

Ethica

The Newsletter of the Communication Ethics Division

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Division Description

The purpose of the Division is to promote research and teaching relating to ethical issues and standards in all aspects of human communication and to encourage educational programs that examine communication ethics. General membership in the Communication Ethics Division is open to any member of NCA who is interested in promoting the Division's purpose.

The Communication Ethics Division exists by authority of the Constitution and By-laws of the National Communication Association (NCA) ratified by the membership in 2003, and formerly by the Legislative Council of the Speech Communication Association (SCA) in 1984.

Message from the Division Chair: Please join us at the Business Meeting and Top Papers Panel

**Michelle A. Leavitt
William Jessup University, Bay Area**

As we anticipate the National Communication Association's 105th Annual Convention, we look forward to discussing scholarship on the convention theme, "Communication for Survival," and sharing ideas on teaching and service. Vice Chair, Janie Harden Fritz, has planned a dynamic program this year. We welcome you to join us at our panel discussions and paper sessions. The Top Papers in Communication Ethics panel will be Friday, November 15 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. in the Hilton's Calloway Room (Second Floor).

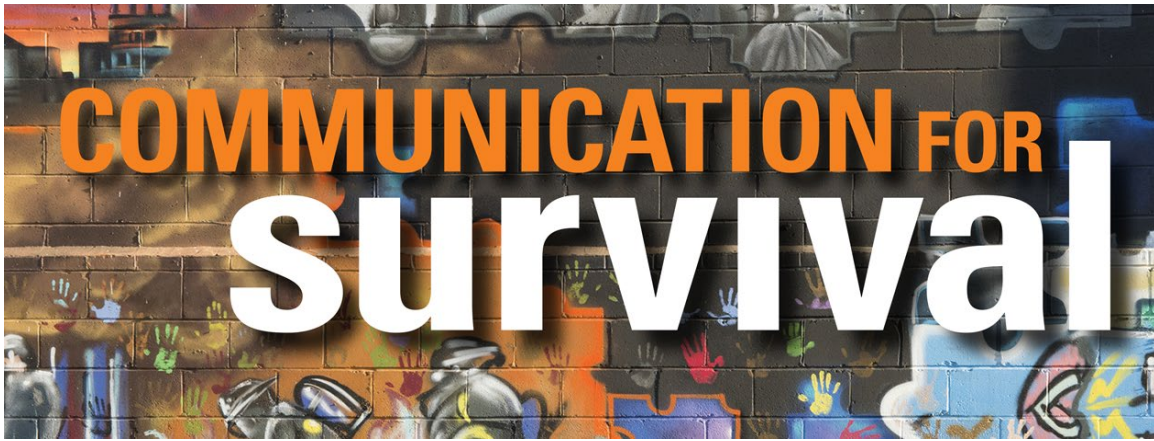
I also cordially invite you to attend our annual business meeting where we will reconnect with colleagues, learn about opportunities to contribute to our division, and plan for the year ahead. **Our Business Meeting will be:**

**Saturday, November 16th
11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Hilton, Key Ballroom 10 (Second Floor)**

We have some significant decisions for the Communication Ethics Division members to discuss this year and value your participation in this important meeting. Some of the topics on our agenda include:

- Report on the convention program
- Update on Legislative Assembly
- Elect division officers
- Recognize award recipients

If there are topics you would like to add to the agenda, please contact me. My sincerest thanks to my colleagues: John Prellwitz, Janie Harden Fritz, Sarah DeJuliis, Inci Ozum Ucok-Sayrak, and Matthew Mancino for their dedicated service to our division. I look forward to seeing you in Baltimore!



The 105th Annual Convention of the National Communication Association

**Thursday, November 14 to
Sunday, November 17, 2019
Baltimore, Maryland**

**Message from the Vice Chair and Program Planner:
2019 Convention Plans Feature “Communication for Survival”**

**Janie Harden Fritz
Duquesne University**

Join us for the 105th annual convention of the National Communication Association in Baltimore, Maryland, November 14–17, 2019. This year the Communication Ethics Division will offer paper sessions and panel discussions on topics relevant to communication ethics within the broad horizon of the theme “Communication for Survival.” Our division received a total of 20 submissions and will host 10 compelling sessions (other than the business meeting) at the conference. We were pleased to note that one of our 10 slots is co-sponsored (by the Organizational Communication Division).

You are invited to attend the **Top Papers in Communication Ethics** panel on Friday, November 15, 12:30–1:45 p.m. in the Hilton’s Calloway Room (2nd floor). The top scholar paper is awarded to Austin Hestdalen of Duquesne University, whose paper, “Neighbors and Strangers: A Communication Ethics for the City,” also secured the top student paper ranking. Congratulations to all of the scholars on this panel! Please see the schedule that follows this update listing all of the exceptional papers and panels planned for our conference program.

Without dedicated scholars willing to submit their work to the division, we would not have the outstanding programs that we are able to offer. Thanks to all who submitted papers and panels to represent our division so well. Many, many thanks to those division members who were willing to invest time reviewing the submissions this year. Your efforts are much appreciated. Please thank our colleagues when you see them in Baltimore, and we will recognize them at our **Business Meeting on Saturday, November 16, at 11:00 a.m.** in the Key Ballroom 10 in the Hilton. The 2019 reviewers include the following division members: Ronald C. Arnett, Kenneth Bohl, Joshua Clements, Adrienne Hacker Daniels, Sarah DeJuliis, Melinda Farrington, Robert Foschia, Koji Fuse, Brian Gilchrist, Eric Grabowsky, Hannah Karolak, Matthew Mancino, Susan Mancino, Amanda McKendree, Leanne Bell McManus, Dominic Ofori, Marianne Pabis, Elizabeth Parks, Andrew Tinker, Inci Ozum Ucok-Sayrak.

Please join us for all of our panel discussions and paper sessions. The following list identifies the sessions sponsored by the Communication Ethics Division of NCA. Join us for engaging scholarship and vigorous discussion! I look forward to seeing you in Baltimore!

Communication Ethics Divisional Panels

Thursday, Nov. 14th

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Risk and Crisis Communication Ethics in a Technological Age: Democracy, Speech, and Survival

Chair: Craig T. Maier
Duquesne University

Presentations: Craig T. Maier
Duquesne University
Joel S. Ward
Geneva College
Sean Fourney
San Francisco State University
Amanda Grace McKendree
University of Notre Dame

Hilton
Room: Poe (Second Floor)

5:00 PM - 6:15 PM

A Student's Guide to Surviving Communication Ethics

Chair: Michelle A. Leavitt
William Jessup University

Presenters: Robert L. Ballard
Pepperdine University
Lori J. N. Charron
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Annette M. Holba
Plymouth State University
Spoma Jovanovic
University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Tammy Swenson Lepper
Winona State University
Leeanne M. Bell McManus
Stevenson University
Melba Velez Ortiz
Grand Valley State University

Hilton
Room: Holiday Ballroom 1 (Second Floor)

5:00 PM - 6:15 PM

In Search of Ethical Workplace Behavior: Issues of Reputation, Identification, Satisfaction, and Informal Communication

Chair: Steve May
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Respondent: Megan Kenny Feister
California State University Channel Islands

Presentations: Rebecca M. Rice
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Cameron Wade Piercy *and*
University of Kansas
Caleb T. Carr
Emily A. Paskewitz *and*
University of Kansas
Cassandra Ann Ray
University of Kansas
Joshua M. Parcha
Penn State University, Hazelton

Hilton
Room: Holiday Ballroom 5 (Second Floor)

Friday, Nov. 15th

8:00 AM – 9:15 AM

From Survival to Flourishing: Ethical Praxis for Engaged Communication about Disability

Chair: Brendan G. A. Hughes
Metropolitan State University of Denver

Presenters: Karen L. Lollar
Metropolitan State University of Denver

Elizabeth S. Parks
Colorado State University

Robert L. Ballard
Pepperdine University

Sarah Ballard
Pepperdine University

Melba Velez Ortiz
Grand Valley State University

Brian Grewe
University of Denver

Brendan G. A. Hughes
Metropolitan State University of Denver

Sophie Jones
University of New Mexico

Lauren Chu
Pepperdine University

Hilton
Room: Poe (Second Floor)

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

Top Papers in Communication Ethics

Chair: Janie Harden Fritz
Duquesne University

Respondent: Ronald C. Arnett
Duquesne University

Presentations: Austin David Hestdalen
Duquesne University

Miles C. Coleman
Rowan University

Justin N. Bonanno
Duquesne University

Karen L. Lollar *and*
Metropolitan State University of Denver

Daniel J. Lair
Metropolitan State University of Denver

Hilton
Room: Calloway (Second Floor)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Corporate and Organizational Communication Ethics: Multiple Perspectives

Chair: Amanda Grace McKendree
University of Notre Dame

Respondent: Elizabeth S. Parks
Colorado State University

Presentations: Craig T. Maier
Duquesne University

Ronald C. Arnett
Duquesne University

Allen Zimmerman
Georgia State University

Kara L. Starnes
Missouri State University

Hilton
Room: Key Ballroom 11 (Second Floor)

Saturday, Nov. 16th

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Communication Ethics Business Meeting

Presenter: Michelle A. Leavitt
William Jessup University

Co-Presenter: Janie Harden Fritz
Duquesne University

Hilton
Room: Key Ballroom 10 (Second Floor)

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Discussing the Ethics and Importance of Ideological Diversity in Communication Studies

Chair: Ronald C. Arnett
Duquesne University

Presenters: Robert Asen
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Jean Goodwin
North Carolina State University

Andrew M. Ledbetter
Texas Christian University

John M. Murphy
University of Illinois

Amy Pason
University of Nevada, Reno

Scott Stroud
University of Texas, Austin

Hilton
Room: Key Ballroom 3 (Second Floor)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Surviving Interruptions, Interrupting Survival: The End and Ends of Life in Michael J. Hyde’s The Interruption That We Are

- Chair: John Rief
Duquesne University
- Respondent: Michael J. Hyde
Wake Forest University
- Presentations: Michael R. Kearney
Duquesne University
- David Errera
Duquesne University
- Katherine Rogers
Duquesne University
- Annette M. Holba
Plymouth State University

Hilton
Room: Calloway (Second Floor)

Sunday, Nov. 17th

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Communication Ethics: Reflections on and Applications of Methodological Approaches

- Chair: Inci Ozum Ucok-Sayrak
Duquesne University
- Respondent: Melba Velez Ortiz
Grand Valley State University
- Presentations: Elizabeth A. Hintz *and*
University of South Florida
Marleah Dean
University of South Florida
- Kelly M. O’Donnell
University of Pittsburgh
- Alexandra C. Klaren
John Hopkins University

Hilton
Room: Key Ballroom 11 (Second Floor)

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

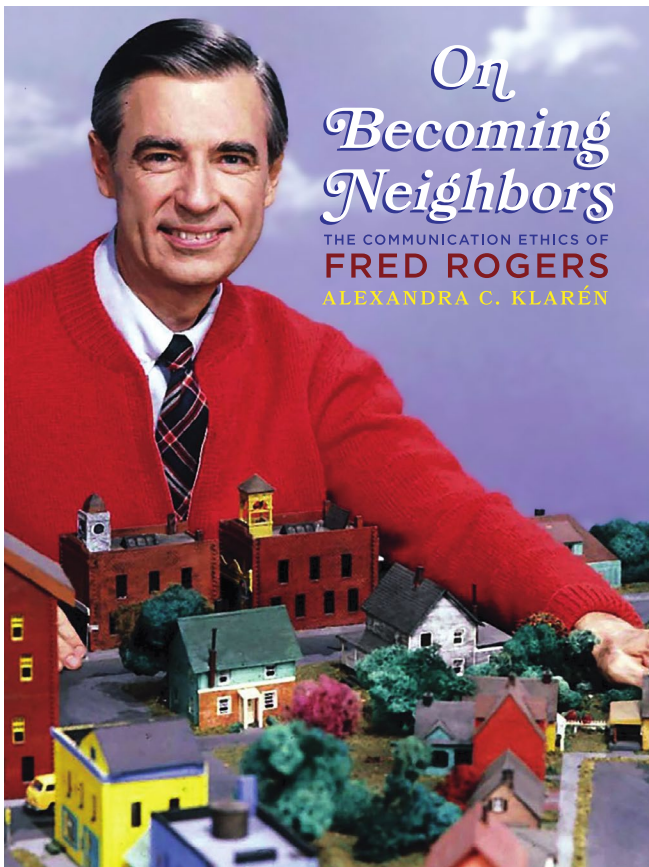
Richard Vatz and the Survival of Rhetorical Responsibility

- Chair: Richard H. Thames
Duquesne University
- Respondent: Richard E. Vatz
Towson University
- Presentations: D. L. Stephenson
Western Connecticut State University
- Eric Grabowsky
Dickinson State University
- James M. Brandon
Hillsdale College
- Theodore F. Sheckels
Randolph-Mancon College

Hilton
Room: Blake (Second Floor)

“To be undone by another is a primary necessity, an anguish, to be sure, but also a chance—to be addressed, claimed, bound to what is not me, but also to be moved, to be prompted to act, to address myself elsewhere, and so to vacate the self-sufficient ‘I’ as a kind of possession.”

—Judith Butler



Author Spotlight: Alexandra C. Klarén, Ph.D.

Education

PhD in Communication (University of Pittsburgh, 2016)
MA in Religious Studies (University of Pittsburgh, 2009)
MA in Writing (Johns Hopkins University, 2005)
BA in History and Politics (Sarah Lawrence College, 2002)

Current Position

Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins Carey Business School

Book Title

On Becoming Neighbors: The Communication Ethics of Fred Rogers (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2019)

Book Website

<https://www.upress.pitt.edu/books/9780822945901>

What is the primary question driving your work?

How does Fred Rogers reach his *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* television viewers and sustain their interest for more than thirty years on the air?

What are three ideas that structure an understanding of your book?

Fred Rogers, who departs from both a Christian and child development understanding (Piaget, Winnicott, Erikson, Spock), recognized in the television medium the parasocial possibilities for making the critical embodied, social-emotional communication connections that humans need to develop and cope in the world.

The success of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* revolves around Rogers' establishment of a space of emotional and relational safety and healing, a pathos recognized by *The Little Prince* author, Antoine Saint-Exupéry, as "invisible to the eye," through rhetorics of care and connection in his televisual encounter.

On Becoming Neighbors reveals how *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood's* success is largely owed to

Fred Rogers' effective deployment of "ethical emotionality" (defined by Belgian scholar, Roger Burrgraeve, as "passion through and for the other") and tele-dialogism to reach his viewers.

How do you see your work situated in and contributing to the study of communication ethics?

This interdisciplinary book sits at the crossroads of communication and rhetoric, media and culture studies, American studies, and communication ethics. Despite the program's longevity and popularity, it has received only scant attention from humanities scholars. Only a few researchers have attempted to study *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* viewer mail and other archived writings by Rogers and others (unavailable before the establishment of the Fred Rogers Center in 2008).

Given Rogers' conception of his communication project and the importance of the active response of his viewers, my deep study of viewer mail is indispensable to any analysis not only of the show, but of the general cultural environment within which it operated. With its distinct but closely integrated primary chapters on vision, production, and reception, the book presents an original inquiry

that moves across, with a coherent conceptual framework and method, three distinct aspects of the *Neighborhood* television event.

From a strictly communication ethics perspective, *On Becoming Neighbors* demonstrates how Rogers' project evolved upon layer upon layer of dialogical practice – creating music to express human emotion, interactive learning with children at the Arsenal Family and Children's Center, using dyadic address throughout *Neighborhood*, constructing and deconstructing everyday objects on *Neighborhood*, and corresponding with viewers via letter writing – and thus follows a structural format of dialectical unfolding.

How is your book relevant within and beyond the communication classroom?

On Becoming Neighbors promises to appeal to three primary audiences. First, it has a strong draw for departments of Communication and Media Studies, American Studies, and English, offering undergraduate and graduate classes in communication ethics, rhetorical production, critical/cultural studies, and mass media.

The second audience for the book is outside the realm of academia. Because of Rogers continuing presence in the public memory as a media figure and virtual “neighbor” who touched lives and who is widely regarded as a deeply respected teacher of children, the book should be of interest to the wider, educated public.

The third audience is comprised of media professionals working specifically in children's media, parents, media psychologists, and educators of young children. While many childhood education professionals who have viewed *Mister Rogers* may have a sense that it fostered social-emotional learning, it is unlikely that they have a deep and multi-varied perspective on how exactly Rogers does this. *On Becoming Neighbors* will help those who are committed to the social-emotional development and health of children develop a robust interdisciplinary understanding of the value systems, knowledges, and communication tools that Rogers integrated and employed in order to achieve this learning objective.

Author Bio:

Alexandra C. Klarén, PhD (Communication, University of Pittsburgh) is Assistant Professor at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. She has expertise in the areas of communication & rhetoric, media & culture, and ethics. Dr. Klarén's research and teaching interests are rooted in the study of culture, communication, ethics, and human emotion. She is primarily interested in understanding the ways that value systems and identities are constituted by and through the media and other prominent social institutions.

Call for Submissions: Honoring the Life and Legacy of Dr. Roy V. Wood

We were saddened to learn Dr. Roy V. Wood, former professor at the University of Denver and Dean at Northwestern University, passed away on October 1, 2019.

To honor Roy's life and legacy, we are creating a special issue of *Ethica*. We invite you and those who knew Roy to submit articles, reflections, photographs, and other creative products related to Roy's teaching, scholarship, and service by **January 30, 2020**. Submissions will be reviewed and given full consideration for inclusion in the special issue of *Ethica*.

Questions and submissions may be directed to the Guest Editors of this issue:

Spoma Jovanovic, PhD
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Michelle Leavitt, PhD
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Bert Ballard, PhD
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16th National Communication Ethics Conference
Communication Ethics After Virtue
Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
May 11-12, 2020

The 16th Biennial Communication Ethics Conference will be held May 11–12, 2020 (Monday and Tuesday), at the Duquesne University Power Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The conference is sponsored by the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies of Duquesne University and the Communication Ethics Institute.

NOTE: The conference venue is shifting to accommodate decreasing financial support for conferences. This conference will be a venue for ideas, presentations, and professional collaboration and conversation. Participants will be responsible for arranging and paying for meals, lodging, and parking. We will provide coffee throughout the conference. We will schedule times for small group conversation and music entertainment in the evening.

The theme for this year's conference is **Communication Ethics After Virtue**. The conference centers on considering the implications of the work of Alasdair MacIntyre for communication ethics, with keynote speakers offering insights and connections.

Presenters are encouraged to develop panels and submissions based on the work of Alasdair MacIntyre tied to communication ethics, specifically addressing the following works:

- 1) *Dependent Rational Animals: Why Human Beings Need Virtues*
- 2) *After Virtue*
- 3) *Whose Justice? Which Rationality?*

As always, we welcome papers addressing any aspect of communication ethics, regardless of connection to the conference theme.

Papers: We invite abstracts of 200–500 words or completed papers of a maximum of 30 pages, including references. Submissions should be double-spaced, using MLA, APA, or Chicago citation styles.

Panel Proposals: Panel proposals may include up to five participants. Please include a title page with a 500-word (maximum) rationale and a 200-word abstract for each presentation.

Registration:

1. Conference registration is free.
2. There is a charge for parking—details to follow.
3. Boxed lunches will be available at an additional charge—details to follow.

Send all submissions to cec@duq.edu by April 10, 2020.

For more information and ongoing updates on the conference, please visit our **website** (www.duq.edu/summerconference) or **contact** the conference planner (Mrs. Rita McCaffrey) or graduate student conference director (Kati Sudnick) at:

Email: cec@duq.edu

Phone: 412-396-6446

Website: <http://www.duq.edu/summerconference>

**Communication Ethics Division Officer
Contact Information**

Chair

Michelle A. Leavitt
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**To use the Communication Ethics Division
LISTSERV**

Follow these guidelines:

- To start sending messages to members of our group, send an email to comethics@yahoogroups.com
- To reply to a message, simply answer the message and your reply will be sent to all members.
- To become a new subscriber to our listserv, send an email to comethics-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- To communicate with the moderator, send an email to comethics-owner@yahoogroups.com
- If you do not wish to belong to our group, you can unsubscribe by sending an email to comethics-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com
- If you wish to receive a private response from our members, enclose your email address in your note and encourage people to send you a note using that address, rather than the group address.

**To learn more about the Communication
Ethics Division, please visit us online:**

www.commethics.org
www.facebook.com/commethics.org