

D. Leland Fecher

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EDUCATION

M.A. Dual focus in Communication Liberal Arts and Sciences; Organizational and Professional Communication Development, Ball State University (2012)

Thesis Title: Looking Past the Action: A Study of the Effect of Structure on Video Game Communities

Thesis Committee: Dr. Kristen McCauliff (Chair), Dr. Angela Day, Dr. Glen Stamp

B.S. Organizational Communication, Ball State University, Cum Laude, Honors Degree (2009)

Honors Thesis Title: Listening in Action

Teaching Experience

- **Lecturer (Clemson University):** Introduction to Human Communication, (2012-present). Responsible for lecturing to 250 students as well as teaching up to four lab sections associated with the lecture. Labs include activities, speeches, and discussions while lectures focus on imparting a variety of information on the several different types of communication people encounter every day. Duties include preparing four lessons a week for class, grading, classroom management, speech critiquing, advising, and helping newer students to integrate into University life and classes.
 - o Public Speaking (2013-2015). Responsible for lecturing to a class of 15-20 students, including some sections that were part of an early success initiative incoming freshmen. This situation involved more personal contact with students than the lecture/lab format, which allowed students to receive more individualized help.
 - o Public Speaking, Internet-Hybrid Class (2013, 2015). Similar responsibilities as Introduction to Human Communication in an online setting, with more focus specifically on public speaking techniques. Class would meet once a week for speeches and some lecturing of material. Course assignments and discussions were conducted via BlackBoard academic software.

- **Instructor (Ball State University):** Basic Communication Course, (2009-2012). Responsible for teaching three sections, 20 students per section. Duties include preparing two lessons a week for class, answering student questions, leading discussions, presenting activities, grading students' written and oral work, and meeting with students for extra help during office hours.
- **Guest Lecturer (Ball State University):** Basic Communication Large Lecture Course, "Public Speaking in Group Situations," (2011-2012). Lectured 3 sections over the course of one day, approximately 400 students per section. This included the preparation of a large lecture that addressed the overall content from a week of study in smaller lab sections, as well as the presentation of material to a large audience.
- **Teaching Assistant and Lecturer (Ball State University):** Persuasion, "Social Judgment Theory and Balance Theory," "Nonverbal Deception Detection," "Persuasion and the Internet," (2009-2010) Periodically lectured 1 section, 70-100 students per semester. Duties included preparing lectures to cover content as detailed by the professor of the class. Lectures included presenting theoretical concepts relevant to the class, special topics in persuasion, and a weekly discussion on persuasion in the current media.
 - o Teaching assistant for professor. Duties included engaging the class in a discussion of persuasion in the news and media once a week, taking notes for students that provided excused absences, grading essay exams, and performing clerical duties for the maintenance and organization of the class

AWARDS AND HONORS

Dining and Residence Hall Department "Difference Maker" (2013): Clemson University

Outstanding Graduate Student (2011-2012): Ball State University

Outstanding Graduate Researcher (2011-2012): Ball State University

Top Paper Panel in Theater and Performance Studies (2012): Central States Communication Conference.

Outstanding Graduate Colleague (2010-2011): Ball State University

Communication International Study Scholarship (2010): Ball State University

RESEARCH

Publications

Fecher, D. L. (2012). Gender Issues, Fighting Games, and Progress: Finding a Place for a Genderless Character in *Tekken 6*. *Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture*, 12(2). http://reconstruction.eserver.org/122/Fecher_Leland.shtml

Conference Presentations

G.I.F.T.S Panel, Promoting Advocacy in the Basic Courses. *Presented at the 2014 Carolinas Communication Association, Greenville, SC.*

Castillo, R. & **Fecher, D.L.** (2013) "Feminist Ryan Gosling, Meet Hillary": Reading Images In/Out of Context in the Age of Internet EnthYMEMEs. *Paper presented at the 2013 National Communication Association Conference, Washington, D.C.*

Fecher, D.L. (2012), The Mass Effects of *Mass Effect*: A Fantasy Theme Analysis of the Video Game Community amidst Controversy. *Paper presented at the 2012 Central States Communication Association Conference, Cleveland, OH.*

Fecher, D.L. (2012) Gender Issues, Fighting Games, and Progress: An Analysis of a Genderless Character in *Tekken 6*. *Paper presented at the 2012 Central States Communication Association Conference, Cleveland, OH.*

Fecher, D.L. (2012). An Exploration of the Identity of "Gamer" as Perceived by Gamers. *Paper presented at the 2012 Central States Communication Association Conference, Cleveland, OH.*

Fecher, D. L. (2012). Bridging Entertainment and Instruction: Connecting Video Games and Higher Education. *Paper presented at the 2012 Central States Communication Association Conference, Cleveland, OH.*

Fecher, D.L. (2010). When the Funny Side of the Internet Turns Serious. *Paper presented at the 2010 Central States Communication Association Conference, Milwaukee, WI.*

Fecher, D. L. (2009). Silent White. *Presentation at the 2009 Ball State University Kaleidoscope Diversity Symposium, Muncie, IN.*

Field Work

- Conducted ethnographic research with Dr. James Nyce for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation via the IREX project in Zalău, Transylvania, Romania. Interviewed villagers and researched Internet usage rates in rural villages (2010).

- Conducted ethnographic research with Dr. James Nyce in Sucevița, Moldavia, Romania. Interviewed villagers attempting to discover the origins and meanings of tradition in a country recovering from communist rule (2011).

Invited Lectures

- Invited to give a lecture on video games, identity, gamers in the media, and current game scholars to a media studies class. The lecture was given via Skype for the University of Minnesota, Morris. Lecture was one and half hours discussing the readings I had given the class, as well as answering any questions they had as a video game expert and scholar in communication studies. Topics included psychological factors of video games, who plays games and why, and how communication relates to video games.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Service

Faculty Representative for Clemson University Administrative Hearing Board for the Office of Community and Ethical Standards (2013-2015).

Faculty Advisor for Clemson University League of Legends/eSports Club (2013-2015).

Debate Tournament Judge for NEDA Championship (2013).

Reviewer for the Central States Communication Association's President's Undergraduate Honors Research Conference (2012).

Co-director of the Bi-Annual Tiger SpeakOut at Clemson University (2012-2014).

Twitter Monitor for the Presidential Debate for BSU Comm 210 Lecture (2012).

Reviewer for the Central States Communication Association Graduate Caucus (2011).

Treasurer for the Ball State University Comm 210 bi-annual "Bucket Speech" competition (2011-12).

Chair for the Academic Development Committee for Comm 210 (2010).

Speech Tournament Judge for annual "Age of Aquarius" speech competition (2009-2010).

Volunteer for "Feed my Sheep" food drive at Ball State University (2009).

Substitute presenter for colleague at Central States Communication Association G.I.F.T.S. panel (2009).

Professional Development, Organizational Consulting/Training:

Boys & Girls Club of Muncie (January 2012 – May 2012)

- Developed a training manual for new volunteers in the organization that focused on volunteer rights and responsibilities while working at the Club. Designed and implemented a “train the trainer” workshop for Club employees to empower their volunteers and create a sustainable orientation for new volunteers.

Animal Rescue Fund of Muncie, IN (January 2011 – May 2011)

- Worked with staff and management to develop new mass communication methods for the organization. Collaborated with management to improve relational perceptions in an effort to improve the openness of communication between staff members.

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana, Inc. (January 2008 – May 2008)

- Worked with a small consulting team to increase organizational relationships and communication within the organization. Consulting culminated in a presentation teaching new methods of communication for the workplace and explaining employee’s preferred communication methods

Habitat for Humanity Home Discount Center (August 2008 – December 2008)

- Worked with a team to research the needs of a local home restoration depot. Project included researching customer experiences and attitudes, developing a strategic plan for the organization, and implementing a campaign designed to increase donations.

Memberships

National Communication Association, member since 2011

Central States Communication Association, member 2009 - 2012

PEDAGOGICAL EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught

COMM 1500/1501: Introduction to Human Communication. Clemson University, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Summer II 2013 Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Summer I-II 2015.

COMM 2500: Introduction to Human Communication. Clemson University, Summer I 2013, Spring 2015.

COMM 210: Public Speaking. Ball State University, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012.

COMM 320: Persuasion. Ball State University, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010.