

Leslie J. Harris

Associate Professor
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., December 2006

Northwestern University—Evanston, Illinois
Area of Study: Communication Studies, Rhetoric and Public Culture
Certificate: Gender Studies
Dissertation: Gender and Family in Legal Change: The Rhetoric of Child
Custody Law in Illinois Courts, 1849-1899
Committee Chair: David Zarefsky
Committee Members: Claire Priest, Law School
Angela Ray

M.A., June 2003

Northwestern University—Evanston, Illinois
Area of Study: Communication Studies, Rhetoric and Public Culture
Committee Chair: Michael Leff
Committee Members: Dilip Gaonkar
Jean Goodwin

B.S., June 2001

Northwestern University—Evanston, Illinois
Majors: Communication Studies and Gender Studies
Honors Thesis: Child Custody, the Court, and Social Change: A
Rhetorical Analysis of Child Custody Cases in Late Nineteenth
Century America
Thesis Director: Michael Leff
Graduation Honors:
Summa cum Laude
Excellence in Communication Studies
Departmental Honors—Communication Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Harris, Leslie J. *State of the Marital Union: Rhetoric, Identity, and Nineteenth-Century Marriage Controversies*, Baylor University Press. 2014. (ISBN: 978-1-48130-051-3 (c) // 978-1-48130-052-0 (p) // 978-1-48130-053-7 (e))

- Harris, Leslie J. and Sang-Yeon Kim, "'True' Americans and 'Violent' Immigrants: Making Sense of Wife Murder in the Nineteenth-Century United States." *Immigrants and Minorities*, 2014.
- Harris, Leslie J. and Mike Allen. "The Paradox of Authentic Identity: Mormon Women and the Nineteenth Century Polygamy Controversy." In *Reasoned Argument and Social Change*, edited by Robert Rowland, 340-47. Washington D.C.: National Communication Association, 2011.
- Harris, Leslie J. "Law as Father: Metaphors of Family in Nineteenth-Century Law." *Communication Studies*. 61 (2010): 526-542.
- Harris, Leslie J. and Kimberly Smith. "Feminists for Life and the Appropriation of History." In *The Functions of Argument and Social Context*, edited by Dennis S. Gouran, 158-163. Washington D.C.: National Communication Association, 2010.
- Harris, Leslie J. "Motherhood, Race, and Gender: The Rhetoric of Women's Antislavery Activism in the *Liberty Bell* Giftbooks." *Women's Studies in Communication*. 32 (Fall 2009): 293-319.
- Harris, Leslie J. "Torn from Her Very Bosom: Melodramatic Argument in Nineteenth Century Law." In *Engaging Argument*, edited by Patricia Riley, 293-298. Washington: National Communication Association, 2006.
- Harris, Leslie J. "The Court, Child Custody, and Social Change: The Rhetorical Role of Precedent in a 19th Century Child Custody Decision." *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*. 34 (Winter 2004): 29-45.

MEDIA

Interviews:

- Interview with Eric Miller, *Religion Dispatches*. "What 19th-Century Marriage Controversies Can Tell Us About the Fight for Gay Marriage." October 7, 2014. <http://religiondispatches.org/what-19th-century-marriage-controversies-can-tell-us-about-the-fight-over-gay-marriage/>
- Interview on *The Joy Cardin Show*, "Sexting Among Teen Girls." Wisconsin Public Radio: May 1, 2014. <http://www.wpr.org/shows/sexting-among-teen-girls>
- Interview on *The Joy Cardin Show*, "Barbie is Unapologetic." Wisconsin Public Radio: March 5, 2014. <http://www.wpr.org/shows/barbie-unapologetic>

Book Reviews and Related Media:

- Miller, Eric C. "What Does Proper Christian Womanhood have to do with the Ray Rice Story." *Religion Dispatches*. September 11, 2014. <http://religiondispatches.org/what-does-proper-christian-womanhood-have-to-do-with-the-ray-rice-story/>

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2013 University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Assessment Showcase, 1st place departmental entry, with Sang-Yeon Kim, and Nancy Burrell.
- 2010-2011 University of Wisconsin Libraries Research Fellow
- 2009 Graduate School Research Committee Award, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2009-2010 Center Scholars in Teaching and Learning (with J. Johnson, K. Dindia, H. Song, and J. Jordan), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2009 Faculty Arts and Humanities Travel Award, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2004 Donald H. and Caroline C. Ecroyd Dissertation Year Fellowship, Communication Studies, Northwestern University (one of two awarded)
- 2003 Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University
- 2002 James L. Golden Outstanding Student Essay in Rhetoric, Laureate Group (one of the top eight essays), Bowling Green State University
- 2001-2002 Graduate School Fellowship, Northwestern University
- 2001 Summa cum Laude, Northwestern University
- 2001 Excellence in Communication Studies, Northwestern University
- 2001 Departmental Honors—Communication Studies, Northwestern University
- 2001 Roy V. Wood Scholarship (outstanding senior planning to pursue graduate study), School of Speech, Northwestern University
- 2000 Mary Peterson Gilbert Prize (excellence in speaking), School of Speech, Northwestern University
- 2000 Milton S. Florsheim Prize (excellence in debate), Northwestern University
- 1999 James H. McBurney Award (promise in the area of logic), School of Speech, Northwestern University
- 1998 James H. McBurney Award (promise in the area of logic), School of Speech, Northwestern University
- 1997-2001 Dean’s List, Northwestern University
- 1997-2000 Clarion DeWitt Hardy Scholarship/ Owen L. Coon Scholarship (debate), Northwestern University

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Views from the Porch: State of the Marital Union,” Frances Willard Historical Association, Evanston, IL, December 2014

Invited round table presenter, National Communication Association Seminar on Situated Discourses of Citizenship, November 21, 2013

“‘The War on Women’ and the Symbolic Appropriation of Women’s Bodies,” invited participant for division organizer panel, Central States Communication Association Annual Convention, April 2013

“Pure, Pious, and Polygamous: Mormon Women and the Defense of Polygamy in the Nineteenth Century United States,” University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Communication Department, March 19, 2010

“Pure, Pious, and Polygamous: Mormon Women and the Defense of Polygamy in the Nineteenth Century United States,” University of Wisconsin – Madison, Center for Print Culture, April 16, 2010

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Frederick Douglass and Racial Permeability,” Rhetoric and the Legacies of Race, National Communication Association Pre-Conference Seminar, November 2014.
- “Swami Vivekananda and Becoming American: Performing Ambiguity at Chicago’s Columbian Exposition” for National Communication Association Annual Convention, co-authored with Kiranjeet Dhillon, November 2014.
- “Women in Law: Police Matrons and the Rhetoric of Moral Authority,” for Rhetoric Society of America Biannual Convention, May 2014
- “Rhetoric of Gender and Chinese Immigration in the Nineteenth-Century US,” for Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender Conference, October 2013.
- “*Miscegenation*, the Election of 1864, and Satiric Argument,” for NCA/AFA Summer Conference on Argumentation, August 2013.
- “Honorable Manhood and Barbaric Cruelty: Gender and Class in Nineteenth-Century Domestic Violence,” Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender Conference, October 2012
- “‘Free Love’ and the Oneida Perfectionists: Reimagining Female Agency by Reimagining Marriage,” for Rhetoric Society of American Convention, May 2012.
- “Free Love and Radical Maternalism,” National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2011
- “The Paradox of Authentic Identity: Mormon Women and the Nineteenth Century Polygamy Controversy,” co-authored with Mike Allen, NCA/AFA Summer Conference on Argumentation, July 2011.
- “An Agonistic Rhetorical Criticism: Marriage and Conflict in American Public Culture,” co-authored with Elizabeth Benacka, Central States Communication Association Annual Convention, April 2011.
- “Making Gender Visible Through Music in the Non-Gender Studies Classroom,” UW System Wisconsin Women’s Studies and LGBTQ Conference, March 2011.
- “Constituting the American Identity in the Nineteenth Century Mormon Defense of Polygamy,” National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2010.
- “Feminism and the ‘Spiral of History’: History in the Rhetoric of Gloria Steinem,” Rhetoric Society of American Convention, May 2010
- “Gender, Law, and Public Spectacle: Rhetorically Constituting the Divorced Woman in the 1860s Popular Divorce Trials,” National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2009.
- “Feminists for Life and the Appropriation of History,” co-authored with Kimberly Smith, NCA/AFA Alta Conference on Argumentation, August 2009
- “Sensationalist Rhetoric, Gender, and Law: Making Law into Public Spectacle in 1860s Divorce Trials,” National Communication Association, November 2008

- “Listening to History Speak: Interpreting Family and State from the Nineteenth Century to the Contemporary Gay Marriage Debate,” paper competitively selected, National Communication Association, November 2008
- “Rhetorics of Marriage and Family: The Public Nature of a Private Institution,” co-authored with Elizabeth Benacka, paper competitively selected, Rhetoric Society of America Convention, May 2008
- “Race and Motherhood in the *Liberty Bell* Anti-Slavery Books,” paper competitively selected, Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Conference, April 2008
- “Race and Motherhood in the Anti-Slavery Movement,” paper competitively selected, National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2007
- “Limiting the Rule of the Father: Culture and Legal Change in Nineteenth Century Child Custody Law,” paper competitively selected, National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2007
- “Law as Father: The Relationship between the State and Family in Progressive Era Child Custody Law,” paper competitively selected, Conference on Law and the Humanities, March 2007
- “Law as Father: The Relationship between the State and Family in Progressive Era Child Custody Law,” Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference, May 2006
- “Fighting for Legal Change: The Legal Rhetorics of Susan B. Anthony and Myra Bradwell,” Susan B. Anthony & the Struggle for Equal Rights Women’s History Conference, March 2006
- “Performing Parenthood in the Law: Law as Father in the Creation of the Juvenile Court,” paper competitively selected, American Society for the History of Rhetoric/NCA pre-conference, November 2005.
- “Myra Bradwell: Redefining the Relationship between Women and Law,” paper competitively selected, Feminism(s) & Rhetoric(s) Conference, October 2005
- “Torn from Her Very Bosom: Melodramatic Argument in Nineteenth Century Law,” paper competitively selected, Alta Conference on Argumentation, August 2005
- “Torn From Her Very Bosom: Rhetorics of Motherhood in Nineteenth Century Child Custody Law,” paper competitively selected, Northwestern University Mellon Dissertation Forum, May 2005
- “Defining Race in *Plessy v. Ferguson*: Reconciling Contradiction through the Use of Associational Clusters,” paper competitively selected, Central States Communication Association Annual Conference, April 2005
- “The Value of Motherhood: Supreme Court Appropriations of Second Wave Rhetorics of Motherhood,” paper competitively selected, National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, November 2004
- “Arguing Evolution: Carrie Chapman Catt and First Wave Feminist Appropriations of Social Evolutionism,” paper competitively selected, Rhetoric Society of America Biannual Convention, Austin, Texas, May 2004
- ”Polarization in Martin Luther King’s ‘Letter from Birmingham Jail’ and George Wallace’s ‘1963 Inaugural Address,’” Rhetoric Conference, Northwestern University, Spring 2003
- “Social Change, the Court, and Child Custody: a Rhetorical Analysis of a 19th Century Child Custody Decision,” paper competitively selected, National Communication Association Convention, New Orleans, November 2002

TEACHING EXPERIENCE*University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee**Assistant Professor, 2007-present*

Critical Analysis of Communication (graduate and undergraduate)
 Rhetorics of Radicalism in the United States (undergraduate)
 Rhetoric of Women’s Rights in the United States (graduate and undergraduate)
 Theory and Practice of Argumentation (graduate)
 Public Deliberation (graduate)
 Gender and Communication (undergraduate)
 Seminar in Public Address (graduate)

*Lake Forest College:**Instructor, Spring 2005-2006 and Visiting Assistant Professor, 2006-2007:*

Introduction to Communication
 Rhetoric and Speech
 Topics in Communication: Legal Communication
 Topics in Communication: Gender and Media
 Topics in Communication: Rhetorics of Radicalism

*Northwestern University:**Graduate Instructor, 2002-2004:*

Arts of Controversy: Introduction to Rhetorical Thinking
 Introduction to Public Speaking

Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2003-2004:

Theories of Argumentation

WORK EXPERIENCE

2014-present Associate Professor, Communication Department, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
 2007-2014 Assistant Professor, Communication Department, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
 2006-2007 Visiting Assistant Professor, Communication Department, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois
 2005-2006 Instructor, Communication Department, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois
 1999-2000 Research Assistant for Louise Knight, Evanston, Illinois
 2000-2001 Conference and Administrative Assistant, Gender Studies Program, Northwestern University
 2000 Research Assistant for Michael Leff, Northwestern University
 2000 Research Assistant for Jean Goodwin, Northwestern University
 2000 Conference Assistant, Communication Studies, Northwestern University
 1999-2001 Intern and Volunteer, Chicago Legal Aid to Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM), Chicago, Illinois

1998-2000 Volunteer, Chicago Debate Commission, Community Renewal Society,
Chicago, Illinois

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Disciplinary Service:

Ad Hoc Reviewer:

Communication Monographs 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly 2010

Law and Social Inquiry 2010

Rhetorical and Communication Theory division of the National Communication Association 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014

Public Address Division of the National Communication Association 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

Feminist and Women's Studies Division of the National Communication Association, 2012

Secretary, Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association 2008

Nominating Committee, Public Address Division Representative, National Communication Association, 2014-2015

University Service:

Department Service:

Director of Undergraduate Studies 2012-present

Awards Committee 2007-2009

Rhetorical Leadership Committee 2007-present

103 Advisory Committee 2007-present

Graduate Affairs Committee 2009-2012

Undergraduate Research Committee 2009-2011

Website Liaison 2010-2011

Ad Hoc Academic Forecasting Committee 2008

Ad Hoc Regents Teaching Award Committee 2009

Ad Hoc Colloquia Committee 2011-2012

Ad Hoc Undergraduate Majors Committee 2011

Course Director Commun 335 and 402

Women's Studies Affiliate 2007-present

Women's Studies Steering Council 2011-2014

Women's Studies Committees:

Scholarship Committee 2012

Women's Studies Director Job Search Committee 2013

Research Award Committee 2014

Faculty Advisor for University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Student Chapter of the Rhetoric Society of America 2010-present

Faculty Advisor for University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta 2012-2014

Peer Reviewer for Graduate School Research Committee Award 2013

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Communication Association

Rhetoric Society of America

Central States Communication Association

Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender

Berkshire Conference of Women Historians