

# Rhetoric



## WhyUtah?

- Nationally ranked program
- Large department (30+ faculty)
- Competitive graduate assistantships
- PAC-12 University
- World-class, year-round recreation
- MA, MS, and PhD programs

## WhyRhetoric?

- Top-tier program in Rhetoric
- Award-winning, internationally recognized Rhetoric faculty
- Rhetoric a departmental focus: nine faculty in the Rhetoric area alone!
- Small graduate cohorts = each student supported by several faculty
- Numerous faculty-led mentoring opportunities
- Department-wide dedication to social justice and engaged scholarship



Faculty and graduates students in Rhetoric study discursive and non-discursive symbolic action. Our unique program focuses on the relationships that exist between rhetoric and concrete problems, and our departmental members specialize in the investigation of health, environmental, legal, political, cultural, and military issues.



*Professors Robin Jensen, Kevin Coe, Danielle Endres, and Kent Ono show their Utah pride and consider the state of the field in the atrium of the Language and Communication Building. The Department of Communication is located on the 2nd floor of this beautiful building.*

## Top-tier Faculty

Utah is a premier program in Rhetoric with nine faculty working on projects related to global warming, postcolonialism, nuclear waste siting decisions, reproductive health, political discourse, and obesity (to name a few). Below is a list of Rhetoric faculty.

Kevin Coe (Assistant Professor)  
Kevin M. DeLuca (Professor)  
Danielle Endres (Associate Professor)  
Marouf A. Hasian, Jr. (Professor)  
Robin E. Jensen (Associate Professor)  
Maureen A. Mathison (Associate Professor)  
Michael K. Middleton (Assistant Professor)  
Kent A. Ono (Professor; Department Chair)  
Helene A. Shugart (Professor)



<http://communication.utah.edu/>





*Scenes of concentration at a 2014 Park City Writing Retreat.*

## **Mentoring**Students

Several Rhetoric faculty hold writing retreats and other mentoring opportunities for their students, both on-campus and in nearby locales such as Park City, UT (home to world-class skiing, mountain biking, and the Sundance Film Festival). These functions provide faculty and students with an opportunity to work on team projects, write manuscripts for publication, and speak out on behalf of salient social and cultural issues.



*Professor Danielle Endres heads a team of student researchers examining local community activism.*





*Graduate students in rhetoric enjoy the department's fall Canyon Social where members of the department kick off the new year and enjoy the great outdoors.*

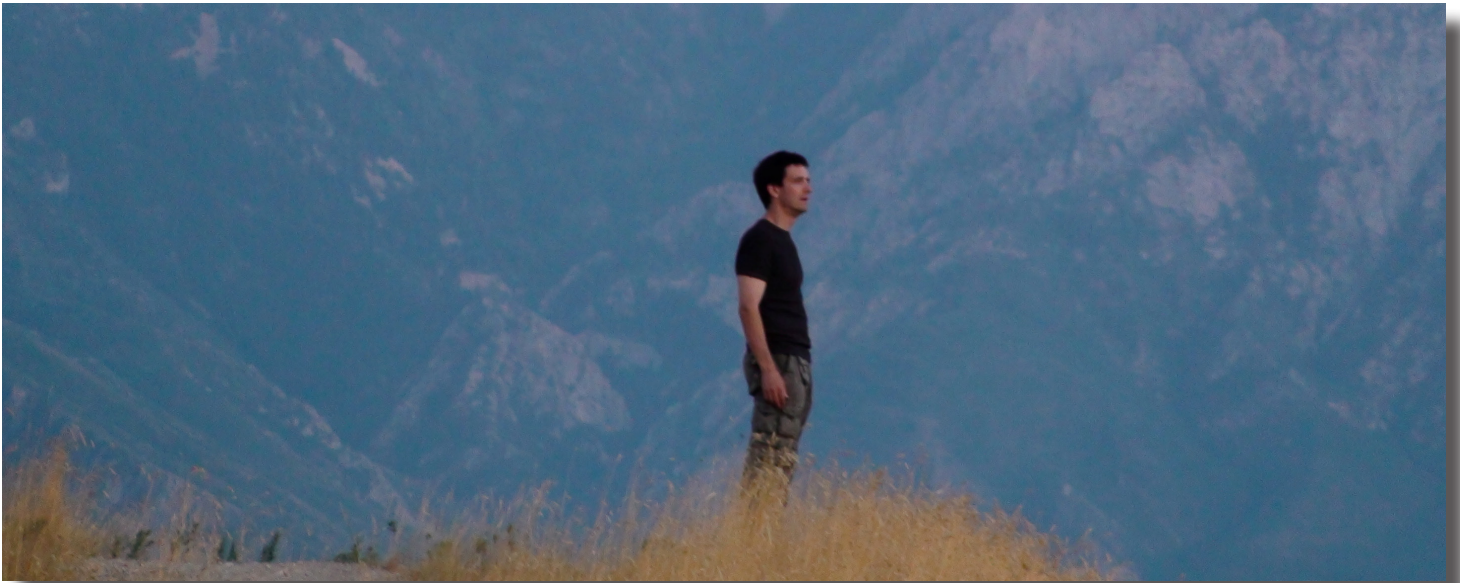
## **Inside**theClassroom

Utah has Rhetoric curricula at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Graduate students are guaranteed a Rhetoric course every semester, and they have the opportunity to TA Rhetoric undergraduate courses (e.g., COMM 3405). Rhetoric students are also encouraged to develop expertise in one of the other areas within the department. The other areas include science, health, environment, and risk (CommSHER); interpersonal/organizational; critical/cultural studies; and media & communication technology.

### Sample Courses:

COM 3405: Aristotle to #Twitter  
COM 3460: Communication Criticism  
COM 5330: Visual Rhetoric and Politics  
COM 6365: Communication and Social Justice  
COM 7405: Rhetoric and Health  
COM 7405: Feminist Rhetoric  
COM 7410: Foundations of Rhetorical Theory  
COM 7455: Rhetoric of Freedom and Unfreedom





## Outside the Classroom

Rhetoric faculty are committed to engaging in scholarship and teaching that speaks to issues of local, national, and international importance. For instance, Professor Kevin DeLuca (above looking out at the Wasatch Mountains, and below at the Canyon Social) pushes his students to explore and challenge the world outside the classroom.



Faculty, students, and staff enjoy dinner together at the Canyon Social in Millcreek Canyon. The Wasatch Mountains provide a wonderful setting for department gatherings and allow mountain living to seamlessly integrate with scholarly pursuits.



# Educational Workshops

Rhetoric faculty periodically hold workshops to help students prepare for the job market, learn about new areas of research, or develop grant-writing skills.



*Above, Professor Angela Ray of Northwestern University leads an informal seminar on rhetorical history for the department. She visited as the 2014 B. Aubrey Fisher Memorial Lecturer.*

# Park Debate Society



Several faculty and graduate students work with the John R. Park Debate Society. Started in 1869, the Park Debate Society competes in national forensics tournaments and hosts public debate forums on important topics of the day. Prof. Michael Middleton directs the program.





*The recently renovated J. Willard Marriott Library is a state-of-the-art facility with study nooks, computer labs, and a cafe. It is also home to the University of Utah Press and the Red Butte Press.*

## **Excellent**Resources

Communication graduates also have access to the rich educational resources of a PAC-12 University. Rhetoric students benefit from programs such as:

Taft-Nicholson Center for Environmental Humanities  
Environmental Humanities Program  
Global Change & Sustainability Center  
The Health Communication Certificate  
School of Medicine  
Hinckley Institute of Politics  
The Huntsman Cancer Center  
School of Nursing  
Marriott Library  
Entertainment Arts & Engineering (EAE)  
Tanner Humanities Center  
Asia Center  
Middle East Center  
American West Center

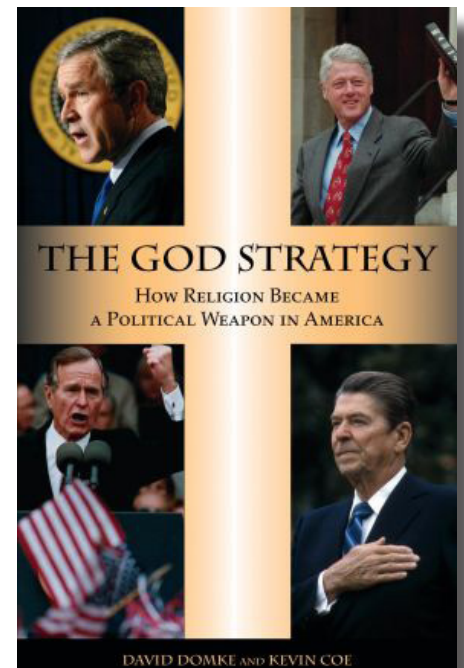
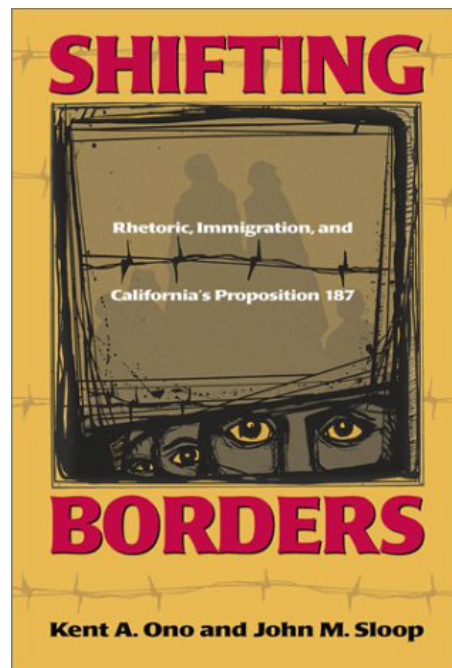
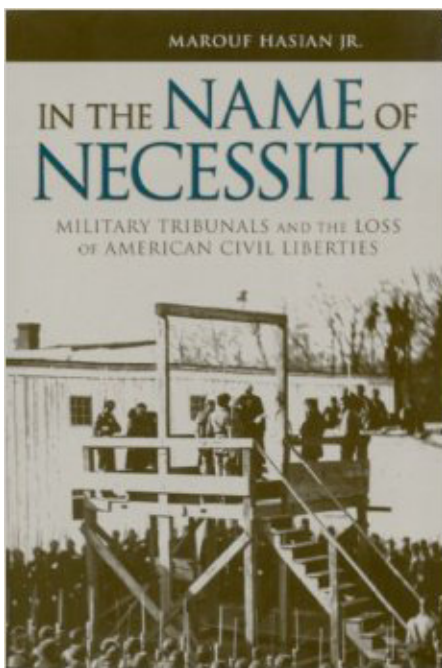


Rhetoric faculty member Kent A. Ono is Chair of the Department of Communication.

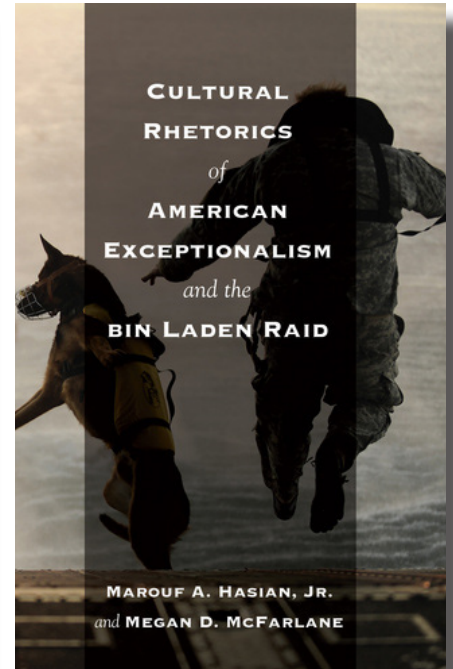
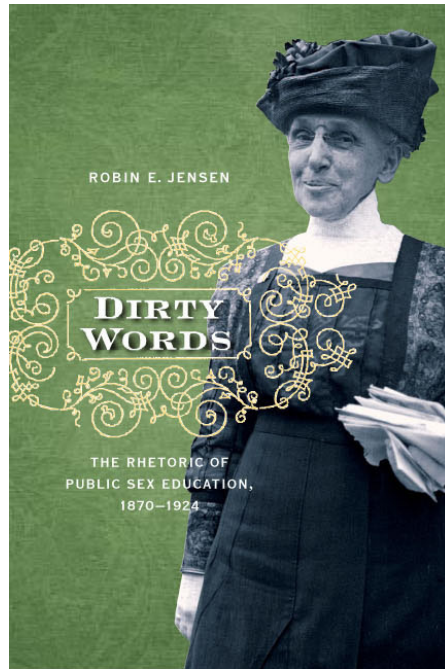
# FacultyBooks



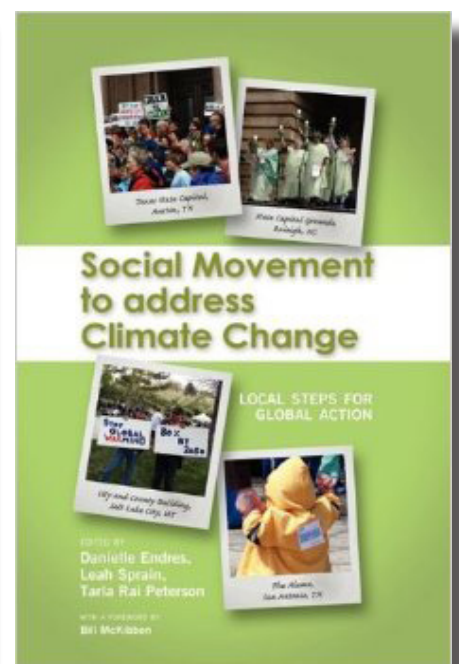
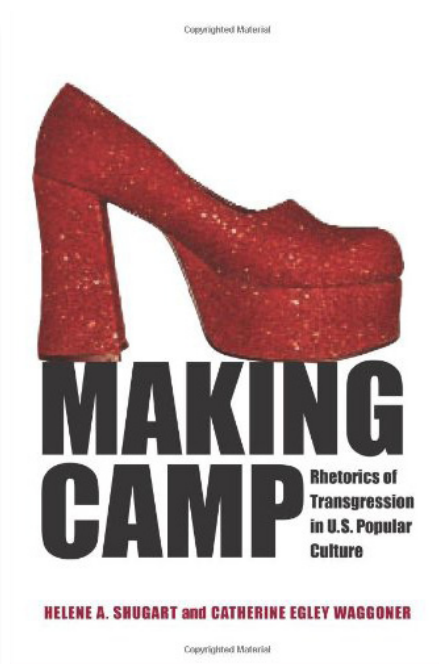
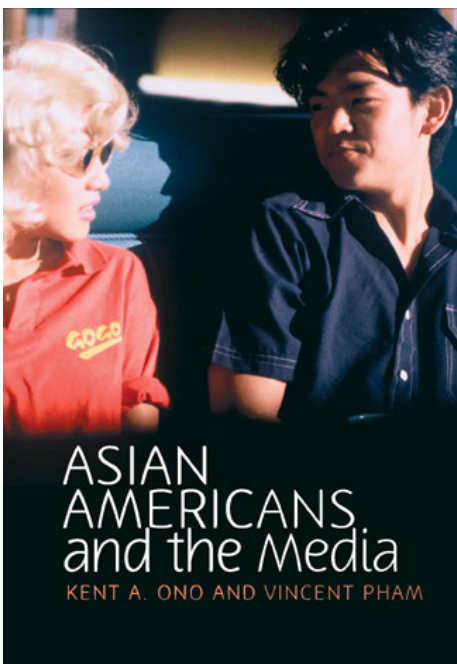
The University of Utah's Marriott Library (above) provides students and faculty with a plethora of resources for fulfilling their scholarly pursuits. University of Utah faculty (and their students) have produced a number of award-winning books, including *In the Name of Necessity* (Marouf A. Hasian, Jr.), *Shifting Borders* (Kent A. Ono and John M. Sloop), and *The God Strategy* (David Domke and Kevin Coe).







*Image Politics* (Kevin M. DeLuca), *Dirty Words* (Robin E. Jensen), *Cultural Rhetorics of American Exceptionalism and the Bin Laden Raid* (Marouf A. Hasian, Jr. and Megan D. McFarlane), *Asian Americans and the Media* (Kent A. Ono and Vincent Pham), *Making Camp* (Helene A. Shugart and Catherine Egly Waggoner), and *Social Movement to Address Climate Change* (Danielle Endres, Leah Sprain, and Tarla Rai Peterson).





# RhetoricFaculty



**Kevin Coe**  
**Assistant Professor**

Professor Coe's research focuses on the interaction of American political discourse, news media, and public opinion. His current work looks at the nature and impact of incivility in public discourse, as well as the broadening of presidents' use of religious rhetoric.



**Marouf A. Hasian, Jr.**  
**Professor**

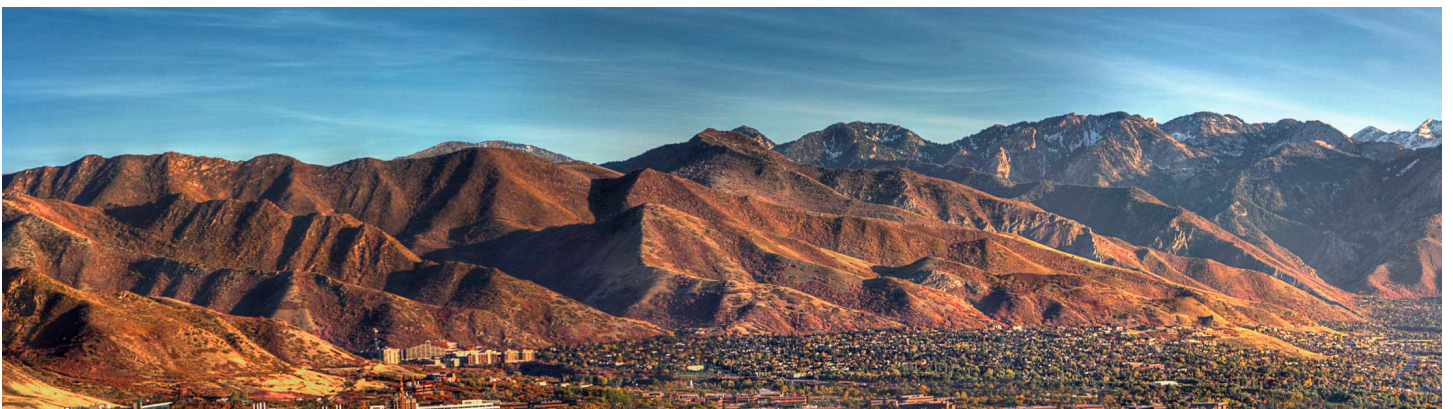
Professor Hasian studies critical legal studies, post-colonial studies, critical memories studies, and military humanitarianism. He is currently working on a book project that will cover various national and international memories of the Blackwater Incident in Nisour Square.



**Robin E. Jensen**  
**Associate Professor**

<http://robinejensen.com/>

Professor Jensen studies historical and contemporary discourses concerning health, science, and gender. She is currently working on her second book, *Infertility: A Rhetorical History*, and launching a study to interview low-income women about their sexual education experiences.





# RhetoricFaculty



**Kevin DeLuca**  
**Professor**

Professor DeLuca explores humanity's relations to nature and how those relations are mediated and transformed by technological and ideological discourses. DeLuca is now writing and doing documentary film work on environmental activism, art, and the public screen in China.



**Michael K. Middleton**  
**Assistant Professor and Debate Society Director**

Professor Middleton studies social movement rhetoric and public argument, with a focus on questions of economic marginalization, neoliberalism, and globalization. He is currently working on a book project about the homeless advocacy organization, SafeGround Sacramento.



**Danielle Endres**  
**Associate Professor**

Professor Endres is a rhetorical theorist and critic with research expertise in the areas of environmental communication, social movements, and Native American cultures. With a grant from the NSF, she is currently studying the discourse of low-carbon energy scientists and engineers.



# RhetoricFaculty



**Kent A. Ono**  
**Professor and Department Chair**

Professor Ono studies rhetoric and discourse, media and film, and race, ethnic, and cultural studies. His next book focuses on immigration rhetoric, Asian American new media, and critical intercultural communication.



**Helene Shugart**  
**Professor**

Professor Shugart's expertise is in rhetoric, cultural studies, and health. She is currently working on a number of projects regarding contemporary public discourses about obesity. She also presently serves as Director of Graduate Studies for the department.



**Maureen Mathison**  
**Associate Professor**

Professor Mathison is primarily interested in how knowledge is constructed and disseminated among scientists. She is currently working on a book titled, *Sojourners and Third Cultures*, which examines how technical sciences and humanities collaborate.



*Have you seen this image before? It was created in the College of Humanities at the University of Utah!*



# Select Student Profiles



**Megan D. McFarlane**  
**Doctoral Candidate**  
**Originally from Sauk Rapids, Minnesota**

Megan's dissertation offers an interrogation of the discursive and visual representations of women and female bodies in the U.S. military. She has recently been named a University Steffensen Cannon Scholar.

**Joshua Trey Barnett**  
**Doctoral Student**  
**Originally from Athens, Georgia**

Joshua studies the development of political subjectivities in relation to the chemicals circulating in the air, water, and soil, and throughout bodies. He is currently a fellow at the University's Global Change and Sustainability Center.



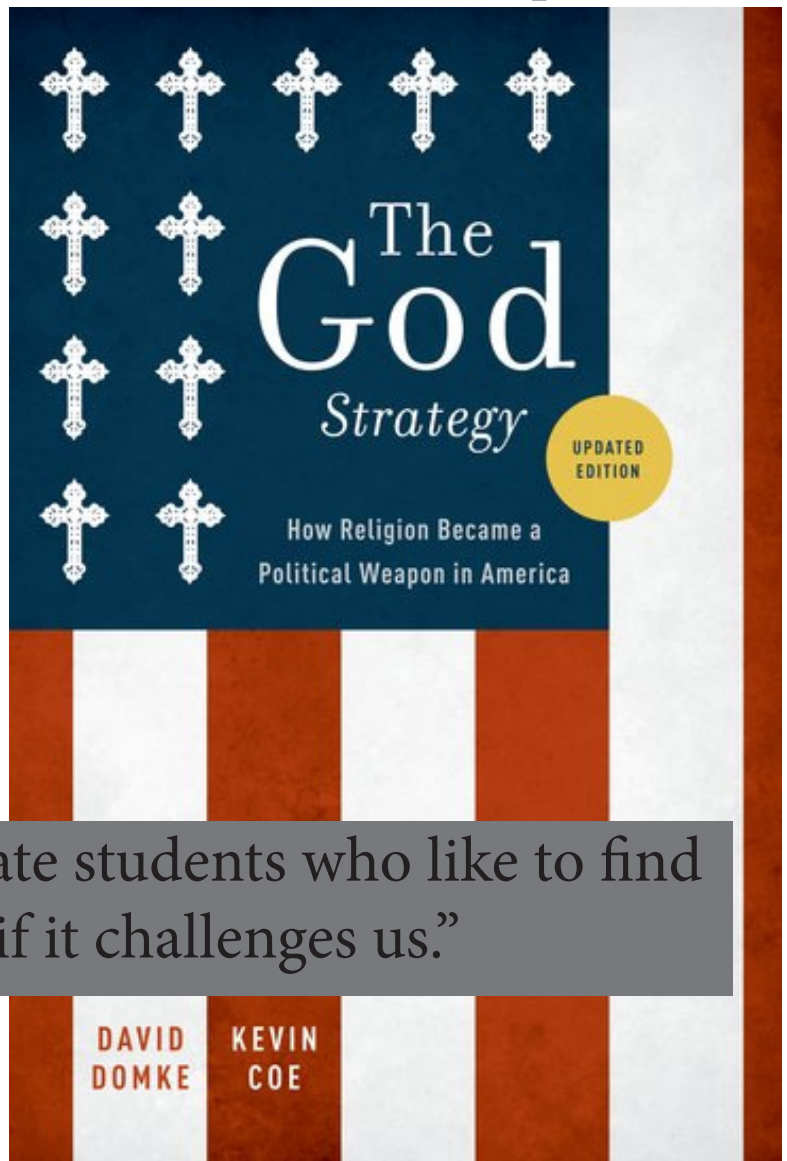
**Penchan "Pink" Phoborisut**  
**Doctoral Student**  
**Originally from Bangkok, Thailand**

Pink studies issues of environmental justice and social movements. She draws from her professional experience working in television and advertising production to teach undergraduate courses in visual communication, digital journalism, and video production.



## Kevin Coe

Originally from Tacoma, Washington, Kevin is an avid Seattle Seahawks football fan. His students often have a background in communication, political science, or public policy, though he doesn't feel that's pivotal. He's more interested in finding careful thinkers with a passion for challenging conventional wisdom.



“I’m looking for graduate students who like to find the hidden story, even if it challenges us.”



**Keywords:**  
**Politics: Media: Religion: Persuasion**



# Recent Faculty Hires

## Robin Jensen

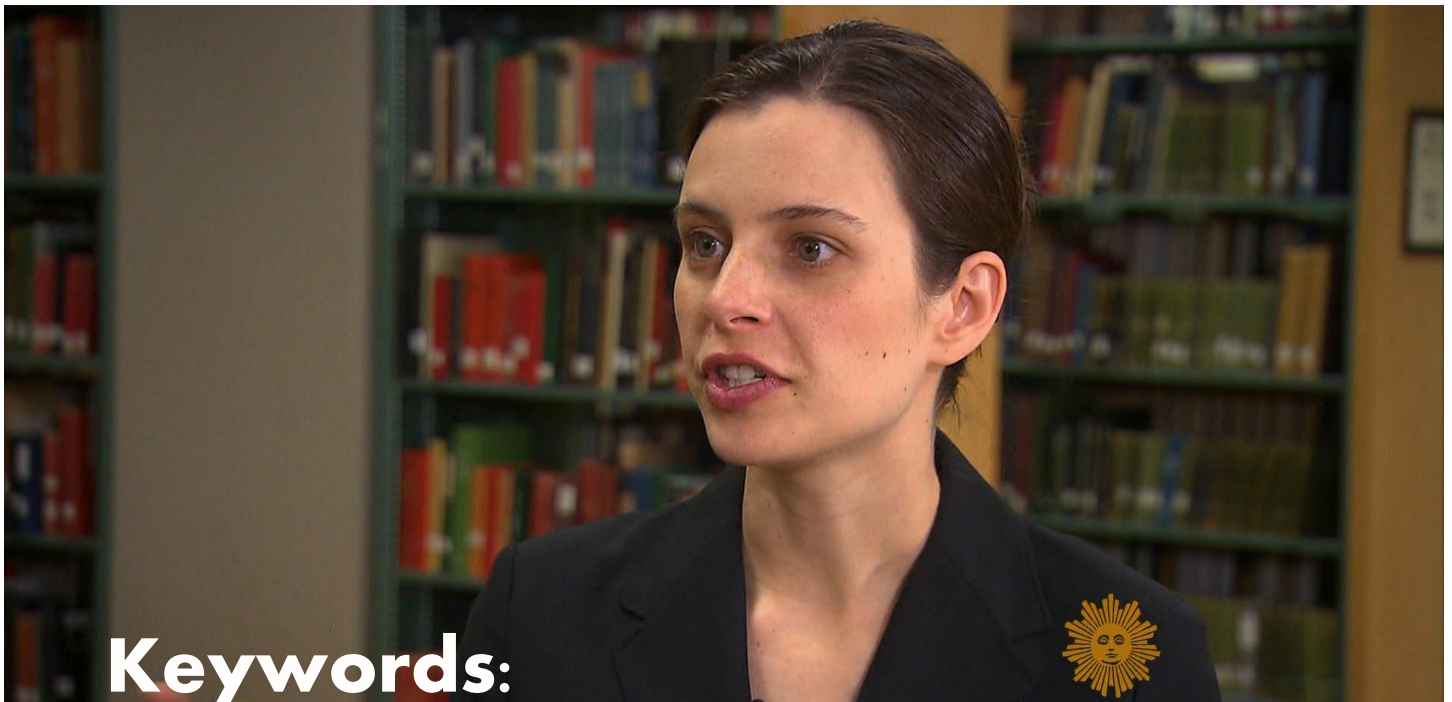


Originally from Billings, Montana, Robin is a voracious reader. At any given moment, Robin can be found with a book in her hand, usually different from the one she had only moments ago. She is looking for students who conceive of writing as an ongoing learning process, are interested in rhetorical history and/or the qualitative study of contemporary sexual health issues, and take their dedication and consistent hard work with a side of silliness.

“I’m looking for graduate students who are as curious as they are hardworking and fun.”

## Newsworthy

Robin was recently featured on the *CBS Sunday Morning Show* in a segment about women’s history.



**Keywords:**



**Health: Women: Archives: Visuals**



# JoiningtheProgram

The Department of Communication's graduate committee begins reviewing applications for M.A. and Ph.D. students in January of each year. Students admitted to the program may receive an assistantship that includes a competitive stipend plus a tuition waiver.



## ContactUs

Students interested in learning more about Utah Rhetoric can email the area head, Robin E. Jensen (r.e.jensen@utah.edu), or any of the faculty members in the area.

<http://communication.utah.edu/>