.A., Communication, 2015

Master's exam committees (former students)
- Elizabeth Aronson, M.A., Speech Communication, 2006
- Donovan Bisbee, M.A., Communication, 2014
- Nicole Campbell, M.A., Communication, 2021
- Peter Campbell, M.A., Speech Communication, 2008
- Jeremy Engels, M.A., Speech Communication, 2004
- Victoria Fields, M.A., Communication, 2021
- Mattea Garcia, M.A., Speech Communication, 2006
- Wallace Golding, M.A., Communication, 2020
- Michelle Hals, M.A., Speech Communication, 2001
- Abby Miller Harmon, M.A., Speech Communication, 2007
- Kimberlyn Harrison, M.A., Communication, 2021
- Adrienne Hendee, M.A., Speech Communication, 2006
- Jaime Hough, M.A., Communication, 2011
- Marissa Lowe, M.A., Communication, 2011
- Sabrina Marsh, M.A., Speech Communication, 2008
- Steven Pedigo, M.A., Speech Communication, 2003
- Matt Pitchford, M.A., Communication, 2014
- Mrittika Rahman, M.A., Communication, 2024
- Rachel Reon, M.A., Communication, 2018
- Sara Roncero-Menendez, M.A., Communication, 2016
- Sarah Simeziane, M.A., Communication, 2010
- Rohini Singh, M.A., Communication, 2011
- David Tokarz, M.A., Communication, 2013

Health Communication Online Master's Program Capstone Advisor
- Kelley Confer, 2023
- Angela Simpson, 2021

Undergraduate students
- Aerian Brown, internship sponsor, 2010
- Meagan Brown, internship sponsor, 2010
- Ryan Croke, research assistantship, 2004
- Stephanie Florence, internship sponsor, 2009
- Sara Haley, teaching assistantship, 2000
- Adrienne Hendee, research assistantship, 2004
- Andrea Kowalisyn, honors thesis, 2010
- Katherine Kuhn, honors thesis, 2011
- Linda Lee, teaching assistantship, 2000
- Chad Warner, senior capstone project advisor, 2009
- Ann White, research assistantship, 2010-2011
- Ann White, teaching assistantship, 2009
- Reginald Wynne, internship sponsor, 2010

Public Engagement, Media Commentary, and Creative Work

Quoted in Huffington Post, ""Who's Actually Into Trump's 'Buff Guy" AI Propaganda? Experts Have Theories," Sept. 10, 2025.

Quoted in "Trump Ditches the American Flag for His Stern New Portrait," Fast Company, June 4, 2025.

Quoted in "A Giant Trump Photo Overlooks the National Mall; Not Everyone is Pleased," *Washington Post*, May 22, 2025.

Interviewed by National Public Radio for "A gold-framed Trump Mug Shot is Hanging Just Outside the Oval Office," Feb. 20, 2025.

Reading the Pictures Election 2024 Salon, International Center of Photography, Oct. 2024.

Interviewed for State Department article, "U.S. Presidents Through the Camera's Lens," ShareAmerica, Feb. 2024.

Panelist, "Speaking To The People," BBC Radio documentary, Nov. 2023.

Interviewed for Illinois Public Media's *The 21st Show* on "How Trump's Mug Shot is Changing Photography of Presidents," Sept. 5, 2023.

Cara Finnegan, "Trump Joins George Washington, John Quincy Adams, and Barack Obama," guest essay, *New York Times*, Aug. 30. 2023.

Quoted in Julian Kettl, "On the Line: Photo historian Cara Finnegan explains what the image of Donald Trump's call to Marjorie Taylor Greene reveals about contemporary US Politics." Published online and in print (in German) in *Datum* magazine (Vienna), Feb. 2023.

Scholarly consultant and on-camera interview subject for Episode 1 of PBS Online documentary,"The Bigger Picture: Did This Photo Make Lincoln President?" Jan-April, Sept. 2022.

Selection jury, Ocean Visuals, a global photography competition sponsored by Climate Visuals, a non-profit dedicated to creating an evidence-based, diverse, impactful digital library of climate imagery, Sept.-Oct. 2022.

Producer and co-host of Chatting the Pictures, a biweekly webcast that analyzes newsphotos of the week in conjunction with the non-profit media literacy site Reading the Pictures. Multiple episodes may be found at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLU6B8fbFseBjjXgpZ3qPWheD0Ookp2gss. January 2018-present, approximately 330 video discussions to date.

Presidents' Day Book Talk, The Literary (Champaign, IL), Feb. 2022.

Featured guest to discuss "Presidents and Photographic History," The 21st (Illinois Public Media), Feb. 2022.

Quoted in Sophie Haigney, "How the Biden Presidency Became a Cultural Black Hole," Politico, Jan. 2022, https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2022/01/30/biden-aesthetics presidents-bland-00003265

Podcast interviews about *Photographic Presidents: Making History from Daguerreotype to Digital*: History Unplugged; This American President; New Books Network; Plodding Through the Presidents, May-September 2021.

Book Launch Event: Cara Finnegan in Conversation with Michael Shaw, University of Illinois Press, May 2021

Author Q&As for *Photographic Presidents*:

> Deborah Kalb, "Author Q&A: Cara Finnegan," May 19, 2021, https://deborahkalbbooks.blogspot.com/2021/05/q-with-cara-finnegan.html
>
> Debra Domal, "Pondering Presidential Photography With Cara Finnegan," Smile Politely, June 3, 2021. https://www.smilepolitely.com/culture/pondering_presidential_photography_with_cara_finnegan/

Popular media reviews of *Photographic Presidents*:

> Pete Souza, Instagram Review, May 28, 2021, https://www.instagram.com/p/CPat84rlD4J/.
>
> Air Mail, "Short List: Books to Read This Week," June 23, 2021, https://airmail.news/books/2021/6/short-list-8.
>
> Debra Domal, "Photographic Presidents Deftly Explores Changing Visual Values of the Presidency," Smile Politely, June 30, 2021, https://www.smilepolitely.com/culture/photographic_presidents_deftly_explores_the_changing_visual_values_of_the/.
>
> PetaPixel, "Great Reads on Photography," Aug. 22, 2021, https://petapixel.com/2021/08/22/great-reads-in-photography-august-22-2021/.

Featured guest, "Photography and the Presidents," on The Roundtable Perspective, Lakeshore PBS, June 4, 2021.

Featured guest to discuss *Photographic Presidents*, Ci-Living, WCIA-TV, May 2021.

Featured guest to discuss *Photographic Presidents*, WDWS radio, May 2021.

Quoted in *The Independent (UK)*: Nathan Place, "Biden and Harris Keep Posting the Same Photo; Here's Why," *The Independent (UK)*, March 17, 2021.

Cara Finnegan, "Photography Has Always Needed the Presidents," History News Network, Feb. 28, 2021. https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/179364.

Research featured in Craig Chamberlain, "New History of Photography Focuses on Presidents," University of Illinois News Bureau, Feb. 9, 2021. https://news.illinois.edu/view/6367/2091437586.

Cara Finnegan, "Capitol Artwork a Symbolic Participant in Trump White Supremacist Riot,"Reading the Pictures, Jan. 10, 2021. https://www.readingthepictures.org/2021/01/capitol-art-trump-riot/.

"News Photography Expanded: Reading the Pictures with Michael Shaw and Cara Finnegan,"part of the (virtual) Photo Vogue Festival in Milan, Italy, sponsored by Italian *Vogue* magazine. Nov. 2020.

Moderator, panel discussion: "Documenting History: Protests, Ethics, and the Photograph," International Center of Photography, New York City, July 2020.

Quoted in *New York Times*: Julia Jacobs, "Painter Brushes Trump Into Seat at Exclusive Club," *New York Times*, Oct. 17, 2018. https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/17/us/trump-painting-republicans.html

"The Timeless Lessons of Photography." LAS News, November 2017. http://www.las.illinois.edu/news/article/?id=23981&key=/news/2017/lasexperts finnegan17/.

"Visual Politics of Refugee Photography." Workshop for United Minority Relief (Univ. Illinois Student Group)'s Refugee Awareness Week, April 25, 2017.

"Key Pictures from Trump's First 100 Days." Panelist for Reading the Pictures Salon, Apr. 7, 2017. Video available at: http://www.readingthepictures.org/2017/04/trump 100-days-salon/.

Interviewed for "Melania Trump's Official Portrait Was Released." *Boston Globe*. April 4, 2017. https://www.bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/2017/04/04/the-white-house released-official-photo-first-lady-what-with-crossed arms/6jttQ65PsZfWEaoF83n9ON/story.html.

Interviewed for "What Melania Trump's Official Portrait Says About the First Lady." *BBC Newsbeat*. April 4, 2017. http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/39494832/what melania-trumps-official-portrait-says-about-the-new-first-lady

Quoted in "What Melania Trump's Portrait Says About Her." *News.Com Australia*. April 5, 2017. http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/news-life/what-melaniatrumps-portrait-says-about-her-as-petition-calls-for-her-to-move-to-the-white house/news-story/a73cb3575b8b52de6f45f95eeb18455a.

Interviewed for Damien Leloup, "Is Zuckerberg Appearing in the Image of a Presidential Candidate?" Le Monde, March 2, 2017.

"Presidential Art," WCIA-TV Morning Show, Feb. 21, 2017. Available at: http://www.illinoishomepage.net/the-morning-show/presidential-art/660708716

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Moderator, Reading the Pictures (formerly BagNews) Salon, 2008-2012, 2014-present. Real-time, online discussion of visual politics and news images. Archived at: http://www.readingthepictures.org/salon. Topics included Campaign 2008, Michelle Obama, Haiti Earthquake, Gulf Coast Oil Spill, Capture of Bin Laden, Occupy Wall Street, White House Visual Access, Ukraine, Surveillance Culture, Migrant Crisis, Campaign 2016.

Research featured in Craig Chamberlain, "Inside View of White House Online Is Not What It Seems," Inside Illinois, March 4, 2010: 1, 5. See also online narrated slideshow at http://news.illinois.edu/news/10/0304photos.html.

Coordinator, "Lincoln's Rhetorical Worlds" Speaker Series, University of Illinois, Fall 2008-Fall 2009. PI on grant funded by University of Illinois Lincoln Bicentennial Committee. Grant amount: $14,750.00.

John R. Finnegan, Sr. and Cara A. Finnegan, "Birth of a Resort: The Chase Hotel and the Rise of Lakeside Tourism." Minnesota History 61.6 (Summer 2009): 272-283.

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Co-curator, "More than One: New Contemporary Prints and Multiples." Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery, 2007. Exhibition dates: October 4 – December 7, 2007.

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Featured in "Picturing Poverty: Magazines' Editorial Agendas Shaped American Reactions to Photos of the Great Depression." LAS News, University of Illinois College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, June 2005.

Featured guest on "Odyssey," nationally-syndicated public radio program produced by Chicago Public Radio. Program spotlighted my research on FSA photography in a one-hour discussion of "Photography and the Depression," Dec. 22, 2004.

Cara Finnegan, "The Rhetoric of Election 2004: Enthymeme." The Public-I, November 2004, 4.

Interviewed for "Politicians Run Risk of Using 9/11 for Votes," by Thad Reuter, Northwest Herald (suburban Chicago daily), September 11, 2004.

Interviewed for "Gruesome Iraq Images Could Shake U.S. Opinion," by Alan Elsner, Reuters News Service, April 1, 2004. Stories based upon the Reuters story appeared in USA Today ("In USA, Grisly Images Speak a Thousand Words," by Rick Hampton, April 2, 2004, p. 5A), Forbes.com, Reuters UK, ABC.com and in newspapers in the Philippines, Pakistan, and New Zealand.

Interviewed for the CBS radio network on impact of images of attacks on U.S. civilians in Iraq, April 1, 2004. Story broadcast on the national news feed to affiliates across the United States.

Interviewed on "Live with Larry Conners," KMOX radio, St. Louis, on impact of images of attacks on U.S. civilians in Iraq, April 1, 2004.

Interviewed for "Internet Offers Historians a New Gateway to the Past," by Delia M. Rios, Newhouse News Service, June 15, 2001.

Cara A. Finnegan, "Social Welfare and Visual Politics: The Story of *Survey Graphic*." Hypertext feature created with Thomas Thurston for the New Deal Network. http://newdeal.feri.org/sg/, Summer 2000. In 2013, this feature was named to a list of "101 Greatest Sites for Social Workers" by MSWOnlinePrograms.org.

Current Professional Work Outside the University

Book Coach at Cara Finnegan Book Coaching, 2021-present. Certified by Author Accelerator to coach fiction and memoir.

Editor-at-large/Affiliate, Reading the Pictures, 2008-present.

Current Membership in Professional Organizations

National Communication Association
Rhetoric Society of America
Organization of American Historians
Authors Guild
Women's Fiction Writers Association