

## *Curriculum Vita*

**Kevin J. Ayotte**

### Office

Department of Communication  
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### Education

Ph.D. (2003) Communication, University of Pittsburgh  
Dissertation: "The Rhetoric of Terror: Weapons of Mass Destruction in American Foreign Policy Discourse." Advisor: John Poulakos

M.A. (1998) Communication, University of Pittsburgh

B.A. (1996) English, DePaul University

### Academic Positions

Associate Professor, Department of Communication, California State University, Fresno, 2008 to present

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, California State University, Fresno, 2003-2008

Lecturer, Department of Communication, California State University, Fresno, 2002-03

Teaching Fellow, Department of Communication, University of Pittsburgh, 1998-2002

Assistant Debate Coach, William Pitt Debating Union, University of Pittsburgh, 1997-2000

Instructor, World Debate Institute, University of Vermont, August 1-15, 1998; July 29-August 11, 2000

Teaching Assistant, Department of Communication, University of Pittsburgh, 1997-98

## **Research Interests**

- Investigating the role of language and power in public argumentation concerning international security threats and foreign policy intended to address those threats
- Exploring the relationship between mediated expert discourses and public knowledge of political controversies
- Examining the epistemological and political implications of rhetorical theory across academic disciplines (communication, political science, international relations)

## **Publications**

### **Book**

*Terrorism: Communication and Rhetorical Perspectives*, ed. H. Dan O’Hair, Robert L. Heath, Kevin J. Ayotte, and Gerald R. Ledlow (Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press, 2008).

### **Journal Articles**

Kevin J. Ayotte and Mary E. Husain, “Securing Afghan Women: Neocolonialism, Epistemic Violence, and the Rhetoric of the Veil,” *National Women’s Studies Association Journal* 17 (fall 2005): 112-133.

Kevin Ayotte, John Poulakos, and Steve Whitson, “Mistaking Nietzsche: Rhetoric and the Epistemic Pest,” *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 88 (February 2002): 121-127.

Kevin J. Ayotte, “Critical Erasure: Deconstructing the Rhetoric of Feminist International Relations Theory,” *International Journal of Forensics* 2 (Summer 2000): 169-176.

### **Book Chapters**

Kevin J. Ayotte, Daniel Rex Bernard, and H. Dan O’Hair, “Knowing Terror: On the Epistemology and Rhetoric of Risk,” in *Handbook of Risk and Crisis Communication*, ed. Robert L. Heath and H. Dan O’Hair (New York: Routledge, 2009), 607-628.

Kevin J. Ayotte and Scott D. Moore, “Terrorism, Language, and Community Dialogue,” in *Terrorism: Communication and Rhetorical Perspectives*, ed. H. Dan O’Hair, Robert L. Heath, Kevin J. Ayotte, and Gerald R. Ledlow (Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press, 2008), 67-92.

Kevin J. Ayotte, Gerald R. Ledlow, Robert L. Heath, and H. Dan O’Hair, “Shifting Paradigms and New Directions for Managing Terrorism,” in *Terrorism: Communication and Rhetorical Perspectives*, ed. H. Dan O’Hair, Robert L. Heath, Kevin J. Ayotte, and Gerald R. Ledlow (Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press, 2008), 455-473.

H. Dan O'Hair, Robert L. Heath, Kevin J. Ayotte, and Gerald R. Ledlow, "The Communication and Rhetoric of Terrorism," in *Terrorism: Communication and Rhetorical Perspectives*, ed. H. Dan O'Hair, Robert L. Heath, Kevin J. Ayotte, and Gerald R. Ledlow (Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press, 2008), 3-15.

Kevin Ayotte, "Constructions of Violence: Labor, Capital, and Hegemonic Struggle in the Pullman Strike of 1894," in *Turning the Century: Essays in Media and Cultural Studies*, ed. Carol A. Stabile (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2000): 217-234.

### **Refereed Conference Proceedings**

Kevin J. Ayotte, "Playing With Culture and Truth: The Philosophy of the 'Clash of Civilizations,'" in *The Philosophy Of Culture*, vol. 2, ed. Konstantine Boudouris, Studies in Greek Philosophy, no. 49 (Athens, GR: Ionia Publications, 2006): 22-37. Available online at [http://www.csufresno.edu/communication/faculty\\_staff/faculty/documents/ayotte-Playingwithcultureandtruth-manuscript.pdf](http://www.csufresno.edu/communication/faculty_staff/faculty/documents/ayotte-Playingwithcultureandtruth-manuscript.pdf).

Kevin J. Ayotte, "The Art of War: Aristotle on Rhetoric and Fear," in *The Philosophy of Communication*, vol. 2, ed. Konstantine Boudouris and Takis Poulakos, Studies in Greek Philosophy, no. 40 (Athens, GR: Ionia Publications, 2002): 45-57. Available online at [http://www.csufresno.edu/communication/faculty\\_staff/faculty/documents/ayotte-theartofwar.pdf](http://www.csufresno.edu/communication/faculty_staff/faculty/documents/ayotte-theartofwar.pdf).

Kevin J. Ayotte, "Rhetoric and the Possibility of Truth: Platonic Epistemology in the *Phaedrus* and the *Symposium*," in *Greek Philosophy and Epistemology*, vol. 1, ed. Konstantine Boudouris, Studies in Greek Philosophy, no. 36 (Athens, GR: Ionia Publications, 2001): 29-41. Available online at [http://www.csufresno.edu/communication/faculty\\_staff/faculty/documents/PossibilityofTruth.pdf](http://www.csufresno.edu/communication/faculty_staff/faculty/documents/PossibilityofTruth.pdf).

Kevin J. Ayotte, "Aesthetic Rhetoric in Plato's *Phaedrus*," in *Greek Philosophy and the Fine Arts*, vol. 2, ed. Konstantine Boudouris, Studies in Greek Philosophy, no. 34 (Athens, GR: Ionia Publications, 2000): 11-21. Available online at [http://www.csufresno.edu/communication/faculty\\_staff/faculty/documents/PlatoandAestheticRhetoric.pdf](http://www.csufresno.edu/communication/faculty_staff/faculty/documents/PlatoandAestheticRhetoric.pdf).

### **Briefing Paper**

Gordon R. Mitchell, Kevin J. Ayotte, and David Cram Helwich, "Missile Defence: Trans-Atlantic Diplomacy at a Crossroads" (co-authored with Gordon R. Mitchell and David Cram Helwich), *International Security Information Service (UK) Briefing Series on Ballistic Missile Defence*, no. 6 (July 2001). Available online at <http://www.pitt.edu/~gordonm/JPubs/Mitchelletal2001b.pdf>.

### **Book Reviews/Review Essays**

Kevin J. Ayotte, review of *Concept and Controversy: Sixty Years of Taking Ideas to Market* by W. W. Rostow, *Controversia* 3 (Spring/Summer 2005): 97-100.

Kevin J. Ayotte, "Arguing Violence: The Theory and Politics of Truth" (review essay), *Argumentation & Advocacy* 40 (Winter 2004): 185-194.

Kevin J. Ayotte, review of *Witnesses to the Struggle: Imaging the 1930s California Labor Movement* by Anne Loftis, *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 2 (Summer 1999): 356-359.

### **Conference Presentations**

"A Different End? Bush, Obama, and the Imagination of Mass Destruction," paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Chicago, IL, November 12-15, 2009.

Roundtable panel presentation, "The Rhetorical Subject of Violence," at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Chicago, IL, November 12-15, 2009.

"Knowing Terror: On the Epistemology and Rhetoric of Risk" (co-authored with Daniel Rex Bernard and H. Dan O'Hair), competitive paper presented at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Chicago, IL, November 15-18, 2007.

"States of Exception(alism): Imagining America, Imagining Mass Destruction," paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Chicago, IL, November 15-18, 2007.

Roundtable panel presentation, "Terrifying Wars in the Middle East: Global Justice, Global Media, & Our Scholarly Responsibilities," at the *Western States Communication Association Convention*, Seattle, WA, February 16-20, 2007

"Argumentation 'Outside of the Text': Post-Structuralism, Materiality, and the Threat of Mass Destruction," competitive paper (Top Papers Panel, Argumentation and Forensics Division) presented at the *National Communication Association Convention*, San Antonio, TX, November 16-19, 2006.

"The Culture of Dis-ease: Biological Weapons in the American Imagination," competitive paper (Emerging Scholars in Critical and Cultural Studies Panel) presented at the *National Communication Association Convention*, San Antonio, TX, November 16-19, 2006.

"Playing a Soldier: The Reconstruction of War Rhetoric through Video Games" (co-authored with Daniel Rex Bernard), paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, San Antonio, TX, November 16-19, 2006.

Roundtable panel presentation, "Honoring Philip C. Wander: Cherishing Four Decades of Teaching and Scholarship in Rhetorical Studies," at the *Western States Communication Association Convention*, Palm Springs, CA, February 17-21, 2006.

"Testimony Outside of the Text: Derrida, Heidegger, and the Limits of Deconstruction," roundtable panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Boston, MA, November 17-20, 2005.

"Playing with Culture and Truth: The Philosophy of the 'Clash of Civilizations,'" paper presented at the *17<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Philosophy*, Samos, Greece, August 1-7, 2005.

"From Prevention to Punishment: A Roundtable Discussion of Strategies to Deter Plagiarism in the Classroom," roundtable panel presentation at the *Conference on Excellence in Teaching and Learning*, California State University, Fresno, April 8, 2005.

"Framing the Threat of Mass Destruction: A Rhetorical Approach to Critical Security Studies," competitive paper (Top Four Papers Panel, Rhetoric and Public Address Division) presented at the *Western States Communication Association Conference*, San Francisco, CA, February 18-22, 2005.

"Debating the Language of Terror: The Politics of Naming and the Promise of Public Debate" (co-authored with Scott D. Moore), competitive paper (Top Three Papers Panel, Argumentation and Forensics Division) presented at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Chicago, IL, November 10-14, 2004.

"Arguing Backward: From Method to Premise in International Relations Theory," paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Chicago, IL, November 10-14, 2004.

"Postmodernism, Public Argument, and the Possibility of Politics: Bringing Rhetoric into Security Studies," competitive paper (Top Three Papers Panel, Argumentation and Forensics Division) presented at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Miami Beach, FL, November 19-23, 2003.

"Worthy and Unworthy Weapons: Proliferation, 'Defensive' Research, and the Uses and Abuses of Terror," paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, New Orleans, LA, November 21-24, 2002.

"A Rogue by Any Other Name: (De)constructive Engagement with North Korea," paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Atlanta, GA, November 1-4, 2001.

"The Art of War: Aristotle and the Rhetoric of Fear," paper presented at the *Thirteenth International Conference on Greek Philosophy*, Rhodes, Greece, August 18-25, 2001.

“Terrorism and the Rhetoric of Fear: Constructing the Culture of Mass Destruction,” paper presented at the *Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric Conference*, Université Laval, Québec City, May 24-25, 2001.

“Americans, Rogues, Terrorists: The Rhetorical Identities of Security Threats,” paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Seattle, WA, November 9-12, 2000.

“The Rhetoric of Realism: Language and Metaphor in American Foreign Policy Advocacy,” paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Seattle, WA, November 9-12, 2000.

“Rhetoric and the Possibility of Truth: Platonic Epistemology in the *Phaedrus* and the *Symposium*,” paper presented at the *Twelfth International Conference on Greek Philosophy*, Samos, Greece, August 20-27, 2000.

“Rhetoric and Indeterminacy: Negotiating the Politics of Deconstruction,” paper panel presentation at the *Eastern Communication Association Conference*, Pittsburgh, PA, April 27-30, 2000.

“Lines in the Sand: The Rhetorical Territorialization of the Threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction,” paper panel presentation at the *Eastern Communication Association Conference*, Pittsburgh, PA, April 27-30, 2000.

“News Media and the Rhetorical Uses of Terror: Constructing the Threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction,” paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Chicago, IL, November 4-7, 1999.

“America’s ‘War on Terrorism’: The Rhetorical Construction of the Next Cold War,” paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Chicago, IL, November 4-7, 1999.

“The Rhetoric of Capital in Crisis: Managing the Asian Economic Collapse,” paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Chicago, IL, November 4-7, 1999.

“Critical Erasure: Permutations of Kritiks and the Deconstruction of Knowledge,” paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Chicago, IL, November 4-7, 1999.

“Aesthetic Rhetoric in Plato’s *Phaedrus*,” paper presented at the *Eleventh International Conference on Greek Philosophy*, Lesvos, Greece, August 20-27, 1999.

“The Rhetoric of ‘Terrorism’: Constructing the Threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction,” paper panel presentation at the *Middle Atlantic American Studies Association Conference*, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, April 17, 1999.

“The Threat of Socialism: Constructing Violence in the Pullman Strike of 1894,” paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, New York, NY, November 20-24, 1998.

“Critiques and Permutations: A Roundtable Discussion,” panel participant at the *National Communication Association Convention*, New York, NY, November 20-24, 1998.

“The Cold War and the Aesthetic Construction of Communism: United States Intervention in Guatemala,” paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Chicago, IL, November 19-23, 1997.

“Plato’s Aesthetical Rhetoric: How Divine Madness Can Please the Gods,” paper panel presentation at the *National Communication Association Convention*, Chicago, IL, November 19-23, 1997.

“Incorporating Multiculturalism into Public Speaking Textbooks: An Inquiry,” paper panel presentation at the *Eastern Communication Association Conference*, Baltimore, MD, April 10-13, 1997.

“Antiphon and the Question of Presumption: Sophistical Justice and Probability,” paper panel presentation at the *Speech Communication Association Convention*, San Diego, CA, November 23-26, 1996.

### **Invited Presentations/Lectures**

“Weapons of Mass Deterrence: Selling the Distinction Between Worthy and Unworthy Weapons,” College of Arts and Humanities Lecture Series, California State University, Fresno, March 7, 2005.

“Beyond ‘Good’ and ‘Evil’: Terrorism, Security, and the Space of Public Debate,” presentation at “The People Speak: America Debates Its Role in the World” California State University, Fresno, October 13, 2004.

“The Politics of Terror: American Foreign Policy in the 2004 Election,” invited presentation at the Roger Tatarian Journalism Symposium “Let’s Talk Politics: The Changing Dynamics of Political Communication,” California State University, Fresno, September 30, 2004.

Introductory remarks, Arianna Huffington California Gubernatorial Campaign Event, California State University, Fresno, September 26, 2004.

“Academic Integrity” (with Katherine L. Adams), invited presentation at the Smittcamp Family Honors College Retreat, Shaver Lake, CA, September 11, 2004.

“The Culture of Dis-ease,” invited presentation at the Communication Department Colloquium, University of Colorado, Boulder, September 29, 2003.

“Constructing Bioterror,” invited lecture for the “Rhetoric and Bioterrorism” undergraduate senior seminar, University of Colorado, Boulder, September 29, 2003.

### **Media Interviews/Appearances**

Television interview, “Failure of California Budget Propositions,” local NBC news coverage, KSEE Channel 24, May 19, 2009.

Radio interview, “U.S. Nuclear Deterrence Policy,” *The Dale Julin Show*, KIRV 1510 AM, March 7, 2005

Television interview, “Evaluating the Second 2004 Presidential Debate,” local NBC debate coverage, KSEE Channel 24, October 8, 2004.

Radio interview, “Evaluating the First 2004 Presidential Debate,” *The Dale Julin Show - Local Issues Talk*, ESPN 1430 AM, October 1, 2004.

Radio interview, “Do the 2004 Presidential Debates Matter?” *The Dale Julin Show - Local Issues Talk*, ESPN 1430 AM, September 27, 2004.

Debater for the opposition, public debate on the topic “This House would define marriage as the union of a man and a woman,” Fresno Oxford Debate Society, Comcast Channel 14, aired July 23, 2004; July 26, 2004; July 28, 2004; July 30, 2004.

Radio interview, “Same-sex marriage,” “*Right of Way*” with Adam J. Bernay, KIRV 1510 AM, August 15, 2004.

Television interview, “Impact of Massachusetts Supreme Court Ruling on Same-sex Marriage on California,” Fox *Great Day*, KMPH Channel 26, November 25, 2003.

Television interview, “Comparing Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Inaugural Address and President Ronald Reagan’s First Inaugural Address,” CBS Local News, KGPE Channel 47, November 17, 2003.

Television interview, “Rhetoric and Terrorism,” *PAX! hosted by Arthur Wint*, Comcast Channel 14, aired December 11, 2003.

### **Courses Taught**

#### **Undergraduate**

- Argumentation (California State University, Fresno; University of Pittsburgh)
- Classical Rhetoric (California State University, Fresno)
- Communication Criticism (California State University, Fresno)

- Fundamentals of Public Communication/Public Speaking (California State University, Fresno; University of Pittsburgh)
- Group Discussion (University of Pittsburgh)
- Arts & Humanities Honors Seminar I (California State University, Fresno)
- Rhetoric of Terrorism (California State University, Fresno)
- Rhetorical Theory (California State University, Fresno)

### **Graduate**

- Seminar in Contemporary Public Address: American Foreign Policy Rhetoric (California State University, Fresno)
- Seminar in Global Media and International Relations (California State University, Fresno)
- Seminar in International Relations and Political Theory (Department of Political Science, California State University, Fresno)
- Seminar in Rhetorical Theory: Contemporary Rhetorical Theory (California State University, Fresno)

### **Awards and Fellowships**

Provost's Award for Promising New Faculty, California State University, Fresno, 2007, \$3,000

2005-2006 Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Awards/Assigned Time for Research Mini-Grant, California State University, Fresno, for development of two book chapters and a journal article on "The Culture of Dis-ease," \$5,000

2004-2005 Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Awards/Assigned Time for Research Mini-Grant, California State University, Fresno, for development of book manuscript, *The Rhetoric of Terror: Constructing the Threat of Mass Destruction*, \$5,000.

Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2001-02, \$15,000.

Provost's Humanities Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 1996-97, \$12,500.

### **Professional Service (selected)**

Chair (2010) and Member (2008-09), Douglas W. Ehninger Distinguished Rhetorical Scholar Award Committee, National Communication Association

Second Vice-Chair (2009), Critical/Cultural Studies Division, National Communication Association, 2009

Chair, Rhetoric and Public Address Interest Group, *Western States Communication Association*, 2007-08

Paper Reviewer, *Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference at the Western States Communication Association Conference*, 2005-06

Paper Reviewer, Rhetoric and Public Address Interest Group, *Western States Communication Association Conference*, 2005, 2007, 2009

Proposal Reviewer, *Conference on Excellence in Teaching and Learning*, California State University, Fresno, April 8, 2005

Secretary, Rhetoric and Public Address Interest Group, *Western States Communication Association*, 2004-2006

Paper Reviewer, Critical and Cultural Studies Division, *National Communication Association Convention*, 2003-04, 2009

Pre-conference Seminar Reviewer, *National Communication Association Convention*, Chicago, IL, November 10-14, 2004

### **University Service**

#### **Department Service (selected)**

Graduate Coordinator, Department of Communication, California State University, Fresno, 2006 to present

Chair, Curriculum Committee, Department of Communication, California State University, Fresno, 2002-2005

Member, Forensics Task Force, Department of Communication, California State University, Fresno, 2004 to present

#### **College Service**

Member, College of Arts and Humanities Honors Program Committee, California State University, Fresno, 2005 to present

#### **University Service**

Secretary, Professional Development Subcommittee, Academic Senate, California State University, Fresno, 2005-08

Senator, Department of Communication representative to the Academic Senate, California State University, Fresno, 2004-2007