

Savannah Greer Downing

University of Georgia, Department of Communication Studies
302 Herty Drive, 513 Caldwell Hall Athens, GA 30602
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Research Interests

Feminist rhetorical theory and criticism, media and materiality, feminist new materialism, memory studies, environmental and labor justice

Education

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

PhD, Communication Studies (Spring 2024)

Emphasis: Rhetorical Studies

Dissertation: *Diffraction Re-membrance: Countertemporal Memories of The Radium Girls*

Dissertation Committee: Dr. Belinda A. Stillion Southard (Chair), Dr. Kelly E. Happe, and Dr. Roger Stahl

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

MA, Communication Studies

Emphasis: Rhetoric and Civic Engagement

Graduate Certificate: Women's and Gender Studies

Thesis: *Searching for a Cure?: A Feminist Rhetorical Queering of Mainstream Breast Cancer Discourse Online*

Thesis Committee: Dr. Cindy L. Griffin (Chair), Dr. Katie L. Gibson, and Dr. Lynn Kwiatkowski

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

BA, English; BA, Women's Studies

Emphasis: Multicultural Literature (English)

Certificate: Interdisciplinary Writing (English)

Magna cum laude

Academic Appointments

University of Georgia

Department of Communication Studies

Athens, GA | August 2019 - Present

Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of South Carolina

Department of English Language and Literature

Columbia, SC | August 2017-May 2019

Adjunct Faculty

Colorado State University

Department of Communication Studies

Fort Collins, CO | August 2014-May 2016

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Research Assistant (Summer 2015, Dr. Katie L. Gibson)

Publications

Journal Articles

Savannah Greer Downing (2023) "Toward Reproductive Justice Rhetorics of Care: State Senator Jen Jordan's Dissent of Georgia's Heartbeat Bill," *Quarterly Journal of Speech*. DOI: [10.1080/00335630.2023.2255640](https://doi.org/10.1080/00335630.2023.2255640)

Savannah Greer Downing (2014) "Whose Tradition? Why Augusta Webster's Work Must Be Understood Outside of Monodrama." *Palaver Journal*. UNC-Wilmington. (53-8).

Book Reviews

Savannah Greer Downing (2022) "Feminist Connections: Rhetoric and Activism Across Time, Space, and Place," *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 108:2, 242-246
DOI: [10.1080/00335630.2022.2057428](https://doi.org/10.1080/00335630.2022.2057428)

Savannah Greer Downing (2023) "Figures of Entanglement: Diffractive Readings of Barad, New Materialism, and Rhetorical Theory and Criticism," *Philosophy & Rhetoric*. [Forthcoming]

In-Progress Works

Savannah Greer Downing "Imaging Radium's Toxicity: The Case of the Society of the Living Dead." [key words: image events, photojournalism, rhetoricity, Atomic Age]

Savannah Greer Downing "Memory, Materiality, and Bulletproof Futures." [key words: feminist new materialism, memory and materiality, social movements]

Public-Facing Work

Savannah Greer Downing "[The Problem with Choice](#)," *The Georgia Feminist*.

Honors, Awards, and Grants

- 2023 Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, NCA's Student Section
RSA Summer Institute Graduate Student Scholarship, \$225
3-Minute Thesis, Top-10 Finalist, University of Georgia, "Diffractive Re-membrance"
- 2022 Graduate Student Activist Award, NCA's Activism and Social Justice Division, \$1000
Willson Center Graduate Research Award, University of Georgia, \$1000
Grant funding for dissertation research on The Radium Girls of Ottawa, Illinois
Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, UGA Center for Teaching and Learning
Jerold L. Hale Graduate Service Award, UGA Department of Communication Studies
- 2021 Top Paper Panel, Rhetoric & Public Address, Southern States Communication Association
- 2019-2024 South Georgia Graduate Fellowship, University of Georgia, \$25,000 total

- 2015 Travel Grant, NCA Diversity Caucus, \$275
- 2014 Bill and Linda Haskins Graduate Teaching Assistant Scholarship, Colorado State University, \$1,000
- Travel Grant, Southeastern Women's Studies Association, \$100

Competitively Selected Seminars and Programs

- 2023 "Podcasting the Humanities: Creating Digital Stories for the Public" Seminar.
Hosted by the National Humanities Center and San Diego State University's Digital Humanities Center. Funded by the Willson Center of UGA.
Mixed and edited pilot episode and created cover art for workshop podcast: soundcloud.com/what_distance/on-the-womb-podcast
- Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, "The Future is Feminist/Rhetoric" Seminar.
- 2022 NCA Doctoral Honors Seminar, Rhetoric and Performance Studies.
- Future Faculty Fellow, University of Georgia
Cohort member of 15 Graduate Teaching Assistants from across the University.
- 2021 Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, "Rhetorical Ethics in an Unjust World" Seminar.
- Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, "Futures of New Materialism" Writing Workshop.

Conference Activity

- 2023 Panelist. "Centering Ethics in the Citational Politics of Public Address." National Communication Association, Public Address Division, National Harbor, MD.
- Individual Paper. "Diffractive Re-membrance of The Radium Girls." National Communication Association, Public Address Division, National Harbor, MD.
- Respondent. "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Gender Freedom, Reproductive Justice, and Cultural Dynamics." National Communication Association, Activism and Social Justice Division, National Harbor, MD.
- 2022 Individual Paper. "Cutting Together/Apart: Toward a Posthuman Rhetorical Criticism through Radium's Rhetoricity." National Communication Association, Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, New Orleans, LA.
- Individual Paper. "Toward Diffractive Readings of Rhetorical Memory Phenomena." Panel title: "Time, Memory, and the Environment." Rhetoric Society of America, Baltimore, MD.

- Individual Paper. "A Wasted Wraith: Radium's Rhetoricity through the Body as a Medium." Southern States Communication Association, Rhetoric and Public Address Division, Greenville, SC.
- Invited Discussant. "Equally Essential: Findings of Employee Experiences and Research Processes during COVID-19." Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC.
- 2021 Individual Paper. "Intersectionality Scholarship as a Rhizomatic Agencement." National Communication Association, Feminist and Gender Studies Division, Seattle, WA.
- Individual Paper. "Remembering the Radium Girls: A Diffractive Reading of Memory Works." Southern States Communication Association, Rhetoric and Public Address Division. (virtual, synchronous) **Top Paper Panel**
- Individual Paper. "Toward a Feminist New Materialist Rhetoric." Southern States Communication Association, Communication Theory Division. (virtual, synchronous)
- 2020 Individual Paper. "Bulletproof Bodies, Agentic Matter." National Communication Association, Feminist and Gender Studies Division, Indianapolis, IN. (virtual, asynchronous)
- Individual Paper. "'Who speaks for the unborn?': Mother as a Reproductive Justice Rhetoric of Care." National Communication Association, Public Address Division, Indianapolis, IN. (virtual, asynchronous)
- Individual Paper. "Sisters Network, Inc. as a Biosocial Community Without Genes." National Communication Association, Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology, and Medicine Division, Indianapolis, IN. (virtual, asynchronous)
- Individual Paper. "Ruptured Rhythms in a (De)construction Zone: Rhythmanalysis of Remington Street's Redux as a Greenway." Western States Communication Association, Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy, Denver, CO.
- 2019 Individual Paper. "Komen as Ideological State Apparatus." Western States Communication Association, Organization for Research on Women and Communication, Seattle, WA.
- 2016 Individual Paper. "Translating Tamoxifen Through the Internet: A Content Analysis of Informational Websites Regarding Tamoxifen Side Effects." Western States Communication Association, Health Communication Division, San Diego, CA.
- Individual Paper. "Black Sisterhood on a Pink Platform: Strong Black Womanhood Collective Identity in Black Women's Breast Cancer Activism." Western States Communication Association, Organization for Research on Women and Communication, San Diego, CA.

2015 Individual Paper. "Abjective Agency: Women's Cancered Bodies in Film through Abjection and the Semiotic." National Communication Association, Feminist and Women's Studies Division, Las Vegas, NV.

Individual Paper. "Children of God at the National Prayer Breakfast: President Obama's Attempt to Preach Unification in the Wake of ISIS Terror." National Communication Association, Public Address Division, Las Vegas, NV.

2014 Individual Paper. "Whose Tradition? Why Augusta Webster's Work Must Be Understood Outside of Monodrama." Southeastern Women's Studies Association Conference, Wilmington, NC. March 2014.

Individual Paper. "Race and the Writing Center: Dismantling Power Structures in the University." Women's Studies Student Symposium, Athens, GA, March 2014.

Teaching Experience

University of Georgia, Department of Communication Studies

August 2019-present

COMM 3330: Rhetorical Criticism (2 sections)

COMM 3200 (online): Business and Professional Communication (1 section)

COMM 1110: Introduction to Public Speaking (11 sections)

COMM 1500: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication (3 sections)

COMM 1000 (online): Introduction to Human Communication (1 section)

COMM 4800: Intercultural Communication, Assisted Dr. Soroya McFarlane (1 section)

University of South Carolina, Department of English Language and Literature

August 2017-May 2019

SPCH 140: Fundamentals of Public Communication (20 sections)

SPCH 140: Fundamentals of Public Communication, International Accelerator Program (1 section)

Colorado State University, Department of Communication Studies

August 2014-May 2016

SPCM 200: Introduction to Public Speaking (4 sections)

SPCM 200: Introduction to Public Speaking, INTO Pathway, international student pathway program (1 section)

SPCM 335: Gender and Communication, Assisted Dr. Katie Gibson (1 section)

SPCM 201: History and Theory of Rhetoric, Assisted Dr. Jennifer Bone (2 sections)

Lectures and Workshop Leading

2023 Guest Lecture. "Labor Organizing." RFSS 205: Social Activism and Advocacy (Dr. Samantha Rippetoe), Bates College, Lewiston ME, November 2023.

Workshop Organizer. "Justice-Oriented Pedagogy." Graduate Student Committee of NCA's Activism and Social Justice Division. September 2023.

- Guest Lecture. "The Rhetoric of Environmental and Labor Movements." COMS 4337: Rhetoric of Social Movements (Dr. Elizabeth Desnoyers-Colas), Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA, April 2023.
- Panel Organizer. "Entanglement as Feminist Praxis." Graduate Student Committee of NCA's Activism and Social Justice Division. March 2023.
- Invited Lecture. "Crafting Scholarly Conversations in Rhetorical Studies." COMM 8980: Black Women and US Public Discourse (Dr. Kesha James), Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, March 2023.
- Invited lecture. "The Politics of Radium in the Roaring Twenties: Gender, Environment, and Labor in the case of The Society of the Living Dead." Institute for Women's Studies Friday Speaker Series, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, February 2023.
- 2022 Invited lecture. "Reproductive Justice and Economic Justice: The Need for Intersectional Organizing." Athens Reproductive Justice Collective, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, December 2022.
- Guest lecture. "Attribution Theory." COMM 1500: Interpersonal Communication, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, September 2022.
- Collaborative facilitation. "Cultivating Community in the Classroom," UGA's Center for Teaching & Learning's *TA Café* series, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, September 2022.
- Guest lecture. "Deception in Interpersonal Communication." COMM 2550H: Perspective on Interpersonal Communication, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, April 2022.
- Guest lecture. "Emotional Intelligence." COMM 2550H: Perspective on Interpersonal Communication, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, March 2022.
- Collaborative facilitation. "Leveraging Your TA Experience in and Beyond the Classroom," UGA's Center for Teaching & Learning's *TA Café* series, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, February 2022.
- 2021 Invited lecture. "Essentials of Public Speaking." UGA's Masters of Marketing Research Program Executive Seminar Series, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, September 2021.
- Invited presentation. "Being an Effective Seminarian." Department of Communication Studies Introduction to Graduate Studies course, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, September 2021.
- 2020 Guest lecture. "Language in Intercultural Communication." COMM 4800: Intercultural Communication, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, October 2020.

2016 Guest lecture. "Race and Rhetoric in Breast Cancer Research." SPCM 201: History and Theory of Rhetoric, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, November 2015 and April 2016.

Colloquium presentation. "A Miracle Carcinogen: Breast Cancer and Tamoxifen." Department of Communication Studies, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, February 2016.

2015 Guest lecture. "Gender, Breast Cancer, and Communication." SPCM 335: Gender and Communication, Fort Collins, CO, April 2015.

Leadership and Service

Disciplinary Leadership and Service

2023 Invited Reviewer, *Western Journal of Communication*.

Invited Committee Member, NCA's Activism and Social Justice Division, Awards Committee

Communication Coordinator, NCA's Activism and Social Justice Division, Graduate Student Committee

Initiatives: "Sunday Spotlight" social media series to spotlight graduate student activism

Panel Organizer: "Entanglement as Feminist Praxis" (Spring 2023)

Workshop Organizer: "Justice-Oriented Pedagogy" (Fall 2023)

2019- Conference Paper Reviewer

Present *National Communication Association*

Rhetoric and Communication Theory (2022, 2023)

Feminist and Gender Studies (2021, 2022)

Activism and Social Justice (2022, 2023)

Student Section (2020)

Rhetoric Society of America (2021, 2023)

Southern States Communication Association

Rhetoric and Public Address (2021, 2022)

Western States Communication Association

Rhetoric, Culture, Advocacy (2019, 2021)

2022- Panel Chair

Present *National Communication Association*

Activism and Social Justice (2023)

Ethnography (2023)

Rhetoric Society of America (2022)

Southern States Communication Association

Rhetoric and Public Address (2022)

Departmental Leadership and Service

- 2023 Recruitment Organizer
- 2022 Judge, Undergraduate Commencement Speaker Competition
Judge and Technical Support, Public Speaking Competition
- 2022-2023 Teaching Material Development, COMM 1110
Worked with Basic Course Director, Hillary Palmer, on her grant designed to develop teaching materials for all COMM 1110 instructors.
Initiatives: COMM 1110 Workbook revisions based on solicited instructor feedback
- President, Communication Studies Graduate Forum
Attended faculty meetings, serving as liaison between departmental faculty and graduate students
Initiatives: Develop professionalization course for advanced graduate students
- 2021 COMM 1110 Workbook Editorial Assistant
Revised our workbook to be compatible with a new textbook, including new learning exercises, more inclusive examples, and relevancy for our curriculum
- 2019 Volunteer, Public Speaking Competition
- 2015 Graduate Student Representative, Graduate Student Orientation | Colorado State University

Community Leadership, Service, and Activism

- 2021 - Board Member, The Georgia Feminist, a nonprofit organization
thegeorgiafeminist.org
Facilitate discussions of interest to fellow Georgia feminists, specifically a discussion on the film *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
Contribute to newsletters, specifically on the labor movement and reproductive justice
Assisted t-shirt drive for Get Out the Vote organizations in Georgia
Develop merchandise designs and slogans to benefit reproductive justice organizations in the South
Assist with social media channel management
- 2022-2023 Advisor, American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics (ASLME)
Invited to serve as a faculty/community advisor for this UGA student organization. ASLME offers students discussion opportunities to explore ethical and policy questions related to law and medicine, which is particularly useful for students on pre-professional tracks.
- 2022- External Communications Officer, United Campus Workers of Georgia, UGA Chapter

- 2023 Elected to serve as the central point of contact between UCWGA and others with whom our organization may be in communication, such as other organizations and the press.
Initiatives: Publicizing our union efforts and collaborating with other community labor organizations by producing social media graphics, primarily for Twitter and Instagram
Assisting with Worker Appreciation Days for all UGA employers
- 2022 Organizer and Panelist, University of Georgia Teaching Assistant Orientation
Supported the Center for Teaching and Learning at UGA in organizing and preparing remarks as a panelist for the University-wide TA Orientation, required of incoming TAs across campus.
- 2021- Council Member, UGA Graduate Student Association
2022 Served on the Student Advocacy and Campus Issues Committee
Initiatives: Eliminate Special Institutional Fee for all students
- 2021 Co-Chair, United Campus Workers of Georgia, UGA Chapter
Elected to serve as a co-leader of our wall-to-wall chapter, representing the interests of all campus workers, including staff, faculty, and students
Initiatives: Living Wage Campaign, in collaboration with Athens's Economic Justice Coalition, Covid safety, Graduate Student fees
- 2020- Covid Committee Chair, United Campus Workers of Georgia, UGA Chapter
2021 Organized petitions, authored press releases to increase media coverage, and organized protests in support of safer working conditions
Initiatives: Mask mandate, hazard pay for staff, data transparency, and testing accessibility
- 2014- Blog Contributor, UGA Women's Outreach and Resource Collective
2015 Contributed blogs pertaining to the Women's Studies major, feminist analyses of popular culture, feminist teaching practices, and feminism in academia

Graduate Coursework and Topics

- PhD: Rhetorical Theory, Classical Rhetoric, Rhetorical Criticism, Media Theory, Rhetoric of Science, Materialisms, Biopolitics, Marginal Rhetorics, Health Disparities, New Materialist Theory, Feminism, Capitalism, and Resistance, Queer Theory
- MA: Rhetorical Theory, Media Theory, Feminist Theory, Rhetorical Criticism, Women's Public Address, Politics of Popular Culture, Rhetoric of Everyday Life, Research Methods, Foundations of Feminist Research

References

Dr. Belinda A. Stillion Southard
Professor
University of Georgia, Department of Communication Studies
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Relationship: Advisor and Dissertation Chair

Dr. Kelly E. Happe
Associate Professor
University of Georgia, Department of Communication Studies
khappe@uga.edu
Relationship: Dissertation Committee Member

Dr. Roger Stahl
Professor
University of Georgia, Department of Communication Studies
rstahl@uga.edu
Relationship: Dissertation Committee Member