**James (Jay) L. Leighter, Ph.D.**

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Omaha, NE 68178

Creighton University

Associate Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Fall 2006-Present.

Director, Sustainability Studies, Spring 2015-Present.

Secondary Appointment, Environmental Science, Spring 2011- Present.

#### EDUCATION

**Ph.D. (2007) University of Washington, Department of Communication**, Seattle, WA

### Dissertation Title: Codes of Commonality and Cooperation: Notions of Citizen Personae

### and Citizen Speech Codes in American Public Meetings

Major Emphases: Ethnography of Communication, Deliberative Democracy, Group Communication

Advisor: Gerry Philipsen

**M.A., (2003) University of Nebraska at Omaha**, Department of Communication, Omaha, NE

Thesis: Designing Sustainable Communities and Creating a Sense of Community: A

Fantasy Theme Analysis of One Organization’s (Rhetorical) Vision of the Future

Committee: Hollis Glaser (Chair), Deborah Smith-Howell, Nora Bacon (Department of

English)

**B.S., (1995) Northwest Missouri State University**, Department of Speech Communication, Maryville, MO

#### SCHOLARSHIP

**Journal Articles**

Leighter, J., Rudnick, L., & Edmonds, T. (2013). How the ethnography of communication provides

resources for design. *Journal of Applied Communcation Research*, 42(2), 209-215.

Leighter, J. L., & Black, L. W. (2010). “I’m just raising the question”: Terms for talk and practical metadiscursive argument in public meetings*. Western Journal of Communication*, 74, 547- 568.

Leighter, J. L., Black, L. W., Cockett, L. S., & Jarmon, L. (2009). The practice of public meetings:

Introduction to the special issue*. International Journal of Public Participation*, 3(2), 1-13.

Leighter, J. L., & Castor, T. (2009). What are we going to “talk about” in this public “meeting”?:

An examination of talk about communication in the North Omaha Development Project. *International Journal of Public Participation*, 3(2), 57-75.

Black, L. W., Leighter, J. L., & Gastil, J. (2009).  Communicating trust, community, and process in

public meetings: A reflection on how close attention to communication can contribute to the future of public participation. *International Journal of Public Participation*, 3(2), 143- 159.

Gastil, J., Black, L., Deess, P., & Leighter, J. (2008). From group member to democratic

citizen: How deliberating with fellow jurors reshapes civic attitudes. *Human Communication*

*Research*, 34 (1),137-169.

**Guest Editor**

Leighter, J., & Black, L. (Eds.) (2009). The practice of public meetings. Special Issue of the *International Journal of Public Participation*.

**Book Chapters**

Leighter, J. &. Milburn, T. (in press). Local strategies research: Application to design. In T. Milburn

(Ed.), *Communicating user experience: Applying local strategies research to digital media.* Lexington Book.

Milburn, T. & Leighter, J. (in press). Epilogue: Implications for improving UX practice. In T. Milburn

(Ed.), *Communicating user experience: Applying local strategies research to digital media.* Lexington Book.

Leighter, J. (in press). What is an “average citizen”?: Citizen speech codes and political people making. In*The Meaning of Citizenship*, Wayne State University Press, Detroit, MI.

Leighter, J. (2010). Participatory partnerships in rural Nebraska: Finding mutual benefit for communities and scholarship. In L. Harter, J. Hamel-Lambert & J. Millesen (Eds.), *Participatory Partnerships for Social Action and Research* (pp. 415-425). Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.

Kirby, E. L., Bonewits Feldner, S., Leighter, J., McBride, M. C., Tye-Williams, S., Ortega Murphy, B., & Turner, L. H. (2009). “Exploring the basement of social justice issues”—A graduate upon graduation. In M. Dutta & L. Harter (Eds.) *Engaging* *communication theory research and pedagogy to communicate for social impact* (pp. 63-77)*.* Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press.

Philipsen, G., & Leighter, J. (2007). Sam Steinberg’s use of “Tell” in After Mr. Sam. In F. Cooren

(Ed.), *Interacting and organizing: Analyses of a management meeting* (pp. 205-223).

Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.

**Manuscripts Under Review and in Progress**

Leighter, J. Fire, water and hooves: Understanding environment through local logic. Submitted as

a special feature on “local strategies research” to the Journal of Applied Communication

Research.

Huang, T., Brittin, J., Leighter, J. & Hemsath. Obesity in Place on the Winnebago Reservation: Ethnography of communication methods in public health interventions. Being prepared for *Preventing Chronic Disease.*

Leighter, J., Huang, T., Brittin, J., & Hemsath. Eating in “our laundry”: Cultural interpretations of

Ho-Chunk places and ways. Being prepared for *Health Communication*.

Huang, T., Hemsath, T., Brittin, J., & Leighter, J. Historical Places: A Photo Essay One Building on the Little Priest Tribal College Campus. Being prepared for submission to the *Great Plains Quarterly.*

**Popular and Public**

Leighter, J. (January, 2011). What does sustainability look like in Nebraska? *Prairie Fire: The Progressive Voice of the Great Plains*. Lincoln, NE.

Leighter, J., & Torpy, K. (May, 2011). The role of conversation in forging a path toward sustainability in Nebraska. *Prairie Fire: The Progressive Voice of the Great Plains*. Lincoln, NE.

**Research Funding**

Deliberation in Everyday Talk Working Group, Kettering Foundation (Dayton, OH). $25,000 individual award to explore everyday talk about obesity, diet and health in Ho-Chunk Tribe/Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. (November 2012-February 2014)

**Competitively Selected Papers and Panels**

“You Will Think Back on these Words and They Will Help You: Developing (Deliberative)

Communicative Competence on the Winnebago Reservation.” Presented with Research Working Group on Deliberation in Everyday Speech. Group Communication Division. Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, 2014.

“Intellectual Genealogy: Documenting Invisible Colleges in the Age of Digital Communication.”

Competitively selected panel in the NCA Centennial! Celebration Series. Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, 2014.

“The Meaning of ‘Citizen’: Citizen Speech Codes as Rhetorical Resources in Public Meetings.” Presented at the Annual Conference of the Center for Citizenship Studies, Wayne State

University (Detroit, MI), 2013.

“Thinking with Designers: Ethnography of Communication in Sustainable Design.” Presented as

part of a competitively selected panel co-sponsored by the Language and Social Interaction and Applied Communication Divisions entitled “Applied Moves in the Ethnography of Communication Research: Fostering a Conversation between Scholarship and Practice.” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association (NCA) 2011.

“Local Education, Local Issues.” Presented as part of a competitively selected panel in the Language and Social Interaction Division entitled “University of Washington Center for

Local Strategies Research: Building Bridges Between Scholarship and Communities.” Annual Convention of the NCA, 2010.

“Educating Policymakers: Paving the Way for Effective Citizen Deliberation in Nebraska.” Presented as part of a competitively selected panel in the Political Communication

Division entitled “The Efficacy of Public Forums: Linking Deliberation to Public Policy Change.” Annual Convention of the NCA, 2009.

“Using, Testing, and Extending Speech Codes Theory.” Presented as part of a competitively

selected panel in the Language and Social Interaction division. Annual Convention of the

NCA, 2009.

Deliberative Research and Practice: Creating the NCA-Forum Conference Series. Invited

participant. Annual Convention of the NCA, 2009.

“Fabricated Group Cohesion: Stress and Uncertainty as Essential Components in the Small Group

Communication Classroom.” To be presented as part of a competitively selected panel entitled “Teaching Group Communication: Connecting Theory and Practice through Activities and Assignments that Maximize Constructive Group Interaction and Learning.” Annual Convention of the Central States Communication Association, 2009.

Deliberative Democracy and Communication Studies: Building Networks of Research, Pedagogy

and Institutional Support. Annual Convention of the NCA, 2008, Selective Seminar Participant.

Divisions of Enabling or Constraining: Discussing Intersections between Rhetoric, Ethnography

and Performance. Annual Convention of the NCA 2008, Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division.

The “Chamber of Commerce can” “say” “we’ll help you” but “why would I trust the Chamber of

Commerce?”: Framing the Scene of Communicative Action in a North Omaha Public Meeting. Annual convention of the National Communication Association, 2007, Language and Social Interaction Division (competitively selected panel).

What is an “average citizen”?: An Examination of Situated Uses of the Term “average citizen” and

a Formulation of the Average Citizen as a Distinct Type of Citizen Personae. Annual

convention of the Western States Communication Association, 2007, Language and Social Interaction Division (competitively selected paper).

Connecting Language and Social Interaction Inquiry with Group Communication Studies. Annual

convention of the National Communication Association, 2006, Group Division,

(position paper and panel discussion).

“I’m just raising the question”: An Analysis of Situated Uses of “Question(s)” in Public

Meetings. Presented with Laura Black. Annual convention of the National Communication Association, 2005, Language and Social Interaction Division (Top Four Paper, competitively selected paper).

“We’re not just a conglomeration of average citizens”: Local, Situated Uses of the Word

“Citizen” in Some American Public Meetings. Annual convention of the National Communication Association, 2005, Applied Communication Division (competitively selected paper).

Moving Forward/Looking Back in Doctoral Education: Incorporating Findings from the National

Re-Envisioning the Ph.D. Project into Doctoral Education in Communication in the 21st

Century. Annual convention of the National Communication Association, 2004, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (competitively selected panel).

Codes of Civility and Consensus: An Ethnographic Examination of Ways of Speaking in

Debate and Deliberation. Annual convention of the National Communication Association, 2003, Political Communication Division (competitively selected paper).

Carving, Knowing and Listening: Learning the Communicative Ways of Another. Annual

convention of the National Communication Association, 2003, Ethnography Division

(competitively selected paper).

**Invited Presentations**

Local Strategies Research in Community Zero-Waste Planning. WasteCap Nebraska Sustainability Summit, 2014. Omaha, NE.

Creating a Process that Fosters Innovation and Change in Your Organization. WasteCap Nebraska Sustainability Summit, 2013. Omaha, NE.

Greening for whom? The difficult commitments of inclusion, equity, and social justice. Being

prepared for The Greening of the Papacy, an academic symposium hosted by the Kripke

Center and the Center for Catholic Thought, 2012, Creighton University.

Citizen participation and cultural communication. Prepared for the Heartland Social Science

Roundtable as part of the Heartland Regional Water Coordination Initiative. 2009, Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

#### RESEARCH and CONSULTING ACTIVITY

**Creighton University**

Strategic Communication Design for Sustainable Development, Nebraska Environmental Trust in partnership with the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities and the UNL Rural Futures Institute. $300,000 joint award to design, implement and evaluate strategic communication in community decision-making on sustainability problem-opportunities. (April 2013-March 2015).

Deliberation in Everyday Talk Working Group, Kettering Foundation (Dayton, OH). $25,000 individual award to explore everyday talk about obesity, diet and health in Ho-Chunk Tribe/Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. (November 2012-February 2014).

Conference design, local committee organization and Creighton conference facilitation. Conversations Conferences for Nebraska Environment and Sustainability. Primary funding provided by The Nebraska Environmental Trust. Project funded from July 2010-August 2011.

Workshop design, workshop facilitation and workshop outcomes research for The Nebraska

Sustainability Leadership Workshops. Primary funding provided by The Nebraska

Environmental Trust. Project funded from July 2008-July 2010.

Associate Scholar. University of Washington Center for Local Strategies Research. The purpose

of the Center is to support research that informs and assists efforts to develop and implement practices and policies for meeting human needs in local communities. Project

begins Summer 2010.

Co-Consultant (with Dr. Chad McBride, Department of Communication Studies) for the Creighton

University Health Services Research Program (CHRP). Development and re-design of E- Health campaign materials. Summer 2009.

North Omaha Public Discourse and Deliberation Project. Awarded $500 Mini-Grant from Dean of

Creighton’s Graduate School to begin project. Summer 2007.

**University of Washington**

Survey Coordinator and Staff Manager. Jury and Democracy Project. Funded by the National

Science Foundation. Project director: John Gastil. 2004.

Research Assistant. Course development for departmental graduate student professional

development series. Course coordinator: Lisa Coutu. Fall 2003-Fall 2004 (paid position).

Research Assistant. New media course development. Faculty supervisor: Barbara Warnick.

Winter 2002.

Research Assistant. Conducted initial research for rhetoric of science book. Faculty

supervisor: Leah Ceccarelli. Winter 2002.

# TEACHING

Creighton University

EVS 490: Senior Seminar (Spring 2012)

COM 490\*: Communication and Community (Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2013)

COM 463: Communication Consulting (Fall 2012, Fall 2014)

COM 442: Cultural Communication (Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2014/Honors)

COM 441: Deliberation on Sustainability (Spring 2011\*\*)

COM 362\*: Small Group Communication (Spring 2007, Summer 2007, Spring 2008, Spring

2009, Summer 2012)

COM 361: Interpersonal Communication (Fall 2008)

COM 321: Persuasion (Fall 2006)

COM 314: Managerial Communication (Summer 2014)

COM 244/ANT 244\*: Cross-Cultural Communication (Fall 2007\*\*, Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Spring 2010)

COM 200/204\*: Communication Practices (Fall 2010\*\*, Spring 2012, Spring 2013)

COM 155: User Oriented Collaborative Design II (Spring 2013)

COM 154: User Oriented Collaborative Design I (Fall 2012)

COM 153 ++: Sustainable Design (Fall 2011)

COM 152: Principles of Communication Competence (Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Fall 2007,

Spring 2008, Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012)

COM 152: Principles of Communication Competence for the Freshman Leadership

Program (Fall 2008, 2009, 2010)

COM 101: Communicating Critical Issues (Fall 2014)

RSP 101: Introduction to the Culture of Collegiate Life (Fall 2009)

\*Denotes having taught course in both the Accelerated Creighton and traditional formats

\*\*Denotes developed as new course to Communication Studies curriculum

+Course redeveloped from lower-level elective (COM 244) into an upper-level elective

++Denotes developed as new course in Energy Technology lab series

***Independent/Directed Study***

MLS 797: Directed Independent Study: The Built Environment and Social Interactions (Spring 2012)

COM 495: Special Topics in Communication Studies: Philosophy of Communication (Spring 2010)

COM 493: Directed Independent Readings, Interacting and Organizing (Spring 2011)

COM 493: Directed Independent Readings, Philosophy of Communication (Spring 2010)

COM 493: Directed Independent Readings, Environmental Communication (Fall 2009)

COM 493: Directed Independent Readings, Public Deliberation (Fall 2009)

COM 493: Directed Independent Readings, Cultural Communication (Spring 2008)

COM 493: Directed Independent Readings, Rhetoric and Culture in the Courtroom

(Spring 2007)

***Curriculum Development***

Curriculum Development (full summer funding), Energy Technology. Design and Rapid

Prototyping I, II, III and IV. (Summer 2011)

Facilitator, Creighton Faculty Curriculum Development Workshop, Energy Technology; BA

with a Major in Sustainable Energy and BS with Major in Energy Science. (Summer 2010)

***Graduate Committees***

Thesis Title: “Cultivating Resilience from Within: Ancient Wisdom to Heal the Present

Environmental Crisis. Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, Creighton University. Theresa J. Edmonds. 2014.

Dissertation Committee. College of Public and Behavioral Health. University of Nebraska

Medical Center. Jerri Brittin, To be completed 2015.

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

iPad Project, Teaching and Research Application. Invited by Creighton’s DoIT. Fall 2010-

present.

New Faculty Workgroup, Classroom Assessment Techniques, Creighton College of Arts and

Sciences, Spring 2007.

Invited Participant and Presenter, Teaching Cultural Codes: Communication, Culture, and

Pedagogy. Hosted by Dr. Gerry Philipsen at the University of Washington, April 2006.

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Chair, National Communication Association, Language and Social Interaction Division (Fall 2014-

2015).

Reviewer, Qualitative Health Research. (Summer 2014).

Vice Chair, National Communication Association, Language and Social Interaction Division (Fall

2013-Fall 2014).

Vice Chair Elect, National Communication Association, Language and Social Interaction Division (Fall 2012-2013).

Editorial Board, Western Journal of Communication, (Fall 2012-Spring 2014).

Co-Organizer, The Ethnography of Communication: Ways Forward (Fall 2011-Summer 2012). Conference to be hosted on the Creighton Campus. Received $5000 “advancing the discipline” grant from National Communication Association.

Reviewer, Celebrating COMMunity Intersections special program series, National Communication

Association, (Spring 2012).

Manuscript Reviewer, Western Journal of Communication (Fall 2011)

Preparing Future Faculty Mentor, University of Nebraska Lincoln (Fall 2011)

Invited Guest Speaker, Preparing Future Faculty graduate course, University of Nebraska

Lincoln (Summer 2010, Summer 2011)

Manuscript Reviewer, National Communication Association Annual Conference 2010, Language and Social Interaction Division.

Manuscript Reviewer, National Communication Association Annual Conference 2010, Group

Communication Division.

Manuscript Reviewer, Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture (Spring-

Summer 2010, Fall 2011)

Reviewer of single manuscript, Journal of Baltic Studies (Summer 2010)

Textbook Reviewer, Pearson Publishing, McGraw-Hill (Spring 2009, Summer 2011)

Manuscript Reviewer, International Communication Association Annual Conference 2009,

Language and Social Interaction Division.

Chair, National Communication Association Annual Conference 2008, “More than Just Rational

Deliberation: Letting all Voices be Heard,” Argumentation and Forensics Division.

Manuscript Reviewer, National Communication Association Annual Conference 2008, Language

and Social Interaction Division.

#### CREIGHTON SERVICE

**Departmental**

Assessment Coordinator (Summer 2013 to Present)

CCAS Mission Catalyst Committee (Spring 2012 to Present)

Tenure-Track Candidate Search Committee (Spring 2010 and Fall 2012)

Speaker, Markoe Diversity Scholars (Spring 2011)

Convened Departmental Teaching Brown Bag: Project-Based Learning (Fall 2010)

Brown Bag Presentation to the Department on new major course, COM 204: Communication

Practices (Fall 2010)

COM 152: Principles of Communication Competence, Course Coordinator

(Summer 2007-present)

Liaison to DoIT for Panopto/Bluecast Classroom Installation for COM 152/Humanities 301 (Spring

Summer 2010)

Departmental Showcase Coordination (2007, 2008, 2009)

Admissions Fair Booth (2006, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012)

Majors Fair Booth (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014)

**College of Arts and Sciences and University**

Program Champion, Sustainability Program Approval (2014)

Creighton University Admitted Student Contact Initiative (2015)

Facilitator, Sustainability Education in the Social Sciences and Humanities at Creighton University, discernment retreat co-sponsored by the CCAS and the Center for Catholic Thought

(January 2013)

Creighton Sustainability Council (2007-present)

Faculty Moderator, Green Jays, Creighton Student Organization (Fall 2009-Summer 2014)

Chair, CCAS Committee on Academic Quality and Outcomes (Fall 2011-Spring 2013)

CCAS Faculty Senator (3 year term beginning 2011)

Creighton Faculty Delegate, Heartland Delta Faculty Conversations on “Urban Commitments,”

University of Detroit-Mercy (Spring 2011)

Reviewer, Student Fellowship Research Applications, (Spring 2011)

Invited Speaker, 60-Second Lecture Series, Creighton Honors Program, (Spring 2011)

Guest Speaker CCSJ Brown Bag Lunch, “Design, Democracy and Deliberation on Creighton’s

Climate Action Plan (Spring 2011)

Liaison to Freshman Leadership Program for COM 152/Department of Communication Studies

(Spring 2008-Spring 2011)

Creighton in the Community, Television Guest, “Creighton’s Sustainability Response” (Fall 2010)

Facilitator, Week-long Curriculum Development Workshop for New Energy Majors (Summer 2010)

University Sustainability Strategy in Strategic Plan, Invited Committee Member (Spring 2010)

Curriculum Development, New Energy Majors (Summer 2010-Summer 2011)

Panelist, Creighton University’s National Teach-In on Global Warming, Footprints and Offsets

Panel (Spring 2009)

Faculty Poster, National Library Week. Reinert Alumni Library (2009)

Coordinated Creation of Student Sustainability Council for the purpose of organization Creighton’s

Participation in the 2009 National Teach-In on Global Warming (Fall 2008-Fall 2009)

Guest Speaker, Talking White Talking Black: Cross-Cultural Communication in the African

American Speech Community. NAACP Presents: Black Essence through the Generations. (Spring 2009)

Calling All Jays (Fall 2008)

CCAS Faculty Committee on Undergraduate Research (Fall 2008-Fall 2009)

CCAS Exploratory Committee on a Graduate Degree in Environmental Sustainability (Spring

2008-Spring 2009)

Guest Lecturer, PLS 439: Dangerous Words. Response to the first amendment of The

Constitution.

Guest Speaker, Cultural Communication in Human Resources, HR Club (Spring 2008)

Event Organizer, Multi-department sponsored film screening of “Half of Anything” in conjunction

with Native American Awareness Month (Fall 2007)

Creighton University Lakota Immersion-Mentorship Program (Fall 2007)

Presenter, Student Services’ “Skills for Success Workshop in Cross-Cultural Communication”

(Spring 2007)

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Board Member, ModeShift Omaha. Summer, (2014-Present).

Facilitator, New Nebraskans, Justice for our Neighbors. (Spring 2015).

Facilitator, Reel to Real Film Festival, *Nebraska Nexus*. Sponsored by the Green Omaha

Coalition. Fall 2014.

Citizens’ Advisory Committee, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency. (Fall 2014-Present).

Treasurer, Mode Shift Omaha. (Spring 2014-Present)

Member, Equity and Engagement Committee, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, Heartland 2050 Regional Visioning. (Summer 2012-Summer 2014).

Member, Strategic Communication Committee, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, Heartland 2050 Regional Visioning. (Summer 2012-Present).

Invited Speaker, RNG Gallery (Council Bluffs, IA) for the Conversations on a Bus Opening. (February 8, 2013)

Blogger, CommutebyCrux.wordpress.com (Fall 2012-Present).

Moderator, Public Conversation on the Film *Ghost Bird*, invited by Film Streams (Omaha, NE) and The Nature Conservancy, Nebraska Chapter (Spring 2011)

Guest Speaker, *Principles of Sustainability Planning*, Nebraska Association of County Officials

Annual Conference, Lincoln, NE (Fall 2009)

Guest Speaker, *Principles of Sustainability Planning,* Nebraska City/County Management

Association Summer Conference, Omaha, NE (Summer 2009)

Panhandle P-16, Visioning Facilitator, Scottsbluff, NE (Fall 2009)

Volunteer, Summer Arts Festival, Children’s Tent (Summer 2009)

Consultant, Nebraska Sustainability Leadership Workshops, (Spring 2008-present)

Volunteer, Local Food Committee, Green Omaha Coalition, (Spring 2008-Spring 2009)

Discussion and Action Group, Joslyn Castle Institute for Sustainable Communities

(Fall 2006-present)

Dinner Service Volunteer, Sienna Francis Homeless Shelter (Spring and Summer 2007)

Participant, Catholic Charities Open Public Forum Meetings (Fall 2006)

#### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

National Communication Association (1999-Present)

Western States Communication Association (2007-present)

International Communication Association (2004-2006; 2008-2009)

Northwest Communication Association (2003)