

# Katherine A. (Becker) Rafferty

## Curriculum Vitae

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### School Address:

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
 Department of Communication  
 P.O. Box 413, 2025 E. Newport Ave (NWQ-B)  
 Milwaukee, WI 53201

**Email:** becker62@uwm.edu

### Education

- 2015      Doctor of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Department of Communication, **Distinguished Dissertation Fellow**  
 Advisor: C. Erik Timmerman, PhD  
 Dissertation: *The nature of parental communication about uncertainty, hope, and hopelessness while managing childhood chronic illness*  
 GPA: 3.96/4.00
- 2009      Master of the Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Communication  
 Advisor: Travis Dixon, PhD  
 Comprehensive Exam: High Pass/Pass  
 GPA: 4.00/4.00
- 2007      Bachelor of the Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Speech Communication, **cum laude with High Departmental Distinction.**  
 Advisor: Leanne Knobloch, PhD  
 Senior Honors Thesis: *Relationship talk themes: What are we talking about?*  
 GPA: 3.82/4.00

### Publications

- Rafferty, K.A., Cramer, E., & Priddis, D.** (in press). Problematic integration and dying wishes: Examining spousal information-seeking about end-of-life care preferences. *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*.
- Rafferty, K.A., Cramer, E., Priddis, D., & Allen, M.** (in press). Talking about end-of-life preferences in marriage: Applying the theory of motivated information management. *Health Communication*.
- Becker, K.A. & Freburg, K.** (2014). Medical student storytelling on an institutional blog: A case study analysis. *Medical Teacher*, 36(5), 415-421.

Bradford, L., & **Becker, K.A.** (2012). The role of embarrassment on college student health care seeking decisions. Proceedings from the 2012 American Academy on Communication in Healthcare Research and Teaching Forum. *Medical Encounter*, 26(3), 23.

### Research Under Review

**Rafferty, K.A.**, Billig, A. & Mosack, K.E. (2014). *Spirituality, religion, and health: The role of communication and appraisals in the coping process for individuals living with chronic illness.* Manuscript submitted for publication.

Mosack, K.E., **Rafferty, K.A.**, Billig, A.K., Wendorf, A.R., Brouwer, A.M., & Stevens, P. (2014). *An examination of actor-partner social support effects on conflict and HIV-related problems, communication about these problems, and health symptoms among HIV-positive African Americans.* Manuscript submitted for publication.

Peterson, J.L., **Rafferty, K.A.**, & Bradford, L. (2014). *"I'm too embarrassed": College students' reasons for delaying and avoiding health care.* Manuscript submitted for publication.

Bradford, L., Peterson, J.L., & **Rafferty, K.A.** (2014). *The role of embarrassment on college student health care seeking decisions.* Manuscript submitted for publication.

### Research In Progress

**Rafferty, K.A.**, & Sahlstein Parcell, E. *Family tensions during child illness: An application of relational dialectics theory to group art therapy sessions.* Manuscript currently in preparation.

### Conference Presentations

**Rafferty, K.A.**, & Sahlstein Parcell E. (2014, November). *Family tensions during child illness: An application of relational dialectics theory to group art therapy sessions.* Paper to be presented at the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.

**Rafferty, K.A.**, Billig A., & Mosack, K.E. (2014, November). *Spirituality, religion, and health: The role of communication, appraisals, and coping for individuals living with chronic illness.* Paper to be presented at the Religious Communication Association pre-conference at the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.

Dillon, K.P., Collier, J., Moore, J., Magee, S., Gamreklide, E., **Rafferty, K.A.**, & Pitts, E. (2014, November). *Grieving amid the presence of our past(s): How communication technologies are transforming and sometimes challenging the grieving process.* Paper panel to be presented at the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.

Mosack, K.E. **Rafferty, K.A.**, Billig, A.K., Wendorf, A.R., Brouwer, A.M., Thomas, C., & Stevens, P. (2014, November). *HIV in a relational context: Understanding social support among HIV-infected African American dyads.* Paper to be presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

- Billig, A., Wandrey, R., Wendorf, A., Brouwer, A., **Becker, K.A.**, & Mosack, K.E. (2014, May). *The relationship between stress, drinking, and depression within seroconcordant dyads*. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Billig, A.K., Lewis, C., Wendorf, A., Brouwer, A., Wandrey, W., **Becker, K.A.**, Safavi, M., & Mosack, K.E. (2014, May). *Stress, social support, and the actor-partner interdependence model*. Poster presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Becker, K.A.**, Cramer, E., & Priddis, D. (2014, April). *Problematic integration and dying wishes: Examining spousal information-seeking about end-of-life care preferences*. Paper presented at the Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, Lexington, KY.
- Baus, R., **Becker, K.A.**, Jones, C., & Ksobiech, K. (2014, April). *Making connections and collaborations in the health communication curriculum*. Short course presented at the Central States Communication Association, Minneapolis, MN.
- Kim, S. Allen, M., Ahn, S., Cole, A., Cramer, E.M., **Becker, K.A.**, Choi, C.S., Dilbeck, K.E., Gross, C.M., Hawkins, J.L.M., Jayroe, T.J., Kim, M., Mullane, R.R., Priddis, D.M., Smith, K., Victor, A.K., Willes, K.L., & Zmyslinski-Seelig, A.N. (2013, November). *Testing the evidence effect of Additive Cues Model (ACM)*. Paper presented at the National Communication Association, Washington, DC.
- Becker, K.A.**, Cramer, E., & Priddis, D. (2013, September). *In sickness and in health: Seeking information about spousal end-of-life preferences*. Poster presented at the International Conference on Communication in Healthcare, Montreal, Quebec.
- Billig, A.B., Brouwer, A., Wendorf, A.R., Thomas, C., Olinger, R., Wandrey, R., **Becker, K.A.**, & Mosack, K.E. (May, 2013). *Social support, perceived stress, depression, and anxiety among HIV-positive dyads*. Poster presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Becker, K.A.** (2013, April). *Medical school blogs and the expressive writing paradigm*. Paper presented at the Central States Communication Association, Kansas City, KS.
- Becker, K.A.** (2013, April). *Medical student blogs and support solicitation strategies: An examination of Indiana School of Medicine Tour the Life blogging website*. Paper presented at the Central States Communication Association, Kansas City, KS.
- Becker, K.A.**, & Freburg, K. (2013, March). *Presence of shared experiences, virtual stories, and relationship management: An exploratory study among medical student blogs on "Tour the Life."* Poster presented at the DC-area Health Communication Conference (DCHC), Fairfax, VA.
- Peterson, J.L., **Becker, K.A.**, & Bradford, L. (2012, November). *"I'm too embarrassed": College students' reasons for delaying and avoiding health care*. Paper presented at the National Communication Association, Orlando, FL.
- Bradford, L., Peterson, J.L., **Becker, K.A.** (2012, October). *The role of embarrassment on college student health care seeking decisions*. Paper presented at the American Academy on Communication in Healthcare, Providence, RI.
- Bradford, L., Peterson, J.L., & **Becker, K.A.** (2012, September). *Embarrassment and health care-seeking decisions of college students*. Poster presented at the Medical College of Wisconsin Research Day, Milwaukee, WI.

- Stoll, A., & **Becker, K.A.** (2012, July). *How and why we lie: The use of deception in dating relationships*. Paper presented at the International Association for Relationship Research, Chicago, IL.
- Vidoloff, K.G., **Becker, K.A.**, & Freberg, K. (2012, April). *Analysis of media framing across traditional and social media during the Japan radiation emergency: Implications for emergency risk communication practitioners*. Paper presented at the Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, Lexington, KY.
- Bradford, L., Peterson, J.L., & **Becker, K.A.** (2012, April). *Embarrassment and college students' health care seeking decisions*. Seminar presented to the Center for Patient Care and Outcomes Research (PCOR), Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI.
- Vanderford, M.L., & **Becker, K.A.** (2009, November). *Exploring stability and change at the intersection of risk and crisis communication: Theoretical and research convergence*. Seminar presented at Health Communication Division pre-conference at the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.
- Becker, K.A.** (2008, November). *Relationship talk themes: What are we talking about?* Paper presented at the National Communication Association, San Diego, CA.

### Awards

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| 2014 | Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Awarded highly competitive, merit-based University-wide fellowship for 2014-2015 academic year</li> </ul>  |
| 2014 | Melvin H. Miller Outstanding Doctoral Research, Communication Department, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Awarded for having the most successful and productive research year</li> </ul>  |
| 2012 | First Year Student Success Award, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Selected by University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee first-year students as the person on campus who has helped them the most in their college success</li> </ul>                                    |
| 2011 | Chancellor Scholarship, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Merit-based scholarship, Awarded \$6,000</li> </ul>   |
| 2007 | Senior 100 Honorary, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognized as one of the top 100 graduating seniors: based on academic achievement, leadership, and University service</li> </ul>   |
| 2007 | Outstanding Service Award, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nominated by students, faculty, and administration for my achievement in developing an effective and productive service program for the largest collegiate Panhellenic community</li> </ul> |

## Academic Appointments (Teaching)

- 2011-2014 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
*Introduction to Health Communication*  
*Introduction to Interpersonal Communication*
- 2007-2009 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,  
*Communication 321: Persuasive Speaking*  
*Communication 101: Effective Principles of Public Speaking*

## Academic Appointments (Research)

- 2014 Research Assistant, Scientific and Medical Communications Lab  
 Supervised by S. Scott Graham, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Provided technical assistance with writing and submitting a National Science Foundation Standard Research Grant
- 2012-Current Research Assistant, Patient Advocacy and Research Lab  
 Supervised by Katie Mosack, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Participating in a University-funded project that examines HIV-related social support, relational functioning, and HIV-related problems among seroconcordant African American dyads
  - Providing technical assistance with transcribing interviews and developing a code book for analyzing dyadic observational interviews
  - Assisting with qualitative and quantitative coding, data analysis, and producing written manuscripts
  - Managing a team of undergraduate research assistants
  - Leading and coordinating an independent research project about the role of spirituality in coping with chronic illness

## Professional Work Experience

- 2012 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), McKing Consulting  
*Research Consultant*
- Managed and provided technical assistance in the analysis and writing of both qualitative and quantitative research being conducted by CDC and with CDC partners
- 2009-2011 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), McKing Consulting  
*Health Communication Specialist*
- Coordinated daily communication surveillance reports by analyzing the current communication context or situation; identifying gaps in knowledge from audiences; monitoring channel use and coverage in traditional and social media for national and international crises that require a Federal Emergency Response (e.g., 2009 H1N1 pandemic, 2010 Haiti Earthquake, 2011 Japan Earthquake and Tsunami)

- Examined outcomes and impacts of emergency communication messaging through research and evaluation projects
- Reported research results and evaluation activities to appropriate stakeholders via formal and informal presentations

### Service

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| 2014         | <i>Qualitative Health Research</i><br>Student Reviewer   |
| 2014         | <i>American Public Health Association Conference</i><br>Student Reviewer   |
| 2012         | Department of Communication, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee<br>Reviewer for Undergraduate Annual Public Speaking Showcase, Student Mentor   |
| 2012-Current | Ronald McDonald House Charities Eastern Wisconsin, Wauwatosa, WI<br>House Volunteer and Reviewer for High School Senior Scholarships Committee |
| 2011         | Midtown Educational Foundation, Chicago, IL<br>Reading Instructor, Mentor  |
| 2010         | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Emergency Communications System Embedment Project, Atlanta, GA<br>Research participant        |
| 2010         | Helping Hands Medical Mission, Escuintla, Guatemala<br>Triage Assistant  |
| 2009         | Upward Bound College Preparatory Summer Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign<br>Reading Instructor                            |
| 2008-2009    | Family and Graduate Housing, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign<br>Recreation Assistant, Pre-school Assistant                          |
| 2005-2006    | Panhellenic Executive Board, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign<br>Vice President of Service   |

### Professional Workshops

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| 2013 | Completed two Professional Grant Writing Workshops (Facilitator: Kari Wittenberger Keith, Ph.D.), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. |
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### Professional Affiliations

National Communication Association (NCA)  
American Public Health Association (APHA)

Kentucky Conference on Health Communication (KCHC)/DC-area Health Communication (DCHC)  
American Academy on Communication in Healthcare (AACH)  
Central States Communication Association (CSCA)