

Benjamin R. Warner

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Education

- Ph.D.** **Communication, University of Kansas** **May, 2011**
Dissertation Title: *The Character of Extremism in American Politics: The Role of the Internet in Fostering Social Balkanization.*
Advisor: Dr. Mary Banwart
- M.A.** **Communication, Missouri State University** **May, 2006**
Thesis Title: *The Role of Fantasy Theme Chaining in Howard Dean's 2004 Democratic Presidential Primary Campaign.*
Advisor: Dr. Eric Morris
- B.S.** **Southwest Missouri State University** **May, 2004**
Political Science (major) and Communication Studies (minor)
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Academic Positions

- University of Missouri (2011-Present)
Assistant Professor – Department of Communication
- University of Kansas (2006-2011)
Teaching Assistant & Assistant Debate Coach – Department of Communication
- Missouri State University (2004-2006)
Assistant Debate Coach – Department of Communication
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Research

Publications

- Warner, B. R. & Neville-Shepard, R. (2013 - Accepted). Pushed to the extreme: Ideological media as a driver of belief in conspiracy theory. *Communication Quarterly*.
- Warner, B. R., & McKinney, M. S. (2013). The polarizing effect of presidential debates. *Communication Studies*, 64, 1-20.
- McKinney, M. S., & Warner, B. R. (2013). Do presidential debates matter? Examining a decade of campaign debate effects. *Argumentation and Advocacy*, 49, 238-258.

- Winfrey, K. L., Warner, B. R., & Banwart, M. C. (2013 – Accepted). Gender identification and young voters: Predicting candidate evaluations and message effectiveness. *American Behavioral Scientist*.
- Warner, B. R., Greenwood, M. (2014 – Accepted). Affective polarization from campaign communication: Alienating messages in the 2012 presidential election. In J. Tedesco, D. B. Bystrom, M. S. McKinney, & M. C. Banwart (Eds.), *Alienation: The divide and conquer election of 2012*. New York, NY: Peter Lang.
- Warner, B. R., Hawthorne, J., & McGowen, S. T. (2014 - Accepted). Maligned youth or political activists?: Young citizen political engagement using social media. In J. A. Hendricks & D. Schill (Eds.), *Presidential Campaigning and Social Media*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Warner, B. R., McGowen, S. T., & Hawthorne, J. (2012). Limbaugh's social media nightmare: Facebook and Twitter as spaces for political action. *Journal of Radio and Audio Media*, 19(2), 257-275. doi: 10.1080/19376529.2012.722479
As of 2010 there was a 23% acceptance rate.
- Warner, B. R., & Neville-Shepard, R. (2011). The polarizing influence of fragmented media: Lessons from Howard Dean. *The Atlantic Journal of Communication*, 19, 201-215. doi: 10.1080/15456870.2011.606100
- Warner, B. R., Carlin, D. B., Winfrey, K. L., Schnoebelen, J. M. & Trosanovski, M. (2011). Will the 'real' candidates please stand up?: Perceptions of the 2008 presidential and vice presidential candidates. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 55, 232-255.
- Warner, B. R., Winfrey, K. & Banwart, M. C. (2010). The effects of gender in national level campaigns for Senate. In M. S. McKinney and M. C. Banwart (Eds.), *Communication in the 2008 U.S. Election: Digital Natives Elect a President* (pp. 197-210. New York, NY: Peter Lang.
- Warner, B. R. (2010). Segmenting the electorate: The effects of exposure to political extremism online. *Communication Studies*, 64, 430-444. doi: 10.1080/19376529.2012.722479
- Schnoebelen, J. M., Carlin, D. B. & Warner, B. R. (2009). Hillary, you can't go home again: The entrapment of the first lady role. In T. F. Sheckels (Ed.), *Cracked but not shattered: Hillary Rodham Clinton's unsuccessful campaign for the presidency*. New York, NY: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Warner, B. R. (2010). Building persuasion into public speaking. *Speaker-Audience Communication: The Handbook*. Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing.

Grants and Fellowships

Federation Prize, Central States Communication Association, \$3,000 (PI) – Awarded 2013.

Research Council Grant, University of Missouri, \$7,000 (PI) – Awarded Dec. 2012

Summer Research Fellowship, University of Missouri, \$7,000 – Applied Summer 2013

Conference Presentations

Warner, B. R. Debating technical rhetoric in the public sphere: Statistical forecasting and science denial in the 2012 Presidential Election. Presented at the biennial Alta Conference on Argumentation, Alta, UT, August, 2013.

Warner, B. R. Examining citizens' Political Polarization. Presented at the Central States Communication Association Annual Convention, Kansas City, MO, April 2013.
*Spotlight Panel

Hawthorne, J., & Warner, B. R. The effects of hostile rhetoric on aggression. Presented at the Central States Communication Association Annual Convention, Kansas City, MO, April, 2013.

Warner, B. R. Communicating to the fringe: The character of political extremism in America. Presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, Orlando, FL, November 2012.
*Top four paper in Political Communication

Warner, B. R., & Banwart, M. C. Image is everything: Proposing a new model for testing candidate image. Presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, Orlando, FL, November 2012.

McKinney, M. S., & Warner, B. R. Exploring the influence of presidential debates. Presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, Orlando, FL, November 2012.

Warner, B. R., Hawthorne, J., & McGowen, S. T. Social media and political participation among younger Americans. Presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, Orlando, FL, November 2012.

Neville-Shepard, R., & Warner, B. R. Beyond paranoia: The 9/11 truth movement and conspiracy argument for the masses. Presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, Orlando, FL, November 2012.

Banwart, M. C. & Warner, B. R. Evaluating Men and Women: Developing a Contemporary Image Scale for Mixed-Gender Political Races. Presented at the Central States Communication Association, Cleveland, OH, March 2012.

Warner, B. R. Toward a Theory of Comic Agonism. Presented at the Central States Communication Association, Milwaukee, WI, April 2011.
*Awarded top student paper

Warner, B. R. The character of extremism in American politics. Presented at the

- National Communication Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, November 2010.
* Competitively selected paper
- Warner, B. R. Building comic bridges across divided cultures: Toward a political theory in the writing of Kenneth Burke. Presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, November 2010.
* Competitively selected paper
- Warner, B. R. Creating civic engagement in campaigns: On the primacy of message in candidate blogs. Presented at the Central States Communication Association, Cincinnati, OH, April 2010.
*Awarded top student paper
- Banwart, M. C., Winfrey, K. & Warner, B. R. Women and Politics in Election 2008: Stability, Change, or a Whole New World?. Presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 2009.
*Competitively selected paper
- Warner, B. R. & Murray, A. R. Segmenting the electorate: The effects of exposure to political extremism online. Presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 2009.
*Competitively selected paper
- Warner, B. R. Fragmentation and social balkanization: Media use as a predictor of political extremism among American youth. Presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, November 2008.
* Competitively selected paper
- Warner, B. R. Counterplans as substantive policy alternatives: A call for more appropriate standards to assess counterplans which compete solely on the basis of language or process. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, 2004.

Teaching

Graduate Seminars

Survey of Political Communication, University of Missouri
Rhetorical Criticism, University of Missouri

Undergraduate Courses

Theory and Research in Persuasion, University of Missouri
Survey of Political Communication, University of Missouri
Argumentation and Advocacy, University of Missouri
Introduction to Political Communication, University of Kansas
The Rhetorical Tradition, University of Kansas
Persuasive Speaking, University of Kansas

Argumentation and Debate, University of Kansas

Undergraduate Discussion Sections

Introduction to Behavioral Research Methods, University of Kansas

Rhetoric and Social Influence, University of Kansas

Introduction to Leadership, University of Kansas

Speaker-Audience Communication, University of Kansas

Dissertations Chaired

2016 – Philip Tschirhart (completion date anticipated)

2016 – Molly Greenwood (completion date anticipated)

2013 – J. Scott Smith (co-chair with M. S. McKinney)

Dissertation Committees

2012 – Lars Kristiansen

2014 – Hayley Cole (completion date anticipated)

Masters Committees

2012 – Stefan Bellm

2013 – Joshua Hawthorn

2013 – Michael Davis

Invited Lectures

Invited presentation for Special Topics in Social Media class: *Political Participation on Social Media, Risks and Opportunities*, May 28, 2013 – University of Pittsburgh

Presentation to iCOM – Students in Communication: *Getting a Job with your Communication Degree*, May 1, 2013 – University of Missouri.

Research colloquium presentation, University of Missouri colloquium series: *Exploring Social Media and Politics*, March 15, 2013.

COMM 4530: Health Communication: *Health Communication in the Modern Political Landscape*, October 18, 2012 – University of Missouri

COMM 8110: Introduction to Graduate Studies: *An introduction to faculty research program and advice for graduate studies*, October 15, 2012 – University of Missouri

Law and Society Learning Community: *Stephen Colbert and the Americans for a Better Tomorrow, Tomorrow*, October 4, 2012 – University of Missouri

TAPP Presidential Debate Watch Party: *Expert panelist, reactions to the first presidential Debate*, October 3, 2012 – University of Missouri

JOURN 1000: The News Media: *Political communication in the media*, February 29, 2012 – University of Missouri

- COMM 8110: Introduction to Graduate Studies: *An introduction to faculty research program and advice for graduate studies*, November 10, 2011 – University of Missouri
- COMS 332: The Rhetorical Tradition: *Foucault: Epistemological and rhetorical lessons from his early writing*, April 30, 2011 – University of Kansas
- Students in Communication Studies Panel on the Major: *Overview of the Political Communication emphasis*, October 6, 2010 – University of Kansas
- COMS 332: The Rhetorical Tradition: *Foucault: Epistemological and rhetorical lessons from his early writing*, April 26, 2010 – University of Kansas
- Lambda Pi Eta Interdisciplinary Panel on Graduate Studies: *The benefits of going to graduate school in Communication Studies*, March 4, 2010 – University of Kansas
- COMS 332: The Rhetorical Tradition: *Foucault: Epistemological and rhetorical lessons from his early writing*, December 3, 2009 – University of Kansas
- University of Kansas Alumni Association Class of '59 Reunion – Public debate Participant, September 25, 2009 – University of Kansas
- COMS 607: Political Communication: *Theories and strategies for the Internet in political campaigns*, March 5, 2009 – University of Kansas
- Research colloquium presentation, University of Kansas colloquium series: *Findings from the 2008 presidential and vice-presidential debates*, February 4, 2009.
- COMS 332: The Rhetoric Tradition: *Foucault and the feminists, postmodern approaches to rhetoric*, November 26 & 28, 2008.
- COMS 235: Rhetoric and Social Influence: *Genre criticism continued, eulogies*, November 20, 2008.
- COMS 460: Seminar in Political Debates: *Lessons from the Ford-Carter Debates*. October, 13, 2008.
- The Kansas City's Foundation for Excellence's Great Debaters Forum: *The fundamentals of Lincoln-Douglas debate*, September 13, 2008.
- Dole Institute of Politics' Government and History High School Teacher Conference: *Debate Watch and civic engagement*, July 31, 2008.
- Missouri State University Debate Reunion – Cross-generational public debate participant. August 25, 2007
- Dole Institute of Politics public debate participant – Graduate Student Debate: *Should the state fund stem cell research?*, March 7, 2007.

Service

Disciplinary Service

- 2012 Chair, Central States Communication Association
Political Communication Interest Group
- 2012 External reviewer, Bates College honors thesis
- 2011 Committee member/reviewer, National Communication Association
Political Communication Division Outstanding Book Award
- 2011 Program Planner, Central States Communication Association
Political Communication Interest Group
- 2010 Vice-Chair Elect, Central States Communication Association
Political Communication Interest Group
- 2012-present The Journal of Communication, Invited Reviewer
- 2012-present The Southern Journal of Communication, Invited Reviewer
- 2012-present The American Journal of Political Science, Invited Reviewer
- 2011-present The Journal of Political Behavior, Invited Reviewer
- 2008-present Paper Reviewer, Political Communication Interest Group
Central States Communication Association
- 2010-present Paper Reviewer, Political Communication Division
National Communication Association

Departmental Service

- 2013 -2014 Policy Committee member, University of Missouri
- 2013 -2014 Undergraduate Advisory Committee member, University of Missouri
- 2013 -2014 Online Learning Committee member, University of Missouri
- 2012-2013 Online Learning Committee member, University of Missouri
- 2012-2013 Awards Committee member, University of Missouri
- 2012-2013 Policy Committee member, University of Missouri

- 2011-2012 Policy Committee member, University of Missouri
- 2009 Executive Board member, Graduate Student Organization
Department of Communication Studies, University of Kansas
- 2007 Elected Officer, Graduate Student Organization
Department of Communication Studies, University of Kansas
- 2007 Executive Board member, Graduate Student Organization
Department of Communication Studies, University of Kansas

Academic Memberships

- 2004-present National Communication Association
- 2011-present International Communication Association
- 2009-present Central States Communication Association
- 2010-present Kenneth Burke Society
- 2000-2011 Cross-Examination Debate Association

Professional Service

- Dole Institute of Politics 2008 Post Election Conference – Proceedings Editor.
- UVote 2008 – Deputy Director, Lawrence site.
- Dole Institute of Politics, POTUS 44, “The Undecideds” – Assistant Facilitator.
- Dole Institute of Politics *DebateWatch* moderator, September 26, 2008.

Honors and Awards

- Top Four Paper Award, NCA 2012.
Communicating to the fringe: The character of political extremism in America.
- Linda Lee Kaid Top Dissertation Award (nominee), NCA 2012
The Character of Extremism in American Politics: The Role of the Internet in Fostering Social Balkanization.
- J. Jeffery Auer Award, 2011.
Presented to the top student paper in political communication at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association. Awarded for “Toward a Theory of Comic Agonism.”

Kim Giffin Research Award, 2010.

Awarded annually by the Department of Communication at the University of Kansas to recognize excellence in graduate student research. It is awarded in recognition of a graduate student who has excelled in conducting independent research and evaluates nominees on the basis of an overall program of research.

J. Jeffrey Auer Award, 2010.

Presented to the top student paper in political communication at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association. Awarded for "Creating civic engagement in campaigns: On the primacy of message in candidate blogs."

Donn W. Parson Award for Excellence in Coaching, Spring 2009.

Awarded in recognition for contributions to the University of Kansas debate team.

Outstanding Graduate Student Research award, Missouri State University, 2006: *The role of fantasy theme chaining in Howard Dean's 2004 Democratic presidential primary campaign.*

Revised: September 2013