University of Massachusetts Amherst

From the SelectedWorks of Benjamin Bailey

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For information on the Social Interaction and Culture graduate focus, Dept of Communication, click on "Download" button

Benjamin Bailey

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/benjamin_bailey/75/
Area of Focus: Social Interaction and Culture

The UMass Department of Communication has an active group of faculty and students working in ethnographic and cultural approaches to social interaction. In addition to offering focused coursework and individual mentoring, we meet twice each month as a group for Discourse Laboratory meetings to share data and work on analyses together. Topical foci of our research include intercultural communication, environmental communication, personhood, ethnic and racial identity, power in discourse, management of disagreement, interaction in the media, and mediated interaction. Faculty in this area of our graduate program vary in background and specific research interests, but we are united in addressing questions of social interaction, culture, and meaning:

- What are the communication practices people use to construct their social lives?
- How is meaning jointly constructed in interaction?
- How are meaning-making processes culturally and contextually embedded and variable?
- What are the roles of power in interaction?
- How do theoretical constructs and perspectives such as culture, identity, performance, morality, and politics help us to understand these processes and relationships?

We emphasize qualitative methods, particularly ethnography and discourse analysis, in our approach to these problems. The overall strengths of the Communication department in qualitative methods, social theory, and issues of representation complement these approaches to culture and social interaction.

Faculty with Expertise in Social Interaction and Culture

Benjamin Bailey (PhD, Linguistic Anthropology, UCLA 1999) - Ethnic and racial identity, social interaction
Donal Carbaugh (PhD, Communication, Washington, 1984) - Ethnography of communication, cultural discourse, pragmatics
Gonen Dori-Hacohen (PhD, Communication, University of Haifa, 2009) — Media and interaction, media talk and the public sphere
Alena Vasilyeva (PhD, Communication, Rutgers University, 2010; Kandidat Nauk, Philology, Minsk State Linguistic University, 2003) – Argumentation, conflict management, social interaction in institutional and other contexts

Additional faculty with allied interests in communication, culture, and social interaction are in Anthropology, Education, Political Science, Sociology, and elsewhere. Students take courses outside the department as needed.

Courses

Courses with the following titles have been offered in recent years, some regularly, most on a revolving basis:

- Argument, Conflict, and Mediation
- Cultural Discourse Analysis
- Discourse Analysis
- Environmental Communication
- Field Research Methods in Social and Mediated Interaction
- Gender and Communication
- Intercultural Communication
- Language in Civic Participation
- Language, Power, and Social Identity
- Nonverbal Communication
- Qualitative Research Methods in Communication
- Social Uses of Language
- The Ethnography of Communication
- Theories of Social Interaction
Recent Graduate Student Publications:


Carbaugh, Donal, Ute Winter, Brion van Over, Elizabeth Molina-Markham, Sunny Lie. 2013. Cultural Analyses of In-car Communication. *Journal of Applied Communication Research* Vol. 41, Iss. 2


Carbaugh, Donal and Lisa Rudnick. "Which Place, What Story?: Cultural Discourses at the Border of the Blackfeet Reservation and Glacier National Park" *GREAT PLAINS QUARTERLY* 26:3 (Summer 2006)


*Molina-Markham, Elizabeth. Lives that preach: The cultural dimensions of telling one’s “spiritual journey” among Quakers. *Narrative Inquiry*, Volume 22, Number 1, 2012, pp. 3-23(21)


Sul, Eunsook and Benjamin Bailey. 2013. Negotiating Zen Buddhist and Western language ideologies and identities in a text-based, English-language online forum. Journal of Multicultural Discourses Vol. 8, Iss. 3


*Publication date is after completion of the PhD but the work is based on dissertation or other research completed while at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

**Graduate Student Achievements**

Nimrod Shavit (ABD) co-authored a Top Four paper in Language and Social Interaction at the 2013 NCA meeting and the Top Paper in Language and Social Interaction at the 2013 ICA meeting. The Top Paper award in the Language and Social Interaction Division of NCA for 2012 was by Elizabeth Molina-Markham (2011 PhD), and her dissertation won the Religious Communication Association Dissertation of the Year Award in 2012. Brion van Over (2012 PhD) and Sunny Lie (2013 PhD) received Top Paper Awards from the Language and Social Interaction Division of ICA for 2012.

Three further dissertations (by Trudy Milburn, Eric Morgan, and Rick Wilkins) written in our program have received Distinguished Dissertation Awards from the National Communication Association and the International Communication Association.

Support for graduate student work has been supplied not only by our department, but also by:

- The American Jewish Archives
- IREX Individual Advanced Research Opportunity Grant
- The Finnish Ministry of Education
- The Fulbright Foundation
- The National Endowment for the Humanities
Work based upon our graduate student studies has been published in many books and in journals including:

- Communication Theory
- Communication Yearbook
- Discourse and Society
- Environmental Communication
- Great Plains Quarterly
- International and Intercultural Communication Annual
- International Journal of Business Communication
- International Journal of Electronic Governance
- International Journal of Intercultural Relations
- IPrA Pragmatics
- Journal of Communication
- Journal of International and Intercultural Communication
- Journal of Language and Social Psychology
- Journal of Linguistic Anthropology
- Journal of Multicultural Discourses
- Narrative Inquiry
- Research on Language and Social Interaction
- SKY Journal of Linguistics
- Symbolic Interaction

Graduate Student Placement

Our graduates have been placed in academic settings including the following:

- Baruch College of the City University of New York
- California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
- California State University Channel Islands
- Fitchburg State University
- Manchester Community College
- Mount Saint Vincent College
- New Mexico State University
- Rocky Mountain College
- Rutgers University
- St. Cloud State University
- Suffolk Community College
- University of Central Florida
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Hartford
- University of Helsinky, Finland
- University of Minnesota Morris
- US Air Force University
- Westfield State University

Titles of Recent Graduate Student Dissertations in Communication, Social Interaction, and Culture:

(Available at: http://scholarworks.umass.edu/communication_diss/)

- “OF ALL, I MOST HATE BULGARIANS”: SITUATING OPLAKVANE IN BULGARIAN DISCOURSE AS A CULTURAL TERM FOR COMMUNICATIVE PRACTICE
- Beholders of the truth, pre-destined to be saved: the communication of Chinese Indonesian reformed evangelical Christian (cirec) identity
- Muslim Tatar women’s piety stories: A quest for personal and social transformation in Tatarstan (Russia)
- Listening faithfully with Friends: An ethnography of Quaker communication practices
• Beyond words: Exploring the cultural limits of the communicable
• Silencing non-traditional identities through communication: Situated enactments of sexuality in Japan
• “Hate speech” in Hungarian Public Discourse
• Finnish cultural discourses about mobile phone communication
• Mass media appropriations: Communication, culture, and everyday social life
• Strategies of the self: negotiating cultural identities in anglophone and allophone Montreal
• Deliberation and democracy: ethnography of rhetoric in a New England town meeting
• Recovering trauma: an ethnographic study of women's storytelling within contemporary support group environments
• Communicating environment: cultural discourses of place in the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts
• Women's ways of speaking about menopause and hormone replacement therapy: an American discourse on personhood
• Communicative practices of Yiddish-speaking Jewish elders on South Miami Beach
• Recovery culture: the promotion of depression and consumption of mental health technologies in contemporary social practices
• The Black, Jewish, Other video dialogue: a case study of the social construction of transformative discourse
• Exploring the meaning of work: a CMM analysis of the grammar of working among Acadian-Americans
• A social constructionist perspective on the Chinese lian/mian (face) practices
• Popular belief in gender-based communication differences and relationship success