

## CHRISTOPHER SWIFT

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### **Academic Appointments**

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Visiting Assist. Prof., Civic Communication + Media	Willamette University	2011–2015
Assistant Professor, Communication	Texas A&M University	2006–2011
Teaching Assistant, Communication Studies	Northwestern University	2004–2006
Research Fellow, Allgemeine Rhetorik	Universität Tübingen	2003–2004
Research Fellow, Paris Program in Critical Theory	Northwestern University	2002–2003
Teaching Assistant, Communication Studies	Northwestern University	2000–2002
Research Fellow, Communication Studies	Northwestern University	1999–2000
Teaching Assistant, Communication Studies	University of Minnesota	1997–1999

### **Degrees**

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Ph.D.	Northwestern University <i>Advisers: Dilip Gaonkar, Michael Leff</i>	Communication Studies	2006
M.A.	University of Minnesota <i>Adviser: Edward Schiappa</i>	Communication Studies	1999
B.A.	Purdue University	Philosophy / Public Communication	1997

### **Publications and Book Manuscript**

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“Herbert Marcuse on the New Left: Dialectic and Rhetoric.” Peer-reviewed paper in *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 40.2 (2010): 146–71.

“Academic Engagement.” Invited and editor-reviewed forum response in *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 96.4 (2010): 443–49.

*The Contest over Rhetoric: Friedrich Nietzsche’s Early Work*. Currently 276 manuscript pages.  
Expected completion and submission August 2015.

### **Awards and Honors**

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Willamette University Liberal Arts Research Collaborative Curricular Innovation Award, 2014.

Texas A&M Engaged Teaching and Learning Curriculum Development Grant, 2009.

Melbern G. Glasscock Humanities Center Internal Faculty Fellowship, 2007–2008.

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) Year Long Grant, 2003–2004.

National Communication Association (NCA) Doctoral Honors Seminar, 2003.

French Interdisciplinary Group Paris Program in Critical Theory Fellowship, 2002–2003.

Northwestern University Summer Research Fellowships 2000–2003

Northwestern University Fellowship, 1999–2000.

DAAD Summer Language Course Scholarship, 1998.

Purdue University School of Liberal Arts Honors Scholarship, 1996.

### **Conference Participation**

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"Rhetoric without Romanticism." Paper competitively selected: International Society for the History of Rhetoric conference, Tübingen, 2015.

Performer in "The Presence(s) of Our Past(s) THE PRESENCE(S) OF OUR PAST(S)! Repetition-Yet-Again, 10, 11 ... 100 Years Later." Panel invited by National Communication Association First Vice President: NCA Convention, Chicago, 2014.

"Rhetoric as a Contest in Nietzsche's Writings." Paper on panel competitively selected: Rhetoric Society of America Conference, San Antonio, 2014.

Participant in roundtable: "Connecting to Rhetoric and Marxism: A Critical Tribute to James Arnt Aune." Competitively selected by the Rhetorical and Communication Theory division: National Communication Association Convention, Washington, D. C., 2013.

"Metaphor and Morality in Nietzsche." Paper competitively selected: International Society for the History of Rhetoric conference, Chicago, 2013.

"Political Art, Negative Dialectic, and Pure Means." Paper on panel competitively selected by the Rhetorical and Communication Theory division: National Communication Association Convention, Orlando, 2012.

"Rhetoric For the Few." Paper competitively selected: American Society for the History of Rhetoric Symposium, Philadelphia, 2012.

Participant in roundtable: "Voices from Beyond (the Forum): Scholarly Engagement and Where Are We Now?" Competitively selected by the Critical and Cultural Studies division: National Communication Association, New Orleans, 2011.

"Immanuel Kant's Philosophical Rhetoric." Paper on panel competitively selected: Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Minneapolis, 2010.

Participant in special session: "The Spirit of History of Rhetoric: Creating New Concords and controversies in Rhetorical History and Historiography." Competitively selected: Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Minneapolis, 2010.

"Three Philosophies of Rhetoric." Paper on panel competitively selected by the Semiotics and Communication division: National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, 2009.

"The Cruelty of Philosophy." Paper on panel invited by the University of South Carolina Rhetorical Theory Conference, Columbia, SC, 2009.

"Rhetoric without Eloquence from Romantic Germany." Paper competitively selected: International Society for the History of Rhetoric conference, Montréal, 2009.

"The Limits of 'Tropology' in de Man's Reading of Nietzsche." Paper on panel competitively selected by the American Society for the History of Rhetoric: National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, 2007.

"The Interminable Return of ..." Paper on panel competitively selected by the Ethnography division: National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, 2007. Earlier versions on panel competitively selected by the Performance Studies division: National

- Communication Association Convention, San Antonio, 2006; on panel competitively selected by the Rhetorical and Communication Theory division: National Communication Association Convention, Boston, 2005; on panel competitively selected by the Performance Studies division: National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, 2004; and on panel competitively selected by the Performance Studies division and co-sponsored by the Critical and Cultural Studies division: National Communication Association Convention, Miami, 2003.
- "Friedrich Nietzsche and the Metaphysics of Rhetoric." Paper competitively selected: International Society for the History of Rhetoric conference, Strasbourg, 2007.
- "Friedrich Nietzsche and the Rhetoric of the Future." Paper competitively selected by the American Society for the History of Rhetoric: National Communication Association Convention, San Antonio, 2006.
- "The Health of Theory in the Discipline." Participant in roundtable discussion competitively selected by the Rhetorical and Communication Theory division: National Communication Association Convention, Boston, 2005.
- "Herbert Marcuse's New Left Address." Paper on panel competitively selected by the Public Address division: National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, 2004 (panel organizer).
- "The Ethics of Ethics in *Zarathustra*." Paper on panel competitively selected by the Communication Ethics Commission: National Communication Association Convention, Miami, 2003 (panel organizer).
- "Søren Kierkegaard's Choice." Paper competitively selected by the Rhetorical and Communication Theory division: National Communication Association Convention, Miami, 2003.
- "Epistemic; Viewing; Rhetoric." Paper competitively selected by the Rhetoric and Performance seminar: National Communication Association Doctoral Honors Conference, Bowling Green, 2003.
- "Zarathustra as Rhetor." Paper competitively selected: International Society for the History of Rhetoric conference, Madrid, 2003.
- "Lincoln and the Other Douglass." Paper competitively selected by the Public Address division: National Communication Association Convention, New Orleans, 2002. Earlier version on panel invited by the University of Iowa and Northwestern University joint conference, Amana Colonies, 2000.
- "The Art of History in Benjamin's *Passagenwerk*." Paper competitively selected by the Rhetorical and Communication Theory division: National Communication Association Convention, Atlanta, 2001 (panel organizer).
- "The Spellwriter: Walter Benjamin as Producer." Paper on panel competitively selected by the Rhetorical and Communication Theory division: National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, 1999 (panel organizer).

### **Invited Presentations and Responses**

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- “Using Debate in Non-debate Classes.” China Debate Education Network Training of Teachers: Guangxi University of Finance and Economics, Nanning: 13 December, 2014. Earlier version presented at China Debate Education Network Third Annual Training of Debate Teachers. Guilin University of Electronic Technology: 6 August, 2014.
- Respondent on panel entitled “Revisiting Aesthetics and Ethics in the German Philosophical Tradition: New Rhetorical Connections.” American Society for the History of Rhetoric: National Communication Association Convention, Washington, D. C., 2013.
- “Nietzsche’s Contest over Rhetoric.” Northwestern University Center for Global Culture and Communication Summer Institute on “Rhetoric, Nietzsche, and After,” Evanston: 15 July 2009.
- “Herbert Marcuse on the New Left: Dialectic and Rhetoric.” Department of Communication Studies colloquium, University of Texas, Austin: 8 May 2009.
- “Rhetoric and Romanticism in Nietzsche.” Place, Time, Texts: How Do We Keep Knowing? Melburn G. Glasscock Center Faculty Fellows Symposium. Texas A&M University, College Station: 17 November 2008.
- “The Rhetoric of the Future!” Rhetoric/Discourse Studies Research Discussion: Department of English, Texas A&M University, College Station: 27 February 2008. Earlier version presented to the Department of Speech Communication, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: December 2004.
- Guest Respondent (replacing Dilip Gaonkar) on panel entitled “The Eventfulness of Rhetoric,” Rhetorical and Communication Theory division: National Communication Association Convention, San Francisco, 2010.
- Respondent (with Robert Gooding Williams) to Diego von Vacano’s *The Art of Power: Machiavelli, Nietzsche, and the Making of Aesthetic Political Theory*. “Author Meets Readers” session co-sponsored by the Political Theory Convocation and the Melburn G. Glasscock Humanities Center at Texas A&M University, College Station: 13 February 2009.

### **Teaching Experience as Primary Instructor**

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*U. S. Public Discourse in the Broadcast Age* (Willamette: CCM 242)

Taught twice (most recently: Spring 2015). Survey of public discourse in the United States during the period dominated by radio and television; focused on the examination of value claims in public argument.

*Rhetorical Theory* (Willamette: CCM 221; TAMU: COMM 301 Honors)

Taught three times (Spring 2015). Seminar surveying major developments in the history of rhetorical theory; focused on debates over what makes discourse good, true, and just.

*Arguing About the Right Thing to Do* (Willamette: CCM 201)

Taught three times (Spring 2015). Seminar examining prominent theories and practices of ethical argumentation in public; focused on the relative value of service to others in contrast to self-development. This course also fulfilled the program’s “communicating effectively in public” requirement.

*Contemporary Rhetorical Theory* (Willamette: RHET 326)

Taught three times (Spring 2014). Seminar surveying post-classical developments in the history of rhetorical theory; focused on debates over the speaking subject, the range of rhetoric, and diverse publics.

*Persuasion, Propaganda, and the Mass Media* (Willamette: RHET 232)

Taught six times (Spring 2014). Seminar examining the historical use and influence of persuasion and propaganda, primarily in the U. S.; focused on the increasing role of mass media in this process.

*Topics in U. S. Civil Rights Discourse* (Willamette: RHET 350)

Taught once (Fall 2013). Topics seminar surveying public discourses about the black civil rights movements of 1954–68 in the U. S.; focused on controversies surrounding the activities of the SCLC and SNCC.

*Metaphor and Communication* (Willamette: RHET 372)

Taught twice (Spring 2013). Writing-centered seminar surveying theories of metaphor, their use in communicative practice, and their evaluation; focused on classical, romantic, and semiotic approaches.

*Argumentation Theory* (Willamette: RHET 331)

Taught once (Spring 2013). Seminar examining prominent theories and practices of reasoned discourse; focused on techniques for planning and making arguments in addition to analyzing them critically.

*Dramatism* (Willamette: RHET 335)

Taught twice (Fall 2012). Seminar examining Kenneth Burke's theories, practices, and criticism of language as a form of symbolic action.

*Rhetoric of Religion* (Willamette: RHET 365)

Taught once (Fall 2011). Seminar examining problems of public religious discourse in the U. S.; focused on questions about its rationality, its universality, and its relationship to democracy.

*Migrant Voices in the United States [Latino/Latina Voices in the U. S.]* (Willamette: RHET/LAS 244)

Taught once (Fall 2011). Seminar examining public discourse by and about immigrant communities in the U. S.; focused on Latin Americans in comparison to other groups.

*Rhetorical Criticism* (TAMU: COMM 240)

Taught once (Spring 2011). Skills course in reading and analyzing speeches; focused on political discourse about race and religion in the U. S.

*Communication and Contemporary Issues: Public Deception* (TAMU: COMM 460)

Taught three times (Spring 2011). Writing-intensive topics seminar examining theories and practices of public deception; focused on its ethical justifiability in U. S. public discourse.

*Rhetoric and Western Thought* (TAMU: COMM 301)

Taught four times (Fall 2010). Lecture course with discussion sections (co-taught with teaching assistants) surveying major contributions to the rhetorical tradition from antiquity through the late twentieth century.

*Religious Communication* (TAMU: COMM 480)

Taught twice (Spring 2009). Writing-intensive seminar examining the ethics of preaching; focused on debates over this question between religious and secular communities in the European tradition.

*Rhetorical Theory* (TAMU: COMM 640)

Taught twice (Fall 2008). Graduate seminar examining major theoretical contributions to European thought about rhetoric from antiquity through the late twentieth century.

*Communication and Contemporary Issues: Ideas of Communication* (TAMU: COMM 460)

Taught twice (Spring 2007). Writing-intensive topics seminar surveying ideas of communication in the European tradition; focused on tensions between classical and romantic approaches.

*Public Speaking* (Northwestern: GEN CMN 102; Minnesota: SPCH 1101)

Taught nine times (Spring 2006). Skills course in making and evaluating speeches.

*Analysis of Argument* (Minnesota: SPCH 1313)

Taught seven times (Summer 1999). Writing-intensive skills course in making and evaluating arguments.

**Experience as Teaching Assistant**

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*Theories of Argumentation* (Northwestern: COMM ST 220)

(Winter 2005) Assisted Professor David Zarefsky with grading and led two weekly discussion sections for approximately fifty students.

*The Art of Controversy* (Northwestern: COMM ST 210)

(Spring 2005) Assisted Professor Robert Hariman with grading, course design, and delivered one lecture to the class on reading Plato.

*Rhetoric of the American Presidency: Richard Nixon* (Northwestern: COMM ST 322)

(Fall 2002) Assisted Professor Lee Huebner with grading, ran two sections for group presentations, designed and maintained the course web site.

*Rhetorical History of the United States I* (Northwestern: COMM ST 325-1)

(Fall 2001) Assisted Professor David Zarefsky with grading and lead a weekly discussion section for twelve students. Period covered colonialism through pre-civil war.

*Arts of Advocacy: An Introduction to Rhetorical Theory* (Northwestern: COMM ST 210)

(Fall 2001) Assisted Professor Jean Goodwin with most aspects of course design and grading, lead weekly sections for half of the students, debated with Dr. Goodwin for all four sections, and gave two lectures to the class on ethos.

**Directed Independent Studies**

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*Graduate Mentorship* (TAMU)

Directed the project of a PhD student for two semesters on “rhetoric and the development of hermeneutics as a discipline” in the 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; met weekly to discuss readings and the progress of his research.

*Directed Studies* (TAMU: COMM 485)

Directed the project of a BA student for one semester on “the relationship between faith, reason, and rationality”; mostly exchanged email correspondence about the readings and the progress of her research, as she was residing in Washington D. C. for an internship.

**Service**

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Guest reviewer for *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*, 2015.

Curriculum Development Committee, Department of Communication + Civic Media, Willamette University, 2013–15.

Steering Committee, American Society for the History of Rhetoric, 2010–12.

Department of Communication representative to Evans Library, Texas A&M University, 2008–11.

Communication/Women’s Studies joint faculty search committee, Texas A&M University, 2008–09.

Department of Communication committee on enhancing research, Texas A&M University, 2008

Planning committee for Department of Communication retreat, Texas A&M University, 2008.

Guest reviewer for *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, 2008.

Reviewer of paper and panel submissions for the Rhetorical and Communication Theory division, National Communication Association Convention, Boston, 2005.

Chair of planning committee and negotiator with the administration, Graduate Student Association, Northwestern University, 2001.

Dept. of Communication Studies graduate student representative, Northwestern University, 2000–2001.

Dept. of Speech-Communication representative to the Council of Graduate Students, University of Minnesota, 1998–1999.

Social Sciences Policy and Review Council, University of Minnesota, 1998–1999.

Graduate School Academic Grievance Committee, University of Minnesota, 1998–1999.

**International Education**

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Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen: student and research fellow in the Seminar für allgemeine Rhetorik, academic year 2003–04.

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin: Intensive course in German language (100 hours), summer 2003.

Paris Program in Critical Theory: research program affiliated with the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, under the direction of Samuel Weber, academic year 2002–03.

Cercle d’Échanges Interculturels et Linguistiques Avignon du Jardin des Cultures d’Europe: intensive course in French language and culture (200 hours), summer 2002.

International School for Humanities and Social Sciences, Universiteit van Amsterdam: exchange student with the Program in Discourse and Argumentation Studies, spring 2002.

InterDaF e. V. am Herder-Institut der Universität Leipzig: intensive course in German language and culture for DAAD scholarship recipients (200 hours), summer 1998.

### **Foreign Language Competencies**

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German:	Fluent reading and speaking
French:	Advanced reading and basic speaking
Ancient Greek:	Some reading
Latin:	Some reading

### **References**

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Dilip Gaonkar	<a href="mailto:d-gaonkar@northwestern.edu">d-gaonkar@northwestern.edu</a>
Robert Hariman	<a href="mailto:r-hariman2@northwestern.edu">r-hariman2@northwestern.edu</a>
Cindy Koenig Richards	<a href="mailto:crichard@willamette.edu">crichard@willamette.edu</a>
Jennifer Mercieca	<a href="mailto:mercieca@tamu.edu">mercieca@tamu.edu</a>
Robert Trapp	<a href="mailto:trapp@willamette.edu">trapp@willamette.edu</a>