

Dr. M. Elizabeth Thorpe

Curriculum Vitae

The College at Brockport (SUNY), Department of Communication
350 New Campus Drive,
227 Holmes Hall
Brockport, NY 14420
ethorpe@brockport.edu

Education

Ph.D. Communication, Rhetoric and Public Affairs (2011)
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
Chair: Professor James A. Aune
Dissertation: Making American: Constitutive Rhetoric in the Cold War

M.A. English (2006)
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 2005
Chair: Professor Douglas Brooks

B.A. English (2001)
Baylor University, Waco, TX 2002
Baylor Interdisciplinary Core

Academic Appointments

Department Chair, Communication Studies, SUNY Brockport, 2024-present

The College at Brockport, SUNY, Associate Professor, 2019-Present

The College at Brockport, SUNY, Assistant Professor, 2012- 2019

The College at Brockport, SUNY, QAR (Visiting Assistant Professor), 2010-2012

Publications

Textbooks

McHendry, Jr., George F., M. Elizabeth Thorpe, Jessica A. Kurr, James M. Sproule,
William E. Coleman, James L. Golden, and Goodwin F. Berquist. *The Rhetoric of
Western Thought, 11th Edition*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co, 2020.

Peer Reviewed Articles

- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "A Marxist Critique of the Metaphor of the Marketplace." *Communication and Democracy*. 1–19. September (2024)
<https://doi.org/10.1080/27671127.2024.2404406>
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Cancel Culture and the Third Persona." *Communication Law Review* 23.2 (2023): 1-14. [Commlawreview.org](http://commlawreview.org).
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "The Whiteness of *Brown*: The Failed Constitutive Rhetoric of *Brown v. Board of Education*." *Communication Law Review* 19.1 (2019): 79-99. [Commlawreview.org](http://commlawreview.org).
- Edwards, Ashley A. Hanna and M. Elizabeth Thorpe. "The Dilemma of Being Colin Kaepernick: An Examination of the #takeaknee Protest Using Heider's Balance Theory." *Iowa Journal of Communication* 51.1 (2019): 71-109..
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth and Bryan Picciotto. "Constitutive Characters: The Great 'I Am' is Actually 'We Are.'" *Atlantic Journal of Communication* 27.4 (2019).
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Trump, Nixon, and the War on the Press." *Communication Law Review*. 18.1 (2018): 1-15. www.commlawreview.org
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Trigger Warnings, the Organic Classroom, and Civil Discourse." *First Amendment Studies* 50.2 (2016):83-94.
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "'Under God:' An Epideictic Weapon in the Fight Against Communism." *Re/Framing Identities*. Michelle Ballif, ed. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, 2014.

Contributor to:

- Stob, Paul. "No Safe Space: James Arnt Aune and the Controversial Classroom." *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*, 16.3 (2013): 555-565.

Book Chapters

- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Flag on the Field: The Case of *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*." *For Equal Protection vs. Religious Freedom: Clashing American Rights*. Peter Lang, 2023

Creative Works

- Boson, Crystal. *Queer Texas Prayerbook*. M. Elizabeth Thorpe, ed. Seven Kitchens Press, Lewisberg, PA (2012).

Forthcoming Publications

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Bostock." *Feminism and Feminist Movements in America: An Encyclopedia of Ideals and Activism*, edited by Sarah Kornfield. Bloomsbury Press (in press).

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Dobbs." *Feminism and Feminist Movements in America: An Encyclopedia of Ideals and Activism*, edited by Sarah Kornfield. Bloomsbury Press (in press).

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Griswold." *Feminism and Feminist Movements in America: An Encyclopedia of Ideals and Activism*, edited by Sarah Kornfield. Bloomsbury Press (in press).

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Lawrence." *Feminism and Feminist Movements in America: An Encyclopedia of Ideals and Activism*, edited by Sarah Kornfield. Bloomsbury Press (in press).

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Obergefell." *Feminism and Feminist Movements in America: An Encyclopedia of Ideals and Activism*, edited by Sarah Kornfield. Bloomsbury Press (in press).

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Roe." *Feminism and Feminist Movements in America: An Encyclopedia of Ideals and Activism*, edited by Sarah Kornfield. Bloomsbury Press (in press).

Guitar, Joshua, and M. Elizabeth Thorpe. "Critical Communication Pedagogy and Activism." For the upcoming *Critical Communication Pedagogy Handbook*. Ed. Leandra Hernandez. (2026)

Under Review

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. *On Owning Ourselves: Marx, Identity, and the Law*. Monograph exploring a Marxist critique of the constitutive nature of the law and the law as a conflation site of constitutive and material rhetoric. For University of Alabama Press, 2026.

Journal (Editorial) Positions

Editor, *Communication Law Review*

Invited Presentations

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Free Speech, Democracy, and Campus Speech." COMM 115, Susan Dummer, Georgetown College, Feb. 10, 2026.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Critical Communication Pedagogy Panel." COMM 7490, Leandra Hernandez, University of Utah, Jan. 27, 2026.

Keynote, University of Pittsburgh, Finegold Debate Series, March 14, 2025.

"Seminar on Time, Place, Manner Restrictions and Letter From a Birmingham Jail: Who Want What?" University of Pittsburgh, Finegold Debate Series, Feb. 12., 2025.

"Extramural Utterances." Free Speech and Academic Freedom, The University of Tampa, April 6, 2018.

"Free Expression and the First Amendment." The Marketplace of Ideas: Expression, Censorship, & Protest. A Human Rights Workshop. Monroe Community College, Jan 11, 2018.

"Identity Formation through the Law and Marriage Equality." Intercultural Communication (Communication Course – invited lecturer), Instructor: Ashley Hanna Edwards, April 11, 2017.

"Trigger Warnings and the Organic Classroom," Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, The College at Brockport, September 23, 2016.

"The Supreme Court and Marriage Equality," Mornings with the Professors, October 13, 2015.

"Free Speech – an Overview." Argumentation (Communication Course – invited lecturer), Instructor: Zoe Hess Carney, Spring, 2014.

"The Problems of Freedom of Speech and Democracy," Mornings with the Professors, September 18, 2012.

Public Scholarship (Publications, Media, and Presentations)

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth, Deborah Duguid-May, and Carl R. Thorpe. *The Priest & The Prof.* Podcast audio. September 2024 – present. Priestandprof.org.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth and Carl R. Thorpe. *Kairoticast.* Podcast audio. April 2020-2023. Kairoticast.com.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Free Expression and the First Amendment." The Marketplace of Ideas: Expression, Censorship, & Protest. Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Project, Monroe Community College, January, 2018.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Issues in Church and State." Trinity Episcopal Church, Oct. 25th and Nov 1st, 2017.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Forgotten People." Rhetoric Roundup –Donald Trump's Speech to the National Boy Scout Jamboree. *CitizenCritics.org*. August 2, 2017.

"Marriage Equality and the First Amendment." Third Presbyterian Church, March 12th and 19th, 2017.

"Plagiarism: How to Tell When Someone has Plagiarized." Connections, WXXI Public Radio (NPR), February 3, 2017.

"Rape Culture and the Impact of Donald Trump's Boasts of Sexual Assault." Connections, WXXI Public Radio (NPR), Oct 12, 2016.

"Safe Spaces and Trigger Warnings on College Campuses." Connections, WXXI Public Radio (NPR), September 8, 2016.

"The Whiteness of *Brown*: Color-blindness, the Law, and the Constitutive Nature of *Brown v. Board*," Sunday Forum (Power Series), Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY, January 10, 2015.

Conference Presentations

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Current Issues in Freedom of Expression – Trans Bodies, Trans Speech." National Communication Association. Nov. 21, 2024.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Current Issues in Freedom of Expression – Protecting Anonymous Speech." Nov. 18, 2023.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "The Marketplace of Ideas – a Modern Critique." The National Communication Association. " Nov. 14, 2023.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Current Issues in Freedom of Expression." The National Communication Association. Nov 14, 2019.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "The Whiteness of Brown: The Failed Constitutive Rhetoric of *Brown v. Board*." The National Communication Association. Nov 15, 2019.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth and Ashley A. Hanna Edwards. "Using Heider's Balance Theory to Examine the <Dilemma> of Being Colin Kaepernick." Eastern Communication Association, April 26, 2018.

- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Trump and #TakeaKnee: Current Issues in Freedom of Expression," National Communication Association, Nov 17, 2017.
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Public Scholarship During Politically Turbulent Times: A Conversation Among Citizen Critics." National Communication Association, Nov 18, 2017.
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Professor Watchlist: A Failure of the Public Sphere." Alta Argumentation Conference, NCA/AFA Summer Conference on Argumentation, July 21, 2017.
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth and Linda Ross. "Trigger Warnings; Threat to Free Speech or Supporting Equal Access?" Connecting, Collaborating, and Celebrating the Art of Teaching Conference, April 2017.
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth and Linda Ross. "Trigger Warnings: Threat to Free Speech of Supporting Equal Access?" Jumping the Desk: Teachers as Learners Conference, Finger Lakes Community College, Jan 20, 2017.
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Calling all Voices: Race, Inclusion, Expression, Protest, and Civility." National Communication Association, 2016.
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Current Issues in Freedom of Expression." National Communication Association, 2016.
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Trigger Warnings: A Pedagogical Debate Within the Civic Calling of Communication." National Communication Association, 2016.
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Trigger Warnings and the Organic Classroom: Managing Discussion and Difficult Topics." Part of a panel on trigger warnings that *First Amendment Studies* has requested become a special issue. Eastern Communication Association, 2016.
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "M'bala M'bala and Freedom of Speech." Current Issues in Freedom of Expression. National Communication Association, 2015.
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Censorship as a Means to Constitute Identity: Re-visiting the Third Persona." Top Papers Panel, Freedom of Expression Division. National Communication Association, 2015.
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Identity, Education, and the Fourteenth Amendment: *Brown v. Board* as Constitutive Rhetoric." National Communication Association, 2014.
- Thorpe, M. Elizabeth. "Religious Liberty and Institutions of Learning." National Communication Association, 2014.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth and Bryan Picciotto. "Constitutive Characters: The Great I am is Actually 'We Are.'" Rhetoric Society of America, May 2014.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth "It's a Lot of Work for No Real Guarantees: The Undergraduate Research Experience." Eastern Communication Association, April 2014.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth "The Works of James Arnt Aune: Where do We Go From Here?" *A Rhetoric of Free Speech: A Roundtable Discussion of the Legacy of James Arnt Aune*. National Communication Association, November 2013.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth "Censorship as Constitutive Rhetoric." National Communication Association/American Forensic Association Conference on Argumentation (Alta Conference), August 2013.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth "'I Only Get it for the Articles:' Hugh Hefner Endeavors to Define 'American.'" Eastern Communication Association, April 2013.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth "'Under God:' An Epideictic Weapon in the Fight Against Communism." Rhetoric Society of America, May 2012.

Thorpe, M. Elizabeth "No Sense of Decency: Conspiracy and the American Transition From Modernity to Postmodernity." Eastern Communication Association, April 2012.

Teaching Experience

Communication and Democracy

Protest and Public Opinion

Advanced Speech Composition

Argumentation and Debate

Propaganda and Persuasion

Political Rhetoric in the Information Age

Freedom of Expression

Theories of Rhetoric

Rhetorical Criticism

American Oratory

Public Speaking for Technical Professions

Public Speaking

Popular Culture

Organizational Communication

Introduction to Methods (graduate level)

Seminar in Rhetorical Theory (graduate level)

Seminar on Equality (graduate level)

Awards and Honors

Top Paper Panel, Communication Law Division, NCA 2025

Presidential Citation for Extraordinary Dedication and Contributions to the Discipline,
National Communication Association, 2024

Green and Gold Star Award, 2023, 2024, 2025

Presidential Teaching Excellence Award Nominee, 2017, 2018, 2020

Annual Faculty/Staff Recognition, Office for Students with Disabilities, 2012, 2017

First Destination Commendation (For positively impacting the life of a graduate), Career
Services, Alumni Engagement, Research Analysis and Planning, The College at
Brockport, 2015, 2016, 2022

Top Paper Panel, Freedom of Expression Division, National Communication Association,
2015

Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Affirmative Action/ Diversity Leave UUP (Research leave,
Spring semester), 2015

Discretionary Salary Award (for excellence in teaching), 2012, 2014

Nominated for Brockport Faculty Award for Student Scholarly Engagement, 2013

Honorary Guest Coach for the Texas A&M baseball team, sponsored by the Physician's Centre (for teaching and service to the student body), 2009

Tiffany Hunnicutt Memorial Graduate Teaching Award, Communication department, 2009

Fish Camp Namesake, Texas A&M Fish Camp (for being a positive impact on the university as a whole), 2009

Grants

CELT Travel/Conference Sponsorship Grant, 2016 (\$500)

CELT Travel/Conference Sponsorship Grant, 2014 (\$500)

Advisor, Graduate Level

Cederstrom, Nathan. "Turning Toward Place: Robert Smithson's Rhetoric of Irony." Brockport M.A. 797 (Capstone) project, Spring 2020

Noyes, Lauren. "Barilla: A Case of Image Restoration." Brockport M.A. 797 (Capstone) project, Spring 2019

Dalinsky, Shawn-Ray. "Protest Music as a Rhetorical Speech Genre." Brockport M.A. 797 (Capstone) project, Fall 2018

Rogachevsky, Ines. "The Environment's Voice in the Law – Use of Dramatic and Legal Narrative." Brockport M.A. 797 (Capstone) project, Spring 2015.

O'Hearn, Megan. "Rhetoric, Memory, and Place: The Significance of the Susan B. Anthony House." Brockport. M.A. 797 (Capstone) project, Spring 2014

Long, Yun. "Chinese Rhetoric: Its Existence in Reality and Absence as an Academic Discipline." Brockport M.A. 797 (Capstone) project, Spring 2013.

Advisor, Undergraduate Level

Boehme, Taylor. "Wonder Woman: A Form of Propaganda." James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference, Eastern Communication Association, March 28, 2025.

- Brummert, Jady. "The Power of Words to Change the World: A Pentadic Analysis of George W. Bush's "Address to Joint Session of Congress Following 9/11 Attacks." James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference, Eastern Communication Association, March 29, 2025.
- DeLuca, Caitlyn. "The Art of Influence: A Personal Theory of Rhetoric in Modern Discourse." James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference, Eastern Communication Association, March 28, 2025.
- Flynn, Daniel. "'A Neo-Aristotelian Criticism of Donald Trump's 2020 State of The Union Address.'" James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference, Eastern Communication Association, March 29, 2025.
- Kingsley, Paige. "'Phenomenistic Theory and the Rise of White Christian Nationalism.'" James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference, Eastern Communication Association, March 29, 2025.
- Schumacher, John. "Law, Order, and Racism." James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference, Eastern Communication Association, April 27, 2018.
- Simmons, Andishey. "President Trump, White Supremacy, and the NFL." James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference, Eastern Communication Association, April 27, 2018.
- Brockport/Oswego Collaborative Debate teams, Brockport Scholars Day/Oswego Quest Day, 2017
- Weisenbeck, Lauren. "Regulating Speech in the Digital Age." James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference, Eastern Communication Association Conference, 2014.
- Weisenbeck, Lauren, "Regulating Speech in the Digital Age." Undergraduate Scholars Day, College at Brockport, 2014.
- Weisenbeck, Lauren. "Regulating Speech in the Digital Age." New York Undergraduate Research Conference, 2014.
- Abduraffi, Jihan. "A Fantasy-Theme Analysis of Black Blogs: Divergent Communication and Race and Racism in America." Undergraduate honors thesis. The College at Brockport, 2013.
- Abduraffi, Jihan. "A Fantasy- Them Analysis of Black Blogs: Divergent Communication and Race and Racism in America." Poster presentation. James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference, Eastern Communication Association conference.

Antonio, Sara. "Our Superheroes, Our Super Heroines, and the Status Quo: X2 and X-Men: The Last Stand." Poster presentation. James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference, Eastern Communication Association conference, 2013.

Antonio, Sara. "Raising the Metanarrative Flag." Undergraduate Scholars Day (College at Brockport), 2013.

Henehan, Brandon. "Narrowcasting Politics: Diminishing Democracy." Co-advisor with Susan Orr. New England Political Science Association, 2012.

Fayle, Liam. "The Modern Application of Rhetoric: New Uses for the Ancient Art of Persuasion." Scholars Day Presentation (College at Brockport), 2011.

Fayle, Liam. "The Modern Application of Rhetoric: New Uses for the Ancient Art of Persuasion." Honors thesis. College at Brockport, 2011.

Service

Departmental

Chair, 2024

Head, APT Committee, 2022-2024

Head, graduate program 2019-2020

Advising coordinator, 2018-2019

Interpersonal search committee, 2018

Lecturer search committee, 2018

Departmental Union representative, 2018-2024

Rhetoric search committee, 2017

Scholarships, 2017-present

Scholarship coordinator, 2016

Communication Studies, Area Coordinator, Curriculum Committee, 2015

Acting Graduate Adviser (Head of Graduate Program), Summer, 2015-17

Associate Graduate Adviser, 2014-2016

Lambda Pi Eta, National Communication Honor Society, co-sponsor, 2011-2014, 2016

PR Search Committee, 2012

Marketing/Outreach Committee, 2012-2014

Head of Marketing Committee, 2014

Graduate Committee, 2012-2019

Advising, 2011-present (primary adviser to 30+ students/semester)

College

FAST Committee, 2024 – present

JPBC, 2024 - present

FSA Committee, School of Arts and Sciences, 2023-2024

Graduate Council, 2019-2021

“Do You Know Your First Amendment Rights?” American Democracy Project Panel,
participant

Chair, Scholars Day Sessions, 2013, 2014, 2017

Faculty Senate representative, 2012-2014

Departmental Representative, “College 2025”

Field

Presidential Address Inquiry Committee, 2024

Chair, Freedom of Expression Division, NCA, 2023-present

Editorial Board, *First Amendment Studies*, 2018-present

Second Vice Chair to Freedom of Expression Division, NCA, 2017-2020

Vice Chair to Freedom of Expression Division, NCA, 2020-2023

Editorial Board, *Communication Law Review*, 2014-2016

Reviewer, NCA Freedom of Expression Division, NCA, 2013-present

Representative to the Rhetorical and Communication Theory Interest Group Nominating Committee, 2013-2014

Reviewer, Lambda Pi Eta Undergraduate Journal, 2014

Nominating Committee, NCA 2013-2014

Professional Associations – Past and Current

National Communication Association

Eastern Communication Association

Rhetoric Society of America