

# ETHICA

## The Newsletter of the National Communication Association's Communication Ethics Division

VOL. 21 No. 2  
Fall 2008

**The 94<sup>th</sup> Annual NCA Convention  
Friday November 21-  
Monday November 24, 2008  
San Diego, California**

**Pat J. Gehrke, University of South Carolina  
Vice Chair, Communication Ethics Division**

We are blessed this year with truly outstanding panels and papers at the coming national convention in San Diego. While we could not accommodate every submission, with the hard work of our excellent reviewers, the division is offering conference attendees some real treats. You can view the full list of division panels below, but I want to take a few moments to point out some special panels that I believe promise to offer the division's members new ideas and experiences.

The first of these is a panel on international and national perspectives on ethics in organizations in which scholars from the United States, New Zealand, and Italy will first present their research and then break into groups around the room offering more personal and interactive conversations with the audience (Sat, 6:30pm). Second, I want to point out a roundtable discussion of Omar Swartz's new edited volume, Transformative Communication Studies: Culture, Hierarchy, and the Human Condition, where some of our discipline's scholars most deeply committed to issues of social justice and political action will be discussing their contributions to that book (Fri, 3:30pm). Of course, there is also this year's panel of top papers in the division, which demonstrates

### In this issue:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>page #</u>
* NCA CE Divisional panels & offerings	2-3
* Message from the Division Chair	4
* Division receives non profit status	4
* CE Conference held in Pittsburgh	5
* Division meeting minutes-Pittsburgh	5-6
* Photos from the 10 <sup>th</sup> CEC	7
* New books published by division members	8
* Division officer contact list	8
* Committee lists and emails	9-10
* Comm. Ethics listserv explained	10

**ETHICA Editor: Melissa A. Cook, St. Vincent College**  
**Editorial Asst: Melissa Kaminski, St. Vincent College**

yet again the sustaining vitality and impressive scope of communication ethics scholarship (Sun, 2:00pm). The papers being presented in that panel are more than worthy of being singled out as top papers.

It was hard to pick out top papers and especially difficult to pick just a few panels to mention here, as our whole program displays the continuing quality of the work division members are doing. We have so many great presentations this year dealing with internet-based communication media, acknowledgment and otherness, philosophy and responsibility, pragmatism, Spinoza, organizational ethics, democracy and citizenship, and much more. It was my great privilege to serve as the coordinator for our division's panel and paper submissions for the 2008 NCA convention. Having the opportunity to read all the submissions was a joy and affirmed my continuing belief in the strength and diversity of the scholarship in this division. I hope you find the panels and papers as intriguing and thought-provoking as I did. Also, don't forget our business meeting on Sunday at 12:30 pm.

**A special thank you to our paper/panel reviewers:** My many thanks to our amazingly quick and insightful reviewers this year: Mohammad Auwal, Leeanne Bell, Lori Britt, Gina Ercolini, Richard Johannesen, Brian Kanouse, Karen Lollar, Rebecca Meisenbach, William Neher, Kathleen Roberts, Stephen Swanson, Sanda Tomuletiu, and Melba Velez (my sincere apologies if I have left anyone out). If you see these people around the convention do join me in thanking them for their service



**A full list of panels and meetings for the division:**

### **FRIDAY November 21, 2008:**

#### **Philosophy and Communication Ethics:**

#### **Meeting, Acknowledging, and Speaking**

**9:30am - 10:45am Grand Hyatt/Cunningham A**

*Nearer Than You Think: Eleven Openings to a Philosophy of Communication*, Ramsey Eric Ramsey (Arizona State Univ West), Jessica Sturgess (Arizona State Univ West)  
*Augustine and Heidegger on Acknowledging the Importance of Acknowledgment*, Michael J. Hyde (Wake Forest Univ)

*Empathy, Experience, and Ethical Relativism*, Lenore Langsdorf (Southern Illinois Univ, Carbondale)

*Ren as a Guide to Communication Ethics: An Aesthetic Principle of Philosophical Leisure from an Eastern Perspective*, Annette M. Holba (Plymouth State Univ)

*The Ethical Call to Speak Up: Bringing-forth Societal Change*, Pat Arneson (Duquesne Univ)

**Chair:** Celeste Grayson (Duquesne Univ)

#### **Thinking Otherwise: Negotiating Differences in Public and Private Spheres**

**2:00pm - 3:15pm Grand Hyatt / Cunningham A**

*Communicating Otherwise than Convention: Reading Arendt Through Levinas*, Ronald C. Arnett (Duquesne Univ)

*Cultivating Community in the Struggle for Civil Rights: Respecting Difference and Responding to the Other*, Michelle A. Leavitt (Univ of Denver), Robert Ballard (Univ of Waterloo)

*Creativity in our Communities: Dialogue Safe-Houses and Ethical Communication*, Spoma Jovanovic (Univ of North Carolina, Greensboro), Roy V. Wood (Univ of Denver)

*In the Line of Fire: Communication, Risk, and Transcendence in a Levinasian World*, Christopher N. Poulos (Univ of North Carolina, Greensboro)

**Respondents:** Michael J. Hyde (Wake Forest Univ)  
 Pat J. Gehrke (Univ. of South Carolina)  
 Kenneth R. Chase (Wheaton College)  
 Robert Ballard (Univ of Waterloo)  
**Chair:** Roy V. Wood (Univ of Denver)

#### **Transformative Communication Studies: A Roundtable Discussion**

**3:30pm - 4:45pm Grand Hyatt / Cunningham A**

**Respondents:** Hoda Al-Mutawah (Univ of Bahrain)  
 Lawrence R. Frey (Univ of Colorado, Boulder)  
 Curt A. Gilstrap (Drury Univ)  
 Ako Inuzuka (Univ of Pittsburgh, Johnstown)  
 Wenshu Lee (Loyola Marymount Univ)  
 Stan Lindsay (Florida State Univ, Panama City)  
 Elizabeth M. Lozano (Loyola Univ)  
 Kathryn Sorrells (California State Univ, Northridge)  
 Philip Wander (Loyola Marymount Univ)  
 Gust A. Yep (San Francisco State Univ)  
**Chair:** Omar Swartz (Univ of Colorado, Denver)

### **SATURDAY, November 22, 2008:**

#### **Public Spaces and Virtual Places: Ethical Issues in Media and Organizations**

**8:00am - 9:15am Grand Hyatt / Cunningham A**

*Future TV versus Orange TV: Why Fairness and Balance are not Priorities in Lebanon's Journalistic Codes*, Yasmine Dabbous (Louisiana State Univ)  
*The Battle for the Public Sphere: Ethics of Public Space and the Culture*, Jammers Movement, Matthew Kushin (Washington State Univ)  
*Rhetorical Implications of 'Professionalism' for Organizational Culture: Praxis of Mindfulness*, Lynda S. Brown (Texas A&M International Univ)  
*Terra Nova 2.0—MMORPGs, New Worlds, and Ethics*, David J. Gunkel (Northern Illinois Univ)  
**Respondent:** Paula Tompkins (St. Cloud State Univ)  
**Chair:** Tammy Swenson Lepper (Winona State Univ)

#### **Finding Spinoza: An Unconventional Approach to the Ethics of Communication**

**3:30pm - 4:45pm Grand Hyatt / Parlor Room 806**

*Spinoza and the Functions of the Emotions in the Ethics of Communication*, William W. Neher (Butler Univ)

*Spinoza's God: Context for Ethics*, Paul J. Sandin (Butler Univ)

**Chair:** William W. Neher (Butler Univ)

**The Politics of Communication Ethics:  
Democracy and the Other**

5:00pm - 6:15pm Grand Hyatt / Cunningham A

*The Importance of Narrative Literacy to*

*Communication Ethics Study*, Leeanne Marian Bell  
(Villa Julie College)

*Edith Stein: The Givenness of the Other*, Melissa  
Chastain (Spalding Univ)

*A Communication Ethics Exploration of Justice and  
Community*, Paula S. Tompkins (St. Cloud State Univ)

*Diversity and Morality: Implications for a*

*Transformative Communication Ethics*, Melba

Leonor Velez (Univ of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

**Respondent:** Gina L. Ercolini (Univ of South  
Carolina)

**Chair:** Robert Ballard (Univ of Waterloo)

**National and International Perspectives on  
Ethics, Leadership, and Trust in Contemporary  
Organizations: Meet and Talk with the Scholars!**

6:30pm - 7:45pm Grand Hyatt/Cunningham A

*Organizational Trust and Communication:*

*Understanding the Role of Ethics and Leadership*,

Pamela S. Shockley-Zalabak (Univ of Colorado,  
Colorado Springs), Michael Z. Hackman (Univ of  
Colorado, Colorado Springs)

*Leadership in a Socially Sustainable World*, James  
R. Barker (Univ of Waikato, New Zealand)

*Distributed Team Development: Relationships  
among Communication, Leadership, Trust, and*

*Ethics*, Stacey L. Connaughton (Purdue Univ),

Elizabeth A. Williams (Purdue Univ), Jennifer S.

Linvill (Purdue Univ)

*How Generational Perceptions of Trust Influence*

*Persuasive Appeals, Advocacy, and Ethics in Legal  
Settings*, Geoffrey R. Tumlin (Univ of Texas, Austin)

*Leadership, Trust, and Ethics in Large*

*Organizations: Results of the International Sietar*

*Trust Survey*, Cesaria Ruggero (Isvor Fiat, Rome  
Italy)

**Chair:** Sherwyn P. Morreale (Univ of Colorado,  
Colorado Springs)

**SUNDAY, November 23, 2008:**

**Communication Ethics Division  
Business Meeting**

**12:30pm - 1:45pm Grand Hyatt/Cunningham A**

**SUNDAY, November 23, 2008:**

**Top Papers in Communication Ethics**

2:00pm - 3:15pm Grand Hyatt/Cunningham A

*Complainant and Respondent Protections: An  
analysis of university research misconduct policies*,

Rebecca Ann Lind (Univ of Illinois, Chicago),

Korin Isotalo-Hunt (Univ of Illinois, Chicago), Jill

Caravelli (Univ of Illinois, Chicago), Sarah

Millermaier (Univ of Illinois, Chicago), Nathan

Earixson (Univ of Illinois, Chicago), Ginnifer L.

Mastarone (Univ of Illinois, Chicago)

*Finding the Ethical Relation in Political*

*Representation*, Shawn M. Snidow (Univ of  
Oklahoma)

*Unconventional Dialogic Distinctions 'Between'*

*Buber and Bakhtin*, Laurie J. Moroco (Thiel College)

*Dull razors and qualitative inquiry: The politics of  
complication*, Zachary S. Justus (Arizona State Univ)

**Respondent:** Roy V. Wood (Univ of Denver)

**Chair:** Kenneth R. Chase (Wheaton College)

**Pragmatism and Communication Ethics: An  
Unconventional Perspective on Normative Issues  
in Communication**

3:30pm - 4:45pm Grand Hyatt / Cunningham A

*The Tone of Peace: The Pragmatists Confront War*,

Jeremy Engels (Penn State Univ)

*A Deweyan Take on Meliorism and Communication*

*Ethics*, Scott R. Stroud (Univ of Texas, Austin)

*Rhetorical Pragmatism, First Causes, and*

*Communication Ethics without Theory*, Pat J.

Gehrke (Univ of South Carolina)

*Completing the Linguistic Turn: Neopragmatism*

*and the Ethics of Rhetoric*, Robert C. Danisch

(Concordia Univ)

**Respondent:** Gregory J. Shepherd (Ohio Univ)

**Chair:** Peter D. Simonson (Univ of Colorado,  
Boulder)

**MONDAY, November 24, 2008:**

**Acknowledging Others Religiously, Politically,  
Cybernetically**

11:00am - 12:15pm Grand Hyatt/Ford B

*Blessing/Cursing: Acknowledging Spiritual*

*Futures*, Kenneth R. Chase (Wheaton College)

*With or Without Non-Citizens*, Alessandra Beasley

(Wake Forest Univ)

*Digital Citizenship*, Ananda Mitra (Wake Forest

Univ)

**Respondent:** Michael J. Hyde (Wake Forest Univ)

**Chair:** Ron Von Burg (Christopher Newport Univ)

## Message from the Division Chair: *The Joys of NCA*

Ken Chase, Wheaton College

The calls for a boycott of our San Diego convention site have pushed all of us to serious reflection on crucial issues. At the leading edge of issue analysis are the ethical questions, including the tensions between our commitments to social justice and civil rights, and our various contractual, financial and professional obligations. Not to be forgotten in this mix is our commitment to free speech, including both its limits and its methods. The ethical passions invoked in recent weeks by CRTNET discussions or NCA-related emails can be seen as either exhilarating or disheartening. To help regulate my mood swings, I've spent some time at the NCA website, reviewing policy documents that ought to guide our collective action. I have read our valuable statements on labor disputes, affirmative action, and diversity; in these we can find the institutional rationale for our collective concerns over convention site selection. I also have read again those policy documents relating to responsible communication and ethical communication; in these we have a framework for how difficult disputes are to be settled.

Intriguingly, the boycott dispute arises at the intersection of these documents, for the communication documents urge dialogue and tolerance, even toward those with whom we most seriously disagree. Yet, the labor and affirmative action policies establish boundaries that we must not cross, positions that cannot be tolerated. And hence the trouble—have we reached the point at which tolerance-based discourse is no longer effective in dulling the sharpest points of contention about civil rights? Should the practices of a boycott and a picket line trump the practice of dialogic engagement?

I do not know the answers to these questions, but I do know that reviewing NCA's valuable policy documents enables me to shape the inquiry. I know that many of you have thoughtful and articulate answers, so I am eager to do the work of our Division with all of you next month in San Diego. And I know much of the work will be outside the Manchester Hyatt, along with our usually strong collection of panels that must be held, alas, inside.

Easy Links:

**Statement on Diversity:**

<http://www.natcom.org/nca/Template2.asp?bid=518>

**Statement on Affirmative Action:**

<http://www.natcom.org/nca/Template2.asp?bid=517>

**Ethics Credo:**

<http://www.natcom.org/nca/Template2.asp?bid=514>

**Credo for Free and Responsible**

**Communication:**

<http://www.natcom.org/nca/Template2.asp?bid=513>

**Statement on Labor Disputes:**

<http://www.natcom.org/nca/Template2.asp?bid=869>  
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## Division receives non profit approval!

**Robert Ballard, Univ of Waterloo  
Secretary/Treasurer, Communication Ethics  
Division**

After years (yes, years!) of work, the Communication Ethics Division has finally received its official approval of tax-exempt, non-profit status. This IRS status exempts the division from paying taxes for purchases, from being taxed on income, allows the division to accept donations as a tax deduction to donors, and to accept gifts from other sources. It also provides the division flexibility to enter into future publishing agreements, to partner with other non-profit organizations or educational institutions as its own entity, and to its own programs well into the future. One of the great benefits is that the division can and will remain a part of NCA, but also have the autonomy to grow and be its own organization. We are very excited about the foundation this status provides the division.



## 10<sup>th</sup> National Communication Ethics Conference gathers scholars in Pittsburgh, PA

The 10<sup>th</sup> National Communication Ethics Conference was held at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA this past June. Over 60 participants joined to discuss scholarship with many panels including the conference theme “Communication Ethics and Crisis: Negotiating Differences in Public and Private Spheres.”

The conference was held at the new Power Center facility on the campus of Duquesne University. This comfortable and state-of-the-art center allowed us to have three great days of sharing scholarship and ideas for our division.



Ronald C. Arnett receives the Scholar in Residence Award from Janie M. Harden Fritz, co-chair of the 10<sup>th</sup> National CEC.

The conference Scholar in Residence, selected by past Scholars in Residence, was Dr. Ronald C. Arnett. Ron delivered a keynote address entitled, “Ethics and Communicative Crisis: The Interface of Communication Ethics and Crisis Communication in a World of Narrative and Virtue Contention.”

## Communication Ethics Division Business Meeting Minutes —CEC, Pittsburgh, PA Friday, June 13, 2008

President Ken Chase, opened the meeting by introducing himself and other officers present including: NCA program planner and First VP, Pat Gehrke; Next convention planner and Second VP, Spoma Jovanovic; and *Ethica*-Newsletter Editor Melissa Cook.

Ken also referred to two officers unable to attend: Immediate Past President, Chris Polous who is charged with presenting annual awards at NCA convention in San Diego this year; Secretary Treasurer, Bert Ballard, moving to Canada for a new faculty position, and he is working on our 501c3 status and checking account issues.

Ken asked Pat to update the group on the NCA convention in San Diego

Pat explained that there were changes in process this year in that Planners were forbidden to tell those presenters that they were indeed accepted because NCA wanted to tell them. But, NCA failed in their effort, so now presenters have to search the program on line to see if you are in the program. You can ask Pat to help you to determine if you are.

Pat said there were an exciting set of panels and we will hear from a number of people who aren't regular contributors to our division as well as some people talking about international communication ethics & social justice. There will be scholars from outside U.S. as well.

Ken asked Pat to suggest what one panel is he really excited about. Pat responded that there is a Panel with 8-9 scholars interested in social justice and communication ethics. Many in this panel do not normally present with us...some are well known in Communication Studies field, some are not. It is a very unique and fascinating panel. Pat closed his remarks by asking us to be thinking about putting papers/panels together for 2009.

Ken noted that we will not have a preconference sponsored by our division because we are working here as a cosponsor of this particular conference.

Ken asked if there was something we can do in San Diego that can promote our division?

What about the possibility of having a gathering on the Thursday of the convention. This particular convention is different ...in that it begins on Friday officially. If people arrive Thursday night, perhaps we can find a place and talk about matters of interests in communication ethics.

Janie Fritz mentioned that Thursday is RCA's preconference.

Pat Arneson suggested that we just send an email saying we are going to be a certain venue if anyone wants to gather.

So, we should all look for an announcement from the executive council if we are able to find a venue to meet.

Ken also mentioned that we are a fast growing division due to increased membership over 6 years by 57%. According to Roger Smither at NCA, We have 307 current members.

Melissa Cook asked those in attendance to let her know if they were NOT a divisional member so that she could put people on her email mailing list for future announcements & mailings for *Ethica*. She also encouraged all to check the box for our division when they register for the convention this year...it's the only way we'll get you officially on our roles.

We then discussed our desires (or not) for a website. Ken explained that over the past few years we have urged officers and members to get website space so that resources can be posted, such as Syllabi, sample assignments/exercises. But to date, we have not received anything except for one offering (thanks Chris Polous!).

Two years ago at NCA, Bill Naher had a short course in Communication Ethics and we hoped to have resources from that and he is having another short course in San Diego. So if we accumulate resources, we would like to be able to put those resources on a website, so we can share w/the rest of the country/world.

NCA will not host division website material (at one point they did for about a year)

Would it be a good idea to pursue our own website or place to digitally store these resources? It would cost us a bit of our annual money and we would probably need to secure TAs. Is there interest/what do we think?

Pat Gehrke offered a caveat if we are interested in producing substantive content. Pat might be able to host the website at S. Carolina, perhaps Google docs or are there options we don't know about?

Ron Arnett mentioned that he was not as enthusiastic with listserves due to the amount of emails we all receive. If it's a site and people ask him to contribute something, he'd help.

Eric Grabowsky asked if we could have a site that becomes more of a bibliographic site? A scholarly route & let teaching flow from it?

Pat Gehrke noted that the website has to be transportable, so we can move the host and management of it. These are not just institutional questions but bare technical difficulties

Spoma asked if it makes sense to have a student to do this as an independent study and we can connect them to who has the resources, or there might be a grad student out there who can help.

Pat Gehrke will have a research assistant who he is going to use as an asst. for this division

Ken said we won't make this a voting issue but we'll need to work on it over the summer to bring the issue to business meeting at NCA.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melissa A. Cook*

**A FEW PICTURES FROM THE 10<sup>TH</sup>  
NATIONAL CEC, JUNE 2008**



Jeanne Persuit, UNC-Wilmington and Christy McDowell, Duquesne, at the registration area welcoming conference participants.



Thanks to the dedication and work of our CEC Co-chairs S. Alyssa Groom and Janie M. Harden Fritz, both of Duquesne University.



Leeanne Bell, Stevenson University & Brent Sleasman, Gannon University.



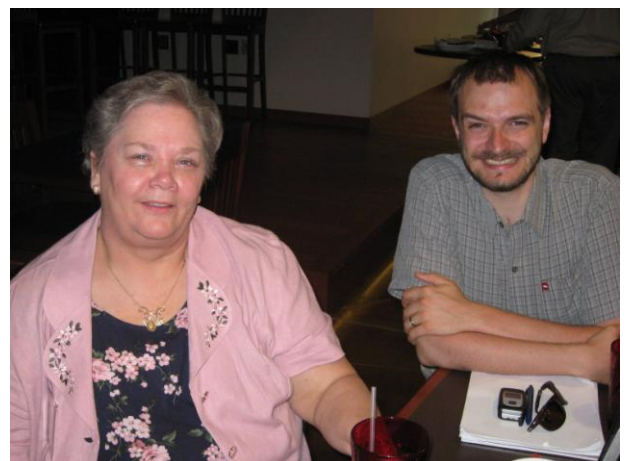
John Prellwitz, Univ of Pittsburgh-Greensburg, Annette Holba, Plymouth State Univ & Marie Baker Ohler, Northern Arizona Univ.



Ken Chase, Wheaton College & Linda S. Brown, Texas A&M



Clifford Christians  
Univ of Illinois-  
Urbana-Champaign



Rachel Kosko & Erik Garrett, both of Duquesne Univ.



**Hot off the Presses:****Arnett, Harden Fritz & Bell publish Communication Ethics Literacy: Dialogue and Difference**

A comprehensive and engaging treatment of communication ethics. This text combines student application and theoretical engagement, reviews classic communication ethics approaches and extends the conversation about dialogue and difference in public and private life. Ronald C. Arnett, Janie M. Harden Fritz and Leeanne Bell introduce communication ethics as a pragmatic survival skill in a world of difference, and offer a learning model that frames communication ethics as arising from a set of goods found within particular narratives, traditions, or virtue structures that guide human life. Visit the Sage booth at the convention! Arnett, R. C., Harden Fritz, J.M. and Bell, L.M. (2008). Communication Ethics Literacy: Dialogue and Difference. Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

**Cook & Holba edit****Philosophies of Communication; Implications for Everyday Experience.**

Melissa A. Cook and Annette M. Holba worked on an edited project with essays to consider how philosophies of communication and communication ethics can shape and enhance human communication. Collectively, this book provides a philosophical and pragmatic orientation to issues that involve interpersonal and organization communicative contexts from marketplace, political and feminist perspectives. The text invites students to develop or improve the critical thinking skills that in turn help them negotiate deeper philosophical and ethical significances within their everyday communicative encounters. Visit the Peter Lang booth at NCA! Cook, M.A. and Hobla, A.M. (Eds.). (2008). Philosophies of Communication; Implications for Everyday Experience. NY, NY: Peter Lang.

Send book announcements to [ETHICA](#) via email: [Melissa.Cook@email.stvincent.edu](mailto:Melissa.Cook@email.stvincent.edu). Next publication date: January 2009. After four years of serving the Division as Editor, this is my last issue of [ETHICA](#). I'd like to thank all of those who have taught me the history of this special Division. I will forward any information I receive to the newly appointed Editor after the NCA convention.

*Melissa Cook*

**Arneson in print**

Pat Arneson would like to mention two projects she has worked on recently. One book is in press: Arneson, Pat. Perspectives on Philosophy of Communication. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press, 2007.

And a second book will be here soon:

**Arneson & Morreale edit book**

Morreale, S. & Arneson, P. (Eds.). (2008). Getting the Most from Your Graduate Education in Communication: A Student's Handbook. Washington, DC: National Communication Association. An ethical response to the need to provide professional support to graduate students. One free copy of the graduate student handbook will be mailed to all programs (MA, PhD) identified with NCA by the end of the month.

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UPDATED January 2008

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