

Charles Athanasopoulos, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Communication Studies | Gonzaga University

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Black Studies | Cultural Studies | Media Studies | Caribbean Studies | Street Art Studies

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Rhetoric & Communication, University of Pittsburgh

Dissertation: *Rhetorics of Complete Disorder in Post-Ferguson America* (Defended 04/06/2022).

Committee: Dr. Brent J. Malin (Chair; University of Pittsburgh), Dr. Louis M. Maraj (University of British Columbia), Dr. Caitlin F. Bruce (University of Pittsburgh), Dr. Shanara Reid-Brinkley (California State University – Fullerton), Dr. Paul E. Johnson (University of Pittsburgh)

M.A., Rhetoric & Communication, University of Pittsburgh, 2020.

Specialization: Black Studies, Cultural Studies, Media Studies, Visual Rhetoric, & Rhetoric of Social Movements

B.A., Religious Studies, Wake Forest University, 2018

Major: Study of Religions

Minor: Interdisciplinary Writing Studies & Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The Black Radical Tradition	Activism (U.S. New Left & Post/Ferguson U.S.)
Cultural Studies	Caribbean & Afro/Latinx Identity (Puerto Rico)
Public/Street Art	Film & Media
Black Feminism	Critical Romani Studies (Greece)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor. Gonzaga University. Fall 2023-Present.

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS

Athanasopoulos, Charles. *Black Iconoclasm: Public Symbols, Racial Progress, and Post/Ferguson America*. Advanced Contract, Palgrave Macmillan.

SINGLE-AUTHOR PUBLICATIONS

Athanasopoulos, Charles. "A Global Idea of Race: Greek Gypsies, Blackness" in *The Routledge Handbook of Critical Rhetorics of Race* edited by Bernadette Marie Calafell and Shinsuke Eguchi. Routledge Press. October 3rdth, 2023.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. "Fanonian Slips: The Rhetorical Function & Field of the White Mask." *Western Journal of Communication*, October 12, 2022.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. "'A Program of Complete Disorder:' The Black Iconoclasm within Fanonian Thought". *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, 10.1 Spring 2021.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. "Black Radical Thought as Pathology in *Black Panther*" in *The Why Wakanda Matters: What Black Panther Reveals About Psychology, Identity, and Communication* edited by Sheena Howard. BenBella Books, February 2021.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. "Smashing the Icon of Black Lives Matter: Afropessimism & Religious Iconolatry." *Prose Studies*, Vol. 40, Issue 1-2: #BlackLivesMatter: Pasts, Presents, Futures, 2019.

CO/AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

Athanasopoulos, Charles & Sugino, Corinne Mitsuye. "Clash of the Uncivilized: Alternative Approaches to Policy Debate." *Contemporary Argumentation & Debate Journal*, July 2023.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Athanasopoulos, Charles. "Iconography in the Age of Black Lives Matter". *Monument Lab*, 2020.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. "On White Rioters & Black Liberals". *The Lacan Salon*, "Listening with Black Lives Matter" series, 2020.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Williamson, Marisa & Athanasopoulos, Charles. Invited Submission. "[*Unsettling Grounds*](#)." *Monument Lab*. Inaugural print journal issue. Forthcoming Winter 2024.

Sugino, Corinne Mitsuye & Athanasopoulos, Charles. "The Cause is the Consequence: Biden's Nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson & The Right to Include" in *Rhetorical Economies of Whiteness: Power, Privilege, & Neoliberalism* edited by Robert Asen & Casey Ryan Kelly. Under Review, Ohio State University Press.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. "Lose Your Abuela: Afro/Nuyorican Identity, *Puertorriqueñidad* & Caribbean Discourse."

Athanasopoulos, Charles. "The First Black Presidency Did Not Take Place."

Sugino, Corinne Mitsuye & Athanasopoulos, Charles. "White Rhetorical Appropriation: Multicultural Co-option of Civil Rights Discourses in the Age of COVID-19".

BOOK REVIEWS

Athanasopoulos, Charles. "Black or Right: Anti/Racist Campus Rhetorics by Louis M. Maraj". *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, Published ahead of print September 28th, 2021.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. "Review of *Iconoclasm: The Breaking and Making of Images* edited by Rachel F. Stapleton and Antonio Viselli". *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, Issue 9.2, Fall 2020.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. "Narration as Argument edited by Paula Olmos". *Argumentation and Advocacy*, Vol. 56 (3), June 2020.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. "Critique of Black by Achille Mbembe Reason." *Prose Studies*, Vol. 40, Issue 1-2: #BlackLivesMatter: Pasts, Presents, Futures, 2019.

AWARDS & HONORS

Invitation & Honorarium. Black and Indigenous Futures Convening. Sponsored by ArtsEmerson & HowlRound Theatre Commons (\$1000 USD honorarium & related expenses). Emerson College. September 20-21, 2023.

1 of 35 invited speakers/participants chosen by ArtsEmerson and HowlRound Theatre Commons to participate in workshopping and a recorded roundtable about among 35 Black and Indigenous scholars to participate in "a convening of artists, scholars, educators, and practitioners to join us in unearthing history, examining fault lines, and imagining new and different futures."

Faculty Honor for Positive Impact on Graduating Seniors. Office of the Vice Provost for Student Affairs at Gonzaga University. AY 2022-2023.

Listed by two graduating seniors at Gonzaga University as a faculty member who made a "positive influence or impact on their college experience" by showing "care" and "investment" in their well-being and success.

Global Engagement Grant Recipient. Awarded by Gonzaga University's International Education Council for the summer of 2023 (\$3500 award).

The grant was awarded to aid a research project abroad studying the legacy of slavery in Puerto Rico and Afro/Puerto Rican identity.

Competitive Fund Recipient. Dean's Faculty Development Fund. Gonzaga University. Spring 2023. (\$1000USD award).

Awarded funds to begin cultivating language skills in Puerto Rican Spanish to aid research projects.

Dietrich School Arts & Sciences Fellow. Awarded for AY 2021-2022 (Full Tuition + \$23,688 stipend). Includes stipendiary support and a year-long sabbatical from teaching to aid the completion of the student's dissertation.

A.W. Mellon Foundation-funded *Humanities Engage* Grant. Awarded for Summer 2020 (\$3500/c. 200 hours). Immersive Fellowship at The Stuart Weitzman School of Design's Center for Public Art and Space & Monument Lab of Philadelphia, PA.

2020 Greek Nationality Room Scholarship Recipient (\$4,000/5 weeks abroad). Delayed until Summer of 2022. Awarded for auto-ethnographic research project "From Ferguson to Athens: Race, Romani Greeks, & #BlackLivesMatter."

Top Student Paper Award for Essay titled “A Stranger in Wakanda: Erik Killmonger & Black Natal Alienation”. “Theater, Film, and New Multi-Media Division” at the National Communication Association Conference. Baltimore, Maryland, November 13-17, 2019.

INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS

Invited Speaker/Participant. Black and Indigenous Futures Convening. Sponsored by ArtsEmerson & HowlRound. Emerson College. September 20-21, 2023.

Panelist. “Decolonizing Puerto Rico: Past, Present, Future.” Sponsored by the Gonzaga University College of Arts & Sciences & the Puerto Rican Independence Party. May 5th, 2023.

Panelist. “(Un)Natural Disaster.” Sponsored by the Gonzaga University College of Arts & Sciences & Fundación de Mujeres (Puerto Rican Women’s Foundation). September 9th, 2023.

Author Interview, “A Program of Complete Disorder:” The Black Iconoclasm Within Fanonian Thought.” *Black Agenda Report Article Forum*, ed. Roberto Sirvent. Published March 23, 2022.

Invited Guest Speaker, “Black Radical Thought as Pathology in *Black Panther*.” *Why Wakanda Matters* Podcast hosted by Sheena C. Howard, December 29, 2020.

Moderator, “A Discussion with Louis M. Maraj on Black or Right: Anti/Racist Campus Rhetorics” hosted by DBLAC (Digital Black Life and Culture Network), December 8th, 2020.

Job Seeker’s Workshop Participant. Cultural Studies Association Conference (Virtual), June 2021.

Lateral Journal Workshop Participant. Cultural Studies Association Conference. New Orleans, LA, May 2019.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Co-Panelist. National Communication Association. “Lose Your Abuela: Afro/Nuyorican Identity, Puertorriqueñidad & Caribbean Discourse.” Anticipated November 2023.

Co-Panelist. National Communication Association. “Where Caribbean Mestizaje & White Nationalism Meet: The Rhetoric of Afro/Cuban *Proud Boys* Chairman Enrique Tarrio” Anticipated November 2023.

Co-Panelist. National Communication Association. “The First Black Presidency Did Not Take Place.” Panel: “Out of Breath: The Communicative Politics of Racialized Breathing”. National Communication Association Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana. November 2022.

Co-panelist. Sugino, Corinne Mitsuye & Athanasopoulos, Charles. “White Rhetorical Appropriation: Multicultural Co-option of Civil Rights Discourses in the Age of COVID-19”. Panel: “Post-Civil Rights Movement Racial Discourses: Untangling Colorblindness, Multiculturalism, and Post-racialism”. National Communication Association Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana. November 2022.

Individual Presenter. “Embracing *Le Chaos-Monde* of Black Lives Matter Street Art”. National Communication Association Conference. Seattle, Washington. November 2021.

Individual Presenter. “Shedding the Coping Persona: Rituals of Racial Catharsis”. Black & Race Working Group. Cultural Studies Association Conference (Virtual). June 2021.

Individual Presenter (Cancelled due to COVID-19). 19th Biennial Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America. Portland, OR May 21-May 24, 2020.

Individual Presenter. National Communication Association Conference. Baltimore, Maryland, November 13-17, 2019.

Co-Panelist for Discussion for Forthcoming Special Issue of *Contemporary Argumentation & Debate Journal*. National Communication Association Conference. Baltimore, Maryland, November 13-17, 2019.

Individual Paper Presentation. Rhetoric & Religion in the 21st Century. Knoxville, TN, October 4-7, 2018.

Individual Paper Workshop. Cultural Studies Association Conference. New Orleans, LA, May 30-June 1, 2019.

COURSES TAUGHT (Instructor of Record)

GONGZAGA UNIVERSITY

COMM 100: “Communication and Speech” (x6)

COMM 210: “Understanding Meaning-Making (x2)

COMM 350: “The Politics of Social Memory” (x1)

COMM 420: “Critical/Cultural Communication” (x1)

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

COMMRC 0500: “Argument & The Rhetoric of Social Movements” (x2)
(hybrid/online due to COVID-19)

COMMRC 0500: “Argument & The 2020 U.S. Presidential Election” (x3)
(Two sections were online/hybrid due to COVID-19)

COMMRC 0520: “Public Speaking & Grassroots Organizing” (x3)

GUEST INSTRUCTION

“Re/Claiming History & Iconography in the Age of *Black Lives Matter*,” for “Core Integrated Seminar: All Art is Propaganda.” Instructor: Laura Brunell at Gonzaga University. Fall 2022

“Embracing *Le Chaos-Monde of Black Lives Matter Street Art: A Lecture on Visual Argumentation*,” for “Argument: Exploring Diversity & Social Difference.” Instructor: Corinne Mitsuye Sugino at University of Pittsburgh. Summer 2021.

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Peer-Tutor at the University Writing Center. 2017-2018.

PROFESSIONALIZATION

Workshop Participant. “Advising Academy”. Gonzaga University Center for Teaching & Advising. AY 2023-2024.

Certification. Title IX “Report= Support!: Identifying & Responding to Sexual Misconduct” Training. Catharsis Online Training & Gonzaga University. Awarded Certificate on February 2023.

Certification. “The Influence of Unconscious Bias”. Vector Solutions & Gonzaga University. January 2023.

Certification. “Personal Skills for a Diverse Campus”. Vector Solutions & Gonzaga University. January 2023.

Certification. “Engagement with Diversity”. Vector Solutions & Gonzaga University. January 2023.

Certification. “Communication for Inclusion”. Vector Solutions & Gonzaga University. January 2023.

Mentee Participant. “College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Mentoring Program”. Gonzaga University. AY 2022-2023.

Global Engagement Grant Funded Summer Research Project in Puerto Rico. June 2023.
Sum: \$3500

Greek Nationality Grant Funded Summer Research Project in Greece. June-July 2022.
Sum: \$4000

Mellon-Funded Fellow at Monument Lab (Independent Public Art and History Studio). 2020.
Sum: \$3500

SERVICE

President of the Puerto Rican Independence Party – Washington. Fall 2022-Present.

Involves recruiting members, coordinating with the Party’s national leadership, organizing University-sponsored panels, securing funding for guest speakers, collaborating with other pro/independence groups, producing popular and academic essays, and coordinating with local Puerto Rican organizations regarding emergency Hurricane Response.

Participant. BRIDGE Meals. Gonzaga University. August 21st, 2023.

BRIDGE (Building Relationships in Diverse Gonzaga Environment) is a Social Justice and Leadership Institute designed for underrepresented students to help facilitate a smoother transition to student life. BRIDGE Meals specifically allows students to get to know faculty members and to discuss any questions or concerns they may have over a shared meal.

Co/Chair of Rhetorical Theory & Criticism Division of Northwest Communication Association. 2022-Present.

Involves contact for submissions to the division, working with the 1st VP and Conference Coordinator during selection, soliciting presenter information for the program and website, facilitating reviewers, and soliciting submissions.

“Decolonizing Puerto Rico: Past, Present, Future.” Sponsored by the Gonzaga University College of Arts & Sciences & the Puerto Rican Independence Party. May 5th, 2023.

Secured funding, coordinated guest speaker visit for NASA Scientist & Puerto Rican Independence activists Edil Sepúlveda Carlo, coordinating local catering, & publicizing event.

Co/Organizer. Fr. C. Patrick Carroll, S.J. Communications Studies Senior Showcase. April 27, 2023.

Coordinated event planning, attended multiple committee meetings, oversaw the pairing of faculty and students into mentoring pods to aid students’ preparation for the showcase, & publicized the event.

Faculty Mentor. Fr. C. Patrick Carroll, S.J. Communications Studies Senior Showcase. April 2023.

Served as the faculty mentor for two Communication Studies seniors in preparation for their showcase presentations. Helped students hone their own original arguments concerning communication & representations of Blackness both at Gonzaga and the broader American popular culture.

Ad-hoc Reviewer for *Journal of International & Intercultural Communication*. Fall 2022.

Involves anonymously peer reviewing newly submitted manuscripts and agreeing to look at potential revisions to help the journal editors come to a decision about whether to publish an article.

“Puerto Rico: (Un) Natural Disasters.” Public Panel held at Gonzaga University. September 2022.

This panel was born out of an open letter composed by various Puerto Rican faculty members concerning the need to offer aid to the most marginalized citizens of Puerto Rico after the disaster of Hurricane Fiona. The panel was created in collaboration with the President’s Office, the College of Arts & Sciences Dean’s Office, and Fundación de Mujeres en Puerto Rico.

Communication Studies Program Assessment Review Committee Member. AY 2022-2023.

The committee involves producing governing documents for the assessment and potential revision of: (1) department learning objectives (2) methods of assigning & assessing student work used by faculty and (3) the design of the department’s curricular program.

Carroll Speaker Showcase Committee Member. AY 2022-2023.

The Carroll Showcase will be held in Spring 2023 and centers the work of students conducting research within Communication Studies.

Ad-hoc Reviewer for *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research*. Summer 2022.

Involves anonymously peer reviewing newly submitted manuscripts and agreeing to look at potential revisions to help the journal editors come to a decision about whether to publish an article.

University of Pittsburgh Graduate Student Organization *Secretary* (2020-2021).

Involves assisting the Vice President when needed, facilitating inter-organizational communication, and recording, reporting, and circulating the minutes of the organization's regular business meetings.

Conference Reviewer for American Studies Division of the National Communication Association Conference (2021).

Involves reading and critically assessing various individual paper submissions and group panels for acceptance into the conference.

University of Pittsburgh Department of Communication Agora Series Graduate Student Representative (2021-2022).

The Agora is a speaker series within the Department that invites scholars to share work of relevance to the many aspects of communication scholarship. Graduate student representatives assist faculty in choosing a schedule of speakers during the academic year. Helped facilitate pedagogical workshops on virtual/hybrid instruction during COVID-19.

LANGUAGES

English. Fluent.

Modern Greek. Fluent.

Ancient (Biblical) Greek. Proficient.

Puerto Rican Spanish. Beginner as of Spring 2023.