

Kelly E. Happe
she/they

Curriculum Vitae

Contact information:

Department of Communication Studies
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Degrees Conferred:

Ph.D., Communication, University of Pittsburgh.
Primary area of emphasis: rhetoric
Secondary areas of emphasis: cultural studies, history and philosophy of science

M.A., Communication Studies, Baylor University.

B.A., Political Science, University of Georgia.

Academic Positions

Professor, Department of Communication Studies and the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, University of Georgia, 2024-current.

Associate Professor, Department of Communication Studies and the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, University of Georgia, 2015-2024.

Associate Head, Department of Communication Studies, 2023-current.

Director of Graduate Studies, Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, 2022-current.

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Communication Studies, 2015-2017; 2020-2022.

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies and the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, University of Georgia, 2007-2015.

Undergraduate Coordinator, Department of Communication Studies, 2014-2015.

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Northern Illinois University,
2003-2007.

Faculty Associate, Women's and Gender Studies Program, Northern Illinois
University, 2004-2007.

Visiting Instructor, Department of History, Carlow College, 2003.

Awards

Nominee, 2025 Creative Research Award, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences,
University of Georgia

Nominee, 2024 Creative Research Award, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences,
University of Georgia

2019 Creative Research Medal in the Humanities and Arts, University of Georgia.
(University-wide; one award given in this category)

Diamond Anniversary Book Award, National Communication Association, 2014. For
*The Material Gene: Gender, Race, and Heredity After the Human Genome
Project*. Award for best book published in Communication Studies in the previous
two calendar years.

Finalist, Critical Cultural Studies Division Book of the Year Award, 2014. National
Communication Association, for *The Material Gene: Gender, Race, and Heredity
After the Human Genome Project*.

Golden Anniversary Monograph Award, National Communication Association, 2014.
For "The Body of Race: Toward a Rhetorical Understanding of Racial Ideology."
Award for best journal article published in Communication Studies in the
previous calendar year.

Best Dissertation of the Year, Women's and Gender Studies Program, University of
Pittsburgh.

Publications

Books authored

Happe, Kelly E. *"The Body Plastic: Speculation, Race, and the Logic of Capital."* (NYU Press). Forthcoming.

Happe, Kelly E. *The Material Gene: Gender, Race, and Heredity After the Human Genome Project* (New York: NYU Press, 2013). "Biopolitics" series. Reviewed in *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, *New Genetics and Society*, *Gender and Society*, *Society and Space* Open Site, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Women and Performance*; *Science as Culture*; *Sociology of Health and Illness*, *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*.

Happe, Kelly E., Jenell Johnson, and Marina Levina, eds. *Biocitizenship: The Politics of Bodies, Governance and Power* (NYU Press, 2018). "Biopolitics" series. Reviewed in *New Genetics and Society*, *Journal of Disability and Religion*, *Contemporary Sociology*

Chapters in books

Happe, Kelly E. and Lynda Olman. "How Euro-American Science Became Dominant: Transnational Circulations of Knowledge and Capital." *Global Rhetorics of Science*. Lynda Olman, ed. SUNY Press, pages 23-44. 2023 (Happe completed all writing, revising, and initial conceptualization; Olman responsible for final conceptualization/thematic/organization).

Happe, Kelly E. "The Biopolitics of Race Revisited." In *Remapping Race in a Global Context*. 2022. Ludovica Lorusso and Rasmus Grønfeldt Winther, eds. Routledge, 247-264.

Happe, Kelly E. "Rhetoric and the Utopian Gesture: Rethinking Context's Spatio-Temporal Logics." Plenary papers of the 2016 Biennial Public Address Conference. 2020. In Charles E. Morris III and Kendall R. Phillips, eds. *Conceit of Context* ("Frontiers in Political Communication," Mary E. Stuckey and Mitchell S. McKinney, eds. Peter Lang), 85-102.

Johnson, Jenell, Kelly E. Happe, and Marina Levina. "Introduction." *Biocitizenship: The Politics of Bodies, Governance and Power*. NYU Press, 2018, 1-18.

Happe, Kelly E. "Epigenetics and the Biocitizen: Bodily Temporality and Political Agency in the Post-Genomic Age." *Biocitizenship: The Politics of Bodies, Governance and Power*. NYU Press, 2018, 70-92.

- Happe, Kelly E. "Genetics and Epigenetics." In *Gender: Matter*. Stacy Alaimo, editor. 2017. Macmillan Reference USA, 347-360.
- Happe, Kelly E. "Health Communication Methodology and Race." *Methodologies in Rhetoric of Health and Medicine*. Blake Scott and Lisa Melancon, eds. Routledge. 2017, 79-95.
- Happe, Kelly E. "Heredity." *Encyclopedia of Social Theory*. Bryan Turner, Ed. 2017, 1-4.
- Grossman, Jeremy and Kelly E. Happe. "Kristeva, Revolutionary Speech, and the Disturbance of Argument." *Selected Papers of the 18th NCA/AFA Conference on Argumentation*. Catherine Palczewski, Ed. (Authors listed in alphabetical order). 2014, 285-290.
- Happe, Kelly E. "Race Betterment and Class Consciousness at the Turn of the Century, or, Why It's OK to Marry Your Cousin." *Turning the Century: Essays in Cultural Studies*. Carol A. Stabile, Ed. (Boulder: Westview Press, 2000): 166-186.

Journal Articles

- Happe, Kelly E. "Difference, Abstraction, and Value: Rethinking Race with Marxism." *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, special issue on "Reanimating Marx in Rhetorical Studies." 55(5): December (2025).
- Happe, Kelly E. "Plasticity and/as Race: Rethinking Philosophy's Relationship to the Life Sciences." *Argumenta: The Journal of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy*. Special issue on critical philosophies of race. August 29, 2024, pgs. 1-16. Available from argumenta.com.
- Happe, Kelly E. "Rethinking Utopia as Form: Failure, Time, and the Political Subject of Anti-Capitalism." 2024. *Theory and Event*, 27(2): 172-198 (April).
- Happe, Kelly and Allegro Wang. "Violence, Plasticity, and Rhetoric." *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, 56.3-4 (2023): 366-372. Special issue on rhetoric, philosophy, and violence. Omedi Ochieng, ed. Authors listed in alphabetical order, effort divided 50/50.
- Happe, Kelly E. "Utopia and Crisis." *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, 53.3 (2020): 272-278. Special issue: "In the Midst of COVID-19."
- Wolpe, Paul Root, Karen S. Rommelfanger, and the Drafting and Reviewing Delegates of the BEINGS Working Groups. "Ethical Principles for the Use of Human Cellular Biotechnologies." 2017. (Listed as author in role as Reviewing Delegate). *Nature Biotechnology* 35, 1050-1058. November.

Happe, Kelly E. “*Parrhēsia*, Biopolitics, and Occupy.” *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, 48.2 (2015): 211-223.

Happe, Kelly E. “Capital, Gender, and Politics: Toward a Marxist Feminist Theory of Bioconvergence.” *MediaTropes*, 5.1 (2015): 25-57.

Happe, Kelly E. “The Body of Race: Toward a Rhetorical Understanding of Racial Ideology.” *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 99.2 (2013): 131-155. Lead Essay.

Happe, Kelly E. “The Rhetoric of Race in Breast Cancer Research.” *Patterns of Prejudice*, 40.4-5 (2006): 461-481.

Reprinted in *Race in Contemporary Medicine*, Sander Gilman, Ed. (London: Routledge, 2007): 155-174.

Happe, Kelly E. “Heredity, Gender, and the Discourse of Ovarian Cancer.” *New Genetics and Society*, 25.2 (2006): 171-196.

Mitchell, Gordon R. and Kelly Happe. “Informed Consent After the Human Genome Project.” *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*, 4.3 (2001): 375-406.

Mitchell, Gordon R. and Kelly Happe. “Defining the Subject of Consent in DNA Research.” *Journal of Medical Humanities*, 22.1 (2001): 41-53.

Happe, Kelly E. “The Political Economy of the Human Genome Project: Challenges for Feminists.” *Michigan Feminist Studies*, 13: 63-88.

Fellowships

Research Fellow, Willson Center for the Humanities and Arts, University of Georgia, 2027.

Study in a Second Discipline Fellow (Department of Genetics, University of Georgia), 2017-2018. Granted leave from teaching to study the science of epigenetics; Bob Schmitz, mentor.

Research Fellow, Willson Center for the Humanities and Arts, University of Georgia, 2014.

Andrew Mellon Pre-doctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 1999-2000.

Cultural Studies Fellowship, Cultural Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh, 1998-1999.

Lectures and Seminars

Seminar on *The Body Plastic*. Organized by Ruth Fletcher, Professor of Law, Queen Mary University of London, School of Law. London, September 10, 2025.

Invited Talk. “Research Mixer.” Event hosted by the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. Provided overview of research program in critical approaches to health. November 2024.

Invited Lecture. “The Environment is Political.” Lecture on “resilience” and the recuperation of racial thinking. University of Sassari, Alghero, Italy. July 30, 2024.

Invited workshop participant, “Problematic STEM Jargon.” ADVANCE Resource and Coordination (ARC) Network. San Diego, April 8-10, 2022.

Plenary Speaker. “Rhetoric and the Coproduction of Science and Capitalism: Some Theoretical and Methodological Considerations.” 2021 Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Symposium. October.

Invited Lecture. “Epigenetics, Race, and Justice: Rethinking the Relationship between Science and Redress.” Center for Professional and Applied Ethics, UNC Charlotte. February 19, 2020.

Invited Lecture. “The Utopian Demand: Rhetoric, Desire, and Radical Economic Thought.” Department of Communication Arts and Sciences, Penn State University, February 1, 2019.

Invited Respondent, Plenary Panel. “Precarity, Performativity, and the Utopian Demand.” Biennial Public Address Conference, University of Colorado Boulder, October 2018.

Plenary speaker, Annual Spring Symposium of the UGA Lifelong Learning Association (UGALLA), Department of Lifelong Education, Administration, and Policy, University of Georgia, March 2018.

Plenary speaker. “Speech, Biopolitics, and the Possibility of Address: Towards a Theory of the Utopian Gesture.” Biennial Public Address Conference, Syracuse University, October 2016.

“BEINGS 2015. Biotech and the Ethical Imagination: A Global Summit.” Invited delegate. Atlanta, GA, May 17-20, 2015.

“Heredity, Embodiment, and the Gendered Politics of Health.” Global Educational Forum. University of Georgia, March 19, 2015.

“The Material Gene: Gender, Race, and Heredity After the Human Genome Project.” Department of Health and Behavioral Sciences, University of Colorado, Denver, November 7, 2014.

“The Material Gene: Gender, Race, and Heredity After the Human Genome Project.” Department of Cultural Studies Colloquium, George Mason University, February 13, 2014. (Talk cancelled due to inclement weather).

“The Material Gene: Gender, Race, and Heredity After the Human Genome Project.” Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University, October 24, 2013.

“Gender, Race, and the Embodiment of Heredity.” Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Columbia University, October 22, 2013.

“The Material Gene: Gender, Race, and Heredity After the Human Genome Project.” Southern Festival of Books. Sponsored by Tennessee Humanities and the Robert Penn Warren Center, Vanderbilt University, October 13, 2013. (Broadcast on CSPAN’s “Book TV”)

“The Problem of Race in Medicine: Why We Need Bodies Without Biology.” Department of Communication Studies, University of North Texas, April 2012.

“The Rhetoric of Race and the Politics of Disease.” Department of Communication Arts, University of Wisconsin, March 2006.

Other recognitions and outstanding achievements

Selected for UGA-Oxford Study Abroad Program (Spring 2019)

Recognition, for “Greatly Contributing to the Career Development of UGA Students,” University of Georgia Career Center, December 2015, February 2022, February 2023.

Invited Faculty Seminar Leader, National Communication Association Doctoral Honors Seminar. University of Maryland, 2014.

Editorship or editorial board member of journals or other learned publications

Book Review Editor, *Philosophy and Rhetoric* (2017-current)

Editorial Board, “Feminisms, Gender, and Space” series, University of Georgia Press, 2025-current).

Advisory Board, “Rhetoric and Public Culture: History, Theory, Critique” book series, University of California Press (2018-2020)

Advisory Board, *Review of Communication* (2020-2022)

Editorial Board (current)

Quarterly Journal of Speech

Rhetoric and Public Affairs

Philosophy and Rhetoric

Editorial Board (previous)

Women’s and Gender Studies in Communication

Western Journal of Communication

Rhetoric of Health and Medicine

Research and Teaching Interests

I am a rhetorical studies scholar devoted to the study of how our symbolic actions—ranging from social movement discourse to scientific models in biomedical research—reflect, index, and enact values, whether those be the values of power and money or the values of community and care. Specifically, through a variety of publications including journal articles and single-authored and co-edited books, I have explored how socially constructed and normative ideas about race and gender influence biomedical research; what the exercise of “biocitizenship” looks like when we have to ground our claims on the state in embodied experience; the influence of capitalist interests on the conceptual practices of scientists; and how utopian longing can materialize as concrete symbolic action in the world, bringing about social relations not structured by capitalist logics (for example, by inventing speculative imaginaries that depart from those structured by the likes of finance capital for which only some futures matter). This work together asks after not only how it is that certain social relations are reproduced over time but how novel and innovative political practice—broadly construed to include art and literature—can provide the tools necessary for social change in a world in which such change becomes increasingly difficult to perceive, visualize, and enact. Throughout my work I show the abiding importance in the humanities, especially at a time when solutions to problems are narrowly defined in technological/instrumentalist terms and when theory is dismissed as

the privilege of academics disconnected from the “real” world. Only the humanities, I show, can identify and explain the creative, innovative, and disruptive articulations of other ways of being in the world, free as they are from the constraints of the sciences (and to an extent, the social sciences) obliged to explain the world as it is and in ways that divorce us from the unfulfilled promises of past struggles.

I teach courses in rhetorical theory, feminist theory, social movements, queer theory, capitalism studies, and science and society. Specifically, I have taught the following courses while at UGA:

WMST 1110e	Multicultural Women in the US (online)
WMST 2010H	Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies (Honors)
WMST 2010	Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies
WMST 4011	Understanding Research on Women
WMST 4010W	Feminist Theories
WMST 4020/6020	Feminist Theories
WMST 4100/6100	Queer Theories
WMST 4120/6120	Sex, Science, Politics, and Reproduction
WMST 4900W	Theory and Practice Capstone (writing intensive)
WMST 4950	Directed Study in Women’s and Gender Studies
COMM 1110	Introduction to Public Speaking
COMM 3320	Environmental Communication
COMM 3320LL	Environmental Communication (large lecture)
COMM 4200	Introduction to Rhetorical Theory
COMM 4360	Communication Strategies in Social Movements
COMM 4910	Internships in Communication Studies
COMM 4930	Directed Study in Communication Studies
COMM 8020	Introduction to Graduate Studies
COMM 8050	Graduate Research Practicum
COMM 8200	Introduction to Rhetorical Theory
COMM 8230	Women of Color Feminism and Cultural/Political Productions (cross-listed with WMST 8250)
COMM 8360	Feminist Rhetorical Theory
COMM 8330	Special Topics in Rhetorical Theory – The Body
COMM 8330	Special Topics in Rhetorical Theory – Rhetorics of Utopia and Anti-Capitalism
COMM 8330	Special Topics in Rhetorical Theory – Rhetoric of/and Value
COMM 8300	Special Topics in Rhetorical Theory – Materialities
WMST 8020	Feminist Theories
WMST 8250	Special Topics in Women’s and Gender Studies – The Body
WMST 8250	Special Topics in Women’s and Gender Studies – Capitalism, Feminism, Resistance
HONS 4960R	Faculty-Mentored Undergraduate Research