

Curriculum Vitae

William O. Saas

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

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| Ph. D. Communication Arts & Sciences, Penn State University
Dissertation: <i>A Rhetoric of Finance</i> | Aug., 2014 |
| M.A. Communication Studies, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Thesis: <i>A Rhetorical History of the Office of Legal Counsel</i> | May, 2010 |
| B.A. Communication Studies, University of Nevada, Las Vegas | Aug., 2006 |

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Communication. Department of Communication Studies,
Louisiana State University. August 2014—present.

Research Scholar. Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity. October 2017—present.

RESEARCH

Academic Publications

2021. “When We Come Together, We Build Theory: Working the Second Shift in the Undercommon Enclave.” Coauthored with Bryan J. McCann, Ashley N. Mack, and Serap Erincin. *Journal of Autoethnography* 2, no. 1, 113-118.

2020. “Performative Public Finance for Higher Education: Academic Labor and the Green New Deal.” Co-authored with Scott Ferguson. *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies* 16, no. 4 (December), <http://liminalities.net/16-4/finance.pdf>. (Lead article).

2019. "Building Capacity with *Money on the Left*." *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies* 15, no. 3, <http://liminalities.net/15-3/>.

2018. "The Econo-Rhetorical Presidency and the U.S. Fiscal Situation." *Advances in the History of Rhetoric* 21, no. 2 (Summer), 131-146.

2016. "Restive Peace: Body Bags, Casket Flags, and the Pathologization of Dissent." Co-authored with Rachel Hall. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 19, no. 2 (Summer), 177-208. (Lead article).

2014. "After Honor: On Drones and the Distinguished Warfare Medal Controversy." In *Disturbing Argument: Selected Works from the 18th NCA/AFA Alta Conference on Argumentation*, edited by Catherine H. Palczewski, 342-348. New York: Taylor & Francis, 2014.

2013. "On Acquiescence and Ends-less War: An Inquiry into the New War Rhetoric." Co-authored with Jeremy Engels. *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 99, no. 2: 225-232.

2013. "Critique of Charismatic Violence." *symplokê* 20, no. 1-2: 65-82.

2010. "Occultatio: The Bush Administration's Rhetorical War." Co-authored with Donovan Conley. *Western Journal of Communication* 74, no. 4 (Fall): 329-350. (Lead article).

Public Policy & Editorial Publications

2020, November 1. "What if Everyone on Campus Understood Money?: A Response to *Chronicle of Higher Ed* Columnist Allison Vaillancourt." *MROnline.org*, <https://mronline.org/2020/11/01/what-if-everyone-on-campus-understood-money-a-response-to-chronicle-of-higher-ed-columnist-allison-vaillancourt/>.

2020, October 30. "Public Money and the Road to Revolutionary Recovery." *Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung: Solidarity Beyond the Crisis Blog*, <https://rosaluxnycblog.org/public-money-revolutionary-recovery/>.

2020, August. "The Uni Currency Project: Democratic Finance for Public Higher Education after COVID-19." Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity, Working Paper no. 128. Coauthored with Benjamin Wilson, Scott Ferguson, and Maxximilian Seijo, <http://www.global-isp.org/wp-content/uploads/WP-128.pdf>.

2020, May 15. "#Unis4All: An Open Letter to the U.S. Higher Education Community." Coauthored with Maxximilian Seijo, Benjamin Wilson, and Scott Ferguson. *MROnline.org*, <https://mronline.org/2020/05/15/unis4all-an-open-letter-to-the-u-s-higher-education-community/>. Reposted at the New School's *Public Seminar*, May 22, 2020,

<https://publicseminar.org/2020/05/unis4all-an-open-letter-to-the-u-s-higher-education-community/>.

2016. “Prospects for the Spanish Left.” Co-authored with Jorge Amar, David Glotzer, and Scott Ferguson. *Dollars & Sense* (November/December). Serialized in three installments on the *Triple Crisis: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development, and Environment* blog.

Creative Work

2018, May—present. Cocreator, cohost, editor, producer of *Money on the Left*.

- Official podcast of the Modern Money Network: Humanities Division, available via iTunes, Spotify, and at www.moneyontheleft.org
- Presented in partnership with [Monthly Review Online](#). Includes interviews, commentary, and close-readings that synthesize humanistic and heterodox economic theories.
- Recent press: Alex Yablon, “This Year’s Underground Sensation: Modern Monetary Theory,” *The New Republic*, December 30, 2020, <https://newrepublic.com/article/160738/modern-monetary-theory-left-debate>.

Recent episodes:

2020, December. “New Laws of Robotics w/ Frank Pasquale.” [Link](#).

2020, November. “Public Money, Public Media w/ Victor Pickard.” [Link](#).

2020, October. “Money After Redlining w/ Rebecca Marchiel.” [Link](#).

2020, September. “Resisting Predatory Finance w/ Raúl Carrillo (transcript).” [Link](#).

2020, July. “Money, Music, and Method w/ Alex Williams.” [Link](#).

2020, June. “Place, Participation, and #Unis4All with Benjamin Wilson.” [Link](#).

2020, May. “Coordination Beyond the Corporation with Sanjukta Paul.” [Link](#).

2020, April. “#MintTheCoin & COVID Relief with the Modern Money Network.” [Link](#).

2020, March. “Building Capacity with Money on the Left.” [Link](#).

2020, February. “From Liberation Theology to Public Money Creation with Delman Coates.” [Link](#).

2020, January. “Covering the Paradigm Crisis w/ Alexandra Scaggs.” [Link](#).

2019, December. “Neoclassical Marxism.” [Link](#).

2019, November. “MMT & the Art of Social Practice w/ Vienne Chen (Live).” [Link](#).

2019, October. “No Depression in Heaven w/ Alison Collis Greene.” [Link](#).

2019, September. “Money Politics before the New Deal w/ Jakob Feinig.” [Link](#).

2019, August. “The Modern Money Movement w/ Andrés Bernal.” [Link](#).

2019, June. “Inflation & the Politics of Pricing w/ Nathan Tankus.” [Link](#).

2019, May. “Colored Property & State Debt w/ David Freund.” [Link](#).

Academic Organizing

2020, April 24-26, Co-organizer. “Money on the Left: The Green New Deal Across the Arts & Humanities.” Second international conference of MMN: HD, to be held at Louisiana State University. Canceled due to COVID-19. Web: <https://moneyontheleft.org>

2018. Co-organizer. “Money on the Left: Word, Image, Praxis.” Inaugural international conference of MMN: HD, held at University of South Florida, April 6-7. Video of proceedings: [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#).

2017. Co-organizer. “Economics, Communication, and Society” preconference. First meeting of the ECS division of NCA, held at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association. Web program: <https://ecsprecon.wordpress.com/>

2013. Co-organizer, “Mapping the Shifting Grounds of Post-9/11 War Rhetoric.” Preconference at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association.

2013. Co-organizer, Camp Rhetoric. Annual conference of the Arnold-Ebbitt Interdisciplinary Rhetoricians at Penn State (Rhetoric Society of America Graduate Student Chapter).

2012. Co-organizer, Camp Rhetoric.

2011. Co-organizer, Camp Rhetoric.

Works in Progress

The Modern Money Movement and the Politics of Provision. Manuscript in process and under contract with Michigan State University Press.

Finding the Money. Video documentary in production with director Maren Poitras. Tracks the rise of Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) as a rhetorical project, and basis of a new

progressive social movement. Interviews filmed at the First International Modern Money Theory Conference at the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

#Unis4All: Democratic Finance for a Green Academy. Book proposal in development with Benjamin Wilson (Associate Professor of Economics, State University of New York-Cortland), Scott Ferguson (Associate Professor of Humanities and Cultural Studies, University of South Florida), and Maxximilian Seijo (Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Literature, University of California- Santa Barbara).

Book Reviews

2020. Review of *Communication and the Economy: History, Value and Agency*, edited by Joshua S. Hanan and Mark Hayward. *Quarterly Journal of Speech* (in press).

2011. Review of *Founding Fictions*, by Jennifer R. Mercieca. *Journal of Communication* 61: E11-E13.

Conference Presentations

2020. “Rhetoric, Economic Heterodoxy, and the Possibilities of Critical Engagement.” Panel discussion for the Economics, Communication, and Society division of NCA. Annual meeting of NCA, November 21 via Zoom.

2019. “Rhetorical Aspects of ‘Full Employment.’” Paper presented on competitively selected panel, “Rhetoric and Economics: Now and Then,” to take place at the July 2019 meeting of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric in New Orleans, LA.

2018. “Making Rhetorical History: Activist Scholarship and the Historical Study of Rhetorical Events.” Position paper presentation at the NCA preconference “Doing Rhetorical History: Playing with Past, Present, and Future,” November 7, at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

2018. “Declaring Dependence and/as Radical Pedagogy.” Panel presentation at the Second International Conference of Modern Monetary Theory, September 28-30, at the New School for Social Research in New York City.

2017. “‘Taxpayer Money’ and the U.S. Fiscal Imaginary.” Paper accepted for presentation on “Rhetorics of Money in U.S. Public Policy” panel at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association. November 16-19. Public Address division.

2017. “Crowd, Party, Demand.” Panel discussion of Jodi Dean’s book, *Crowds and Party*, accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association. November 16-19.

2017. "MMT and Rhetorical Studies." Paper accepted for presentation on "Modern Money & the Humanities" at the First International Conference of Modern Monetary Theory. September 21-24. Panel sponsored by the Institute for Sustainable Prosperity.

2017. "Money Matters." Paper competitively selected for presentation at the annual meeting of the Southern States Communication Association. April 5-9. American Society for the History of Rhetoric Interest Group. (Top Paper).

2016. "How to Make a Mint in Rhetorical Studies." Paper presented on "New Approaches to the Rhetoric of Economics" panel at Biennial Meeting of the Rhetoric Society of America.

2015. "Recovering Responsible Fiscal Argument." Paper presented at Biennial Alta Conference on Argumentation.

2014. "Dark Finance: On the Occultic Aesthetics of Money/Speech." Panel presentation at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association. Communication and Critical-Cultural Studies division.

2013. "Drones and/as the Apotheosis of Modal Warfare." Panel presentation at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association. Communication and Critical-Cultural Studies division.

2013. "What is '9/11'?" Panel presentation at "Mapping the Shifting Grounds of Post-9/11 War Rhetoric." Preconference of the annual meeting of the National Communication Association.

2013. "After Honor: On Drones and the 'Distinguished Warfare Medal' Controversy." Paper presented at the biannual Alta Conference on Argumentation.

2012. "Trauma, Rhetoric, and Community: What Can Communication Scholars Learn from the Penn State Child Abuse Scandal?" Chair and presenter at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association. Communication Ethics division.

2012. "Critique of Charismatic Violence." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association. Communication & Critical Cultural Studies division.

2012. "Critique of Unitary Executive Discourse." Paper Presented at the biannual meeting of the Rhetoric Society of America.

2011. "Tocqueville's Fables: Reading *Democracy in America* as Rhetorical Narrative." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association. American Studies Division.

2010. "The Office of Legal Counsel: A Rhetorical History." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association. Public Address Division.

2010. "Bridging the Practical Gap: Imitation Pedagogy, Civic Engagement, and the Basic Public Speaking Course." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association. Basic Course Division. (Top Student Paper).

2009. "Performing Novelty: Belletristic Rhetoric and the 'Manic Pixie Dream Girl' in Modern Cinema." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association. Master's Education Division. (Top Student Paper).

2009. "Stable Concepts, Changing Needs: Textbook Customization and the Basic Public Speaking Course." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association. Basic Course Division. (Top Student Paper).

2009. "Trauma and the Public: A Rhetorical Perspective." On panel competitively selected for the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association.

2009. "Populist Medicine: Quackery and Carnival in the Rhetoric of John R. Brinkley." On panel competitively selected for the annual meeting of the Eastern States Communication Association. Rhetorical Theory Division.

2009. "Public Hauntings: *Occultatio* and the Post-9/11 Rhetoric of Torture." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Western States Communication Association.

Awards and Fellowships

2016. Manship Summer Research Fellowship, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, LSU. \$5,000.

2015. Summer Stipend. Office of Research and Economic Development, Council on Research, LSU. \$5,000.

2014. Kenneth Burke Prize for Best Graduate Student Essay in Rhetoric at Penn State University. Center for Democratic Deliberation, Penn State University.

2014. Semester Residency. Institute for the Arts and Humanities, Penn State University. Spring semester teaching release. \$4,000.

2014. Humanities Initiative Dissertation Grant. College of Liberal Arts, Penn State University. Spring semester teaching release. \$4,000.

2013-2014. Dissertation Fellow. Center for Democratic Deliberation, Penn State University. Fall 2013-Spring 2014. \$1,000 for research support.

2010-2014. Bunton-Waller Graduate Student Fellowship. Penn State University.

Grants

2019. Louisiana Board of Regents, Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS Grant). Amount requested: \$44,823. *Not funded.*

2018. Louisiana Board of Regents, Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS Grant). Highly recommended for funding (Priority I). Amount requested: \$44,823. *Not funded due to budget shortfall.*

2017. ATLAS Grant. Meritorious Proposal (Ranked Priority II). Amount requested: \$44,823. *Not funded.*

2016. ATLAS Grant. Meritorious Proposal (Ranked Priority II). Amount requested: \$44,823. *Not funded.*

Assistantships

Research Assistantship with Jeremy Engels. Penn State University Department of Communication Arts & Sciences. Summer 2011, Summer 2012, Summer 2013, Summer 2014.

Recently Funded Research

2018. Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity. Travel and conference registration for the Second International MMT Conference at the New School in New York. \$440.

2017. LSU Faculty Travel Grant. Office of Research and Economic Development. \$750.

2016. LSU Faculty Travel Grant. Office of Research and Economic Development. \$750.

2015. LSU Faculty Travel Grant. Office of Research and Economic Development. \$750.

INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching

Louisiana State University (9 Sections)

- (2) Neoliberalism / CMST 7966
- (3) Communication, Culture, and the Economy / CMST 4107
- (3) Contemporary Rhetorical Theory / CMST 7967
- (1) Research Writing in Communication Studies / CMST 7903

Graduate Advising – Doctoral Committee Chair

Taylor Moran, Louisiana State University (Ph.D., completed Spring 2021)

Graduate Advising - Committee Member

Margaret Parsons, Louisiana State University (Ph.D., completed Spring 2021)

Kayla Hastrup, Louisiana State University (Ph.D., Spring 2017 – present)

Wade Walker, Louisiana State University (Ph.D., Fall 2014 - present)

Raquel Robvais, Louisiana State University (Ph.D., completed 2019)

Johanna Broussard, Louisiana State University (Ph.D., completed 2015)

Chas Wolmesdorf, Louisiana State University, (Ph.D., completed 2015)

Graduate Advising – Advisory and Review Committee (ARC) Advisor

Kholofelo Theledi, Louisiana State University (Ph. D., Fall 2018 – Fall 2019)

Undergraduate Teaching

Louisiana State University (18 Sections)

Course Evaluations (CE) for “Overall instructor effectiveness” on a scale of 1–5.0

(2) Rhetoric of Social Movements / CMST 3169. **Avg. CE: 4.7**

(2) Communication, Culture, and the Economy / CMST 4107. **Avg. CE: 4.65**

(2) Rhetorics of War & Peace / CMST 3900. **Avg. CE: 4.88**

(13) Public Speaking / CMST 2060. **Avg. CE: 4.74**

Pennsylvania State University (11 Sections)

Student Rating of Teacher Effectiveness (SRTE) for “Overall Quality of Instructor” on a scale of 1–7.0

(1) Rhetorics of War & Peace / CAS 373. **Avg. SRTE: 6.13**

(1) Rhetoric & Civic Life II / CAS 138T. Honors. **Avg. SRTE: 6.5**

(1) Rhetoric & Civic Life I / CAS 137H. Honors. **Avg. SRTE: 5.88**

(5) Effective Speech / CAS 100A. **Avg. SRTE: 6.31**

(2) Effective Speech, Message Analysis / CAS 100C. **Avg. SRTE: 6.38**

(1) Effective Speech, Message Analysis / CAS 100C Online. **Avg. SRTE: 6.75**

Invited Lectures

2021, April. “Visions of (and from) the Future: Utopia and Revolution in Green New Deal Rhetoric.” Rhetoric of Revolution, University of Colorado-Denver, led by Rodney Herring.

2019. “The History and Future of Green New Deal Rhetoric.” Climate Action Teaching Summit at LSU.

2018. “The Econo-Rhetorical Presidency and the U.S. Fiscal Situation.” CMST 7900: Introduction to Graduate Study, led by Tracy Stephenson Shaffer.

2016. “Ideology.” CMST 7900: Introduction to Graduate Study, led by Graham Bodie.

2015. “Speaking into the Air.” CMST 7900: Introduction to Graduate Study, led by Graham Bodie.

Undergraduate Advising

2008, August—2010, May. Undergraduate Advisor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Greenspun College of Urban Affairs.

SERVICE

Department

2020, Fall. Diversity Advocate, Interpersonal Communication Hiring Committee.

2018—present. Chair, Equity and Justice Committee.

2019, August. Co-organizer, Power & Privilege Training: “Calling In.”

2018—2019. Chair, Giles Wilkeson Gray Lecture Series. Lecture by Professor Raka Shome.

2018—2019. Chair, Ad hoc Committee on the Development of a Departmental Online Teaching Philosophy.

2018—2019. Incoming Chair, Department of Communication Studies Equity and Justice Committee.

2017—present. Graduate Admissions Committee Member, Department of CMST. LSU.

2015—present. Advisory Committee Member, Department of CMST. LSU.

2015—present. CMST 2060 Advisory Committee Member. LSU.

2015—2016. CMST Liaison, LSU Kickoff.

2016, Fall. Search Committee Member, Edwin K. Hunter Chair in the Traditions of Rhetoric and Argument in Communication Studies.

2014, Fall. Search Committee Member, Interpersonal Communication position. Department of Communication Studies. LSU.

University

2017, Spring—present. Faculty Advisor. YDSA at LSU.

2016, Spring—Fall 2017. Faculty Mentor. LSU Graduate School Mentoring Program.

2015—2018. Faculty Senate Representative for CMST, College of Humanities & Social Sciences. LSU.

2018, Fall. Dean's Representative. Rebecca Burdette, Ph. D., Agriculture Education Extension.

2015—2016. Dean's Representative. Greg Gallagher, Ph. D., Music.

2015, Spring. Dean's Representative. Rebecca Horn, Ph. D., Psychology.

2012—2013. President, Arnold Ebbitt Interdisciplinary Rhetoricians (AEIR). Penn State University.

2010—2012. Secretary, AEIR. Penn State University.

2009—2010. Activities Chairperson, UNLV Graduate and Professional Student Association.

2009—2010. Graduate Student Representative for UNLV Department of Communication Studies, Graduate and Professional Student Association. June 2009—June 2010.

Field

2016—2017. Nominating Committee Member, Division of Rhetoric and Communication Theory, National Communication Association.

2016, Fall. Planning Committee Member, Economics, Communication, and Society Division. Fall 2015. Proposal for new division approved by National Communication Association.

2008—2009. Secretary, Division of Communication and Critical Cultural Studies,
National Communication Association.

Invited reviewer for *Western Journal of Communication*.

Invited reviewer for *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*.

Invited reviewer for *Text & Performance Quarterly*.

Invited reviewer for Lexington Books.