

Jennifer R. Mercieca
Department of Communication & Journalism
Texas A&M University

Education

Ph. D., Speech Communication, University of Illinois, 2003. Area: Rhetorical Studies
M. A., Communication, University of the Pacific, 1997. Area: Political Communication
B. A., Communication, University of the Pacific, 1995. Area: Broadcasting & Media Studies

Academic Positions

Director, Aggie Lyceum, College of Arts & Sciences, August 2025-present.

Claude H. Everett, Jr. '47 Endowed Chair in Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University, August 2025-present.

Professor, Department of Communication & Journalism, Texas A&M University, August 2021-present.

Faculty Administrative Fellow, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University, January 2016-May 2017.

Founding Director, Texas A&M Agora, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University, February 2015- May 2018.

Associate Department Head, Department of Communication, Texas A&M University, August 2011- August 2015.

Associate Professor, Department of Communication, Texas A&M University, August 2009-August 2021.

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Texas A&M University, August 2003-August 2009.

Scholarship

Books

Published

Jennifer R. Mercieca, Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump, Texas A&M University Press, 2020.

Popular Press Reviews: “highly recommended,” Politico; “must read,” Salon; “best books of summer” and “most anticipated books of 2020,” LitHub; “one of the most important political books of this perilous summer,” Washington Post, “a field guide to how Trump speaks, and how it helps him,” Christian Science Monitor.

Academic Reviews: Journal of Communication, February 2021; Presidential Studies Quarterly, December 2020, Quarterly Journal of Speech, ETC.: A Review of General Semantics, July-October 2020; Communication & Democracy, November 2022; Rhetoric & Public Affairs, Spring 2024.

Awards: PROSE Award winner, Government & Politics. Foreword Indies bronze, Government & Politics.

Justin S. Vaughn & Jennifer R. Mercieca, The Rhetoric of Heroic Expectations: Establishing the Obama Presidency (edited volume) (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2014).

- Jennifer R. Mercieca & Justin Vaughn, “Introduction: The Rhetoric of Heroic Expectations,” The Rhetoric of Heroic Expectations: Establishing the Obama Presidency, pp. 1-29.
- Jennifer R. Mercieca & Justin Vaughn, “Epilogue: Carrying the Burden: How Barack Obama Both Embraced and Diminished Heroic Expectations,” The Rhetoric of Heroic Expectations: Establishing the Obama Presidency, pp. 257-264.

Reviewed: Presidential Studies Quarterly, December 2014; Perspectives on Politics, September 2015; Res Rhetorica, February 2015, Quarterly Journal of Speech, June 2016.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, Founding Fictions (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2010).

Reviewed: Choice, November 2010; Journal of Communication, April 2011; Journal of American History, December 2011; Journal of the Early Republic, Spring 2012; Rhetoric & Public Affairs, Spring 2012; Communication Review, Winter 2012; The Quarterly Journal of Speech, Spring 2013; Rhetoric Society Quarterly, Spring 2013; Rhetorica, Spring 2013.

In Preparation

Jennifer Mercieca, The Alpha Myth, completing proposal for submission to a prestigious trade press.

Jennifer Mercieca, Communicating for the Democratic Way of Life, completing proposal for submission to a top-tier academic press.

Refereed Articles

Published

Amy Young and Jennifer Mercieca, "Emphasizing the 'Public' in *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*," Rhetoric and Public Affairs 24, no. 1-2 (2021): 379-96.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Dangerous Demagogues and Weaponized Communication." Rhetoric Society Quarterly 49, no. 3 (2019): 264-79.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Did Election 2008 Change Everything?" (Review Essay) Rhetoric & Public Affairs 15 (2012): 717-735.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Irony of the Democratic Style," Rhetoric & Public Affairs 11 (2008): 441-449.

Stephen J. Hartnett & Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Four Theses on the Death of Presidential Rhetoric in an Age of Empire," Presidential Studies Quarterly 37 (2007): 599-619.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Culture of Honor: How Slaveholders Responded to the Abolitionist Mail Crisis of 1835," Rhetoric & Public Affairs 10 (2007): 51-76.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Choice, Loyalty, and Safety: The Construction of a Distinctly American Imagined Nationalism," (Review Essay) Rhetoric & Public Affairs 9 (2006): 279-302.

Stephen J. Hartnett & Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Has Your Courage Rusted?": National Security and The Contested Rhetorical Norms of Republicanism in Post-Revolutionary America, 1798-1801," Rhetoric & Public Affairs 9 (2006): 79-112.

Jennifer R. Mercieca & James Arnt Aune, "A Vernacular Republican Rhetoric: William Manning's Key of Liberty," The Quarterly Journal of Speech 91 (2005): 119-143. (lead essay)

Invited Papers/Government Reports

Jennifer Mercieca, "Statement for the Record: Former President Donald John Trump's Dangerous Rhetoric," Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, U. S. House of Representatives, March 31, 2022.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Fourteenth Amendment and the Privileges and Immunities of American Citizenship," Quarterly Journal of Speech 101 (2015): 306-311 (100th Anniversary Issue).

Sarah Dempsey, Mohan Dutta, Lawrence R. Frey, H. L. Goodall, D. Soyini Madison, Jennifer Mercieca, Thomas Nakayama, Katherine Miller, "What is the Role of the Communication Discipline in Social Justice, Community Engagement, and Public Scholarship? A Visit to the CM Cafe," Communication Monographs, 78 (2011): 256-271.

Refereed Book Chapters

Jennifer Mercieca, "Afterward: Trump as Anarchist and Sun King," Faking the News: What Rhetoric Can Teach Us About Donald J. Trump, Ryan Skinnell, Ed, (Societas, 2018): 174-179.

Jennifer Mercieca, "A Reflection on the Obama Phenomenon, Our Heroic Expectations, and the Obama Presidency," Reconsidering Obama: Reflections on Rhetoric, Robert E. Terrill, Ed, (New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2017): 153-169.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Ignoring the President: Barack Obama's Post-Rhetorical Presidency," From Columns to Characters: The Presidency and the Press in the Digital Age, Stephanie Ann Martin, Ed, (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2017): 206-231.

James Jasinski & Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Constitutive Approach to Effect and the Alien and Sedition Acts," Rhetoric and Public Address in the Twenty-First Century: A Handbook, Shawn J. Parry-Giles and J. Michael Hogan, Eds, (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell Press, 2010): 313-341.

Jennifer R. Mercieca & Justin S. Vaughn, "The Post-Rhetorical Legacy of George W. Bush," Perspectives on the Legacy of George W. Bush, Michael Orlov Grossman and Ronald Eric Matthews Jr., Eds, (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009): 31-52.

Invited Book Chapters

National Task Force on the President and Democratic Deliberation, Presidential Rhetoric, James Arnt Aune, Ed, (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2008), 251-272.

Book Reviews

Jennifer Mercieca, "Trump and Us: What He Says and Why People Listen," Public Opinion Quarterly (2020).

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Rhetorical Citizenship and Public Deliberation," Rhetoric Society Quarterly, 44 (2014): 499-502.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "A Nation of Speechifiers," Quarterly Journal of Speech 98 (2012): 121-124.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Thomas Jefferson's Call to Nationhood," The Quarterly Journal of Speech 90 (2004): 519-521.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Appropriate[ing] Women's Dress," Argumentation & Advocacy 39 (2003): 293-295.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Jefferson on Jefferson," Rhetoric & Public Affairs 6 (2003): 580-581.

Honors, Awards, Grants and Fellowships

Zócalo Public Square: "What Is 21st-Century Truth? Propaganda Has Trapped Us in Plato's Cave – the Shadows Aren't Real but the Sun Is Blinding," Winner: LA Press Awards, LA Press Club 67th Southern California Journalism Award, 2nd Place, Political Commentary, National, 2025.

Zócalo Public Square: "What Happens When You Trade Doomscrolling for Hopescrolling? Our Phones Have Become Misery Machines. Sharing Positive News Can Change That," Winner: LA Press Club 18TH National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards, 3rd place, Literature/Food/Culture Feature, 2025.

Claude H. Everett, Jr. '47 Endowed Chair in Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University, 2025.

Association of American Publishers 2021 PROSE Award for Excellence in Social Sciences: Government & Politics for Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump.

Foreword Indies Awards: Bronze, Government & Politics for Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump.

Arts & Humanities Fellowship, Texas A&M University, 2021-2024. \$15,000 to support work on We, The Propagandists (project changed to Fascism is for Losers)

Melbern G. Glasscock Humanities Center Fellow, Fall, 2018. Project: Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Brilliance of Donald Trump.

Texas A&M Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching, 2016.

Faculty Administrative Fellow, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University, January 2016-May 2017.

Jennifer Mercieca, Kirby Goidel, Leonard Beirman, Tier One Program (TOP) Grant, \$97,000, "Strengthening Democracy Through Critically Engaged Citizenship," Dean of Faculties, Texas A&M University, 2015-2017.

Aggies Commit Faculty Spotlight, Texas A&M Provost's Office, April 2015.
<http://aggiescommit.tamu.edu/Faculty-Spotlight#JenniferMercieca>.

Roundtable discussion of The Rhetoric of Heroic Expectations, Southern States Political Science Association, January 2015.

Recognized by the Provost's Office for creating high impact classes and research related to TAMU's Grand Challenge to Strengthen Democracy, November 15, 2014.

Jennifer Mercieca, Freshman Critical Thinking Seminar, \$2,000, College of Liberal Arts, Spring 2015.

Joe Ura and Jennifer Mercieca, Strategic Development Grant, \$45,000, "Political Communication," College of Liberal Arts, 2014.

Guest Coach, Texas A&M Football, November 2, 2013.

J. Kevin Barge, Jennifer Mercieca, Srivi Ramasubramanian, Joshua Barbour, "Developing Citizenship Through Transformative Communication and Media," \$43,000, Strategic Development Grant, College of Liberal Arts, 2013.

Texas A&M University representative, Aspen Institute Wye Faculty Seminar, July, 2013.

Founding Fictions chosen for "Recent Books in Rhetorical Theory" panel, Rhetoric Society of America, 2012.

Scholarly & Creative Activities Grant, Texas A&M University, 2009-2010, \$10,000 to support my work on Conjuncture: A Study of America's Discursive Crises.

National Communication Association, Spotlight Panel, November 2009 (filmed for NCA's "Five-Years Out" series and posted to the NCA website. James Jasinski & Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Analyzing Constitutive Rhetorics: The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions and the 'Principles of '98'."

International Course Development Grant, Texas A&M University, 2008, \$500 to support course development for COMM 327 and COMM 460.

Fellow, American Studies, Glasscock Humanities Center, Texas A&M University, 2007-2008, \$1,500 to support my work on The Irony of Apathetic Democratic Citizens: Order, Control, and Safety in American Political Theory.

Scholarly & Creative Activities Grant, Texas A&M University, 2007-2008, \$10,000 to support my work on The Irony of Apathetic Democratic Citizens: Order, Control, and Safety in American Political Theory.

Technological Innovation in the Classroom Grant, Texas A&M University, Summer 2006, \$2,500.

Liberal Arts Faculty Research Enhancement Program, 2006, \$2,500 to support my work on The Irony of Apathetic Democratic Citizens: Order, Control, and Safety in American Political Theory.

Honors Course Development Grant, Texas A&M University, 2005-2006, \$2,000.

Fellow, Communication, Glasscock Humanities Center, Texas A&M University, 2003-2004, \$1,500 to support my work on Founding Fictions.

University of Illinois' Incomplete List of Teachers Ranked Excellent, 2000-2001, 2002-2003.

Invited participant, National Communication Association's "Doctoral Honors Seminar," Northwestern University, Chicago, August 2000.

Finalist, "Bostrom Student Paper Award," Southern States Communication Association, New Orleans, March 2000.

"Top Competitive Student Paper," Argumentation and Forensics Division of the National Communication Association, New York, 1998.

Competitively Selected Conference Papers

Jennifer Mercieca, "A Consideration of Conservative Rhetoric," National Communication Association, virtual convention, November 2020.

Jennifer Mercieca, "What Just Happened?" National Communication Association, virtual convention, November 2020.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Trump the Anarchist," National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 2018.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Critical Public Scholarship on Demagoguery: Difficulties and Responsibilities," Rhetoric Society of America, Minneapolis, May 2018.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Rhetorical Pedagogies on Campus During the Age of Trump," National Communication Association, Dallas, November 2017.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Public Scholarship During Politically Turbulent Times," National Communication Association, Dallas, November 2017.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Rhetorical Brilliance of Donald Trump, Demagogue for President," National Communication Association, Philadelphia, November 2016.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Ignoring the President: The Post-Rhetorical Presidency of Barack Obama," National Communication Association, Philadelphia, November 2016.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "From the Rhetorical Presidency to the Post-Rhetorical Presidency: Obama's Immigration Reform Speech Rollout," Rhetoric Society of America, Atlanta, GA, 2016.

Roundtable discussion of The Rhetoric of Heroic Expectations, Southern States Political Science Association, January 2015.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Rhetoric and Political Consent: Tacit and Express Consent in Enlightenment Political Theory," Rhetoric Society of America, San Antonio, May 2014.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Jim Aune's Contributions to Public Address," The National Communication Association, Washington, DC, 2013.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Democratic Aesthetic is Boisterous," The National Communication Association, Orlando, FL, 2012.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Federalism and the New Economy," Rhetoric Society of America, Philadelphia, PA, May 2012.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Negotiation of a Constitutive Crisis," Rhetoric Society of America, Philadelphia, PA, May 2012.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Rhetoric of Presidential Expectations and Barack Obama's Burden," Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR, March 2012.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Explaining Obama's Fortunes at Mid (or End) Term," Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR, March 2012.

Jennifer R. Mercieca & Kathryn Kelly, "On the Political Role of Demagoguery," Rhetoric Society of America, Minneapolis, MN, May 2010.

James Jasinski & Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Analyzing Constitutive Rhetorics: The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions and the 'Principles of '98'." National Communication Association, Chicago, IL 2009.

Justin Vaughn & Jennifer Mercieca, "The Post-Rhetorical Presidency." Midwest Political Science Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, April 2009.

Jennifer R. Mercieca & Justin Vaughn, "The Post-Rhetorical Presidency." American Political Science Association Annual Convention, Boston, MA August 2008.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Agonists and Antagonists in the Democratic Paradox." Rhetoric Society of America Bi-annual Conference, Seattle, WA, May 2008.

Jennifer R. Mercieca & Justin Vaughn, "The Post-Rhetorical Legacy of George W. Bush." Symposium on the Legacy of George W. Bush, Mount Union College, March 1, 2008.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Extra-Judicial Constitutional Argument: The Virginia & Kentucky Resolutions." Public Address Division, National Communication Association, November 2007.

Jennifer R. Mercieca & M. Elizabeth Thorpe, "Tory Responses to the Colonial Rebellion: Traitors or Patriots?" Public Address Division, National Communication Association, November 2006.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Theory and Practice in Antebellum Rhetoric: Jefferson's Rhetoric of Republicanism." Public Address Division, National Communication Association, November 2005.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Economic Argument in the Age of Federalism." NCA/AFA Summer Conference on Argumentation, Alta, Utah, August 2005.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Deliberative Democracy without Democracy; Or, Why we should Call Deliberative Democracy Deliberative Republicanism." Public Address Division, National Communication Association, Chicago, November 2004.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Economic Stability, Social Control, and the Whiskey Rebellion." Public Address Division, National Communication Association, Chicago, November 2004.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "America's Obsession with the BIG: The Mammoth Cheese." Public Address Division, National Communication Association, Chicago, November 2004.

National Taskforce on the President and Deliberative Democracy, Texas A&M Presidential Rhetoric Conference, March 2004.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Abolitionists Mail Crisis of 1835, the Rhetoric of Loyalty and the Problem of *Imperia in Imperio*." Public Address Division, National Communication Association, Miami, November 2003.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Is There a Rhetorical Tradition?" Working Group position paper, Alliance of Rhetoric Societies, Northwestern University, September 2003.

Jennifer R. Mercieca and Stephen J. Hartnett, "Free Speech, Dissidents as Traitors, and the Question of Republicanism in the 1798 Alien and Sedition Acts." Public Address Division, National Communication Association, New Orleans, November 2002.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Conflicting Visions of Civic Engagement in the Last Words of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, July Fourth, 1826." Rhetoric Society of America, Las Vegas, May 2002.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "To Every Man, Woman, and Child in our Republic: The Lyceum Movement and American Republicanism." Public Address Division, National Communication Association, Atlanta, November 2001.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Producing the Apathetic Citizen: Order, Control, and Safety in American Political Theory." American Studies Division, National Communication Association, Atlanta, November 2001.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Rule of *Eunomia* and the Role of Rhetoric in the Athenian Polis: Good Order, and the Fall of Democracy." History of Rhetoric Division, National Communication Association, Seattle, November 2000.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Big Science, Big Pharmaceuticals, Big Government, and Small Ethics: The Rhetoric of the Human Genome Project." Rhetoric of Science and Technology Division, National Communication Association, Seattle, November 2000.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Re-Visioning Rhetoric as Epistemology and Social Critique." Rhetoric and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association, Seattle, November 2000.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Clinton Defense: Ignoble Argument and the Death of Meaning in Debate." Bostrom Student Panel, Southern States Communication Association, New Orleans, March 2000.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "'Well, that depends on what the meaning of 'is' is, doesn't it?': The Clinton Scandal and the Death of Meaning." Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association, Chicago, November 1999.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Keeping the Faith: Apocalyptic and Jeremiadic Discourse at the End of the Millennium." Religious Communication Division, National Communication Association, Chicago, November 1999.

Jennifer R. Mercieca and Trevor G. Potts, "Problems in the Public Sphere: Rationality, Protest, and Democracy." Argumentation and Forensics Division, National Communication Association, New York, November 1998. (Top Student Paper)

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Millenarians on the Fringe: Heaven's Gate and Branch Davidians." Religious Communication Division, National Communication Association, New York City, November 1998.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Offensive Communication by Protest Movements: The Media's Response to ACT-UP/ NY's Tactics." Political Communication Interest Group, Central States Communication Association, Chicago, March 1998.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Networking in a Global Environment: A Graduate Student's Guide to Connecting on the Internet." Graduate Student Division, National Communication Association, Chicago, November 1998.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Patterns of Imagery Directed at Women of the Aryan Nations: A Rhetoric of Intimidation." Western States Communication Association, Monterey, CA, March 1997.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Apologetic Eulogies for Presidents who left Office in Disgrace: Nixon and Johnson." Western States Communication Association, Pasadena, CA, March 1996.

Lectures and Invited Presentations

Jennifer Mercieca, Texas A&M University, Aggie Lyceum Workshop: "Diagramming Arguments for Easy Analysis," 20 times Fall 2025 and Spring 2026.

Jennifer Mercieca, University of Texas, Austin, "Communication for the Democratic Way of Life," March 28, 2025.

Jennifer Mercieca, Wake Forest University, "Communication for the Democratic Way of Life," October 24, 2024.

Jennifer Mercieca, My Five Things, "Communication for the Democratic Way of Life," June 26, 2024.

Jennifer Mercieca, University of North Carolina, Wilmington, "Communication for the Democratic Way of Life," February 26, 2024.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Demagoguery and Weaponized Communication," Freedom Academy, September 26, 2023.

Jennifer Mercieca, Hofstra University Presidency Conference, Plenary Forum: From White House Communications to Policy Making - Planning and Strategies, April 19, 2023.

Southwest Social Science Association, "Communication for the Democratic Way of Life," Conference Presidential Address Keynote Presentation, March 30, 2023.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Devil Terms and what the Trust Project Can Do," Trust Project Board of Directors, January 17, 2023.

Jennifer Mercieca, Palo Alto Rotary Club, "Communication for the Democratic Way of Life," October 31, 2022.

Jennifer Mercieca, Syracuse University, "Communication for the Democratic Way of Life," October 24, 2022.

Guest Lecture, George Washington University, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, October 18, 2022.

Panelist, "Reality Bites," Texas Tribune's TribFest, September 24, 2022.

Guest Lecture, George Washington University, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, April 26, 2022.

Guest Lecture, George Washington University, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, October 19, 2021.

Panelist, *Democracy Reset*, George Washington University, September 18, 2021.

Guest Lecture, Maumee Valley Country Day School, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, August 20, 2021.

Guest Lecture, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, April 7, 2021.

Guest Lecture, New York University, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, March 22, 2021.

Guest Lecture, University of Michigan Law School, *Presidential Powers*, February 24, 2021.

Jennifer Mercieca, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, 31st Union, November 11, 2020.

Guest Lecture, St. Bonaventure University, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, November 2, 2020.

Guest Lecture, University of Arkansas Monticello, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, October 29, 2020.

Jennifer Mercieca, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, Sacramento State University, October 23, 2020.

Guest Lecture, Carleton College, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, October 21, 2020.

Jennifer Mercieca, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, Carlton College, October 20, 2020.

Guest Lecture, University of Toronto, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, October 19, 2020.

Guest Lecture, University of Hartford, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, October 15, 2020.

Guest Lecture, Lesley College, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, October 14, 2020.

Guest Lecture, Yale Law School, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, October 13, 2020.

Guest Lecture, TAMU Sociology, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, October 7, 2020.

Jennifer Mercieca, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, Politics After Dark, Southern Methodist University, October 5, 2020.

Jennifer Mercieca, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, Kansas State University, September 17, 2020.

Jennifer Mercieca, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, TAMU Sociology Colloquium, September 16, 2020.

Jennifer Mercieca, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, College of Liberal Arts, July 10, 2020.

Jennifer Mercieca, *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, TAMUQ, July 9, 2020.

Guest Lecture COMM: Money, Power, and Communication, October 29, 2019.

Guest Lecture COMM 689: Engaged Research, October 23, 2019.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Is Our Public Sphere Under Attack?" TAMU Department of Communication Colloquium, October 3, 2019.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Is Our Public Sphere Under Attack?" Keynote Address, National Institute for Civil Discourse, September 28, 2019.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Political Rhetoric of Donald Trump and Alex Jones: On Fake News and Weaponized Communications." TribFest, September 29, 2018. Panel with Jonathan Tilove and Charlie Warzel.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Brilliance of Donald Trump," Melbern G. Glasscock Center, September 2018.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, Supersession on Public Scholarship, Rhetoric Society of America, Minneapolis, May 2018.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Brilliance of Donald Trump," University of South Florida, January 2018.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Election Insecurity: Free and Fair Elections in the Cyber Age," Wiley Lecture Series, Texas A&M University, October 2017.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Trust, Truth, and Terror: A Conversation with David Ignatius about the Ethics of National Security Reporting," Daniels Fund for Ethics in Communication, University of Colorado, Denver, September 2017. With David Ignatius.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Vice President Spotlight Panel – Communication and Innovation in Presidential Campaigns: A Conversation with Michael McCurry," Southern Communication Association, April 2017.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Rhetorical Brilliance of Donald Trump, Demagogue for President," University of Puget Sound, March 2017.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Rhetorical Brilliance of Donald Trump, Demagogue for President," Southwest Baptist University, February 2017.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Rhetorical Brilliance of Donald Trump, Demagogue for President," University of Illinois, October 2016.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Be a Citizen, Not a Partisan," TedX Blinn College, June 2016.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Can Democracy Survive Demagoguery?" Zocalo: The Public Square, Getty Villa, June 2016. With Victoria Emma Pagán, Eric Robinson, and Seema Mehta.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, Fact-Check Workshops, Texas A&M Agora, monthly 2015-2018.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Our Citizenship Crisis and the Aggie Agora," Texas A&M Liberal Arts Connect, COMM 101, September 2015.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Citizens as Romantic Heroes, Tragic Victims, and Ironic Partisans: A History of American Citizenship." Aggie Agora Brown Bag Lecture, September 2015.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Our Citizenship Crisis and the Aggie Agora," Texas A&M Liberal Arts Connect, April 2015.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Ignoring the President: Barack Obama's Post-Rhetorical Presidency," From Columns to Characters: The Presidency and the Press in the Digital Age, Invited Plenary Speaker, Southern Methodist University, February 2015.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Founding Fictions: Citizens as Romantic Heroes, Tragic Victims & Ironic Partisans in American Political Discourse," University of Georgia, Department of Communication Studies, January 2015.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Civil Dialogue in China: Response to Dr. Randy Kluver," Texas A&M University, June 2014.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Drone Strikes, Public Deliberation, and Barack Obama's Post-Rhetorical Presidency," Pre-conference on War Rhetoric, The National Communication Association, Washington, DC, 2013.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Constituting the Presidency: Heroic Expectations and Phenomenal Burdens in Barack Obama's First Term," American Politics Working Group, Department of Political Science, October 2013.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Where We Stand: Minority Voters in the 2012 Election," Texas A&M University, November 2012.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Founding Fictions: Citizens as Romantic Heroes, Tragic Victims & Ironic Partisans in American Political Discourse," Bowling Green State University, Department of Communication, May 2012.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Founding Fictions: Citizens as Romantic Heroes, Tragic Victims & Ironic Partisans in American Political Discourse," University of Kansas, Department of Communication Studies, February 2012.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Founding Fictions: Citizens as Romantic Heroes, Tragic Victims & Ironic Partisans in American Political Discourse," Willamette University, Department of Rhetoric & Media Studies, April 2011.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Founding Fictions: Citizens as Romantic Heroes, Tragic Victims & Ironic Partisans in American Political Discourse," University of Texas, Austin, Department of Communication, November 2010.

"Rocking the Republican Rhetoric," Rock the Republic, Bryan, TX, October 2010.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "How do I make an academic argument?" First Friday Graduate Student Colloquium Series, September 2010.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Founding Fictions: Citizens as Romantic Heroes, Tragic Victims & Ironic Partisans in American Political Discourse," Syracuse University, Department of Communication, May 2010.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Founding Fictions: Citizens as Romantic Heroes, Tragic Victims & Ironic Partisans in American Political Discourse," The Pennsylvania State University, The Center for American Literary Studies, May 2010.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Civil Dialogue," Liberal Arts Student Council, March 2010.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Henry David Thoreau and the Obligations of American Citizenship," COMM 460, January 2007.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Thomas Jefferson and American Citizenship," AMST 300, December 2006.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "The Deaths of Adams and Jefferson and the Celebration of the Romantic Republican Fiction, July 4, 1826," Texas A&M University Political Theory Group, November 2005.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "On-Line Archival Research Methods," COMM 308, (five different sections, 2004-2005, 2009)

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Nietzsche on Rhetoric and Truth," PHIL 414, November 2005.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Voter Apathy and the 2000 Presidential Election," Wiley Lecture Series, Texas A&M University, February 2004.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Future Directions in Rhetorical History." Invited Roundtable Participant for the Annual Texas A&M Conference on Presidential Rhetoric, February 2002.

Consulting and Workshops

Jennifer Mercieca and Lisa Young, "Building Trust in Times of Change," <major American technology infrastructure company>, October 2025-present.

Jennifer Mercieca and Ryan Skinnell, "Practicing the Civic Arts in Public: Academic Freedom & Public Scholarship," Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, June 3-6, 2025.

Jennifer Mercieca and Lisa Young, "Corporate Change and Narrative," <major American auto manufacturer>, August 2021-August 2022.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Public Scholarship and The Conversation," Texas A&M, February 2021.

Jennifer Mercieca, "How to Write About Complex Topics," Texas A&M Communications Summit, September 2018.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Communicating Science to Non-Scientists," TAMU Graduate Student Association, March 2017.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Communicating Science to Non-Scientists," Post-Doctoral and MD Plus Students in the College of Medicine, Texas A&M University, April 2016.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Communicating Economics Effectively." Graduate Students in the Department of Economics, Texas A&M University, February 2016.

Jennifer Mercieca, "How to communicate science effectively to non-scientists and policy makers," Aggies in Science, Technology and Engineering Policy, December 2015.

Extremely Selected Public Scholarship & Interviews

Interviewed, "How Political Framing Shapes Our Thoughts," Civics 101, NPR, June 24, 2025.

Jennifer Mercieca, "What Happens When You Trade Doomscrolling for Hopescrolling? Our Phones Have Become Misery Machines. Sharing Positive News Can Change That," Zócalo

Public Square, June 23, 2025. Winner: LA Press Club 18TH National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards, 3rd place, Literature/Food/Culture Feature, 2025.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Donald Trump's nonstop news-making can be exhausting, making it harder for people to scrutinize his presidential actions," *The Conversation*, March 19, 2025.

Interviewed, "How to spot the difference between innocent fandoms and fanaticism," *CBS News*, February 12, 2025.

Jennifer Mercieca, "In his second inaugural address, Donald Trump spoke as a dictator, not as a president," *London School of Economics American Politics Blog*, January 22, 2025.

Jennifer Mercieca, bi-weekly "Rhetorical Tricks" columns, November 2022-December 2024, [Resolute Square](#).

Jennifer Mercieca, "The Danger of Treating Politics Like War," *Time Magazine*, July 15, 2025.

Interviewed, "Anatomy of a Donald Trump speech," *PBS News*, April 3, 2024.

Interviewed, "In on the Joke: The Comedic Trick Trump Uses to Normalize His Behavior," *Politico*, March 17, 2024.

Guest Co-Host, "The Five 8: Everything That Treasons Must Converge," March 8, 2024.

Interviewed, "Trump says Biden's border policies are a 'conspiracy to overthrow' the US," *Reuters*, March 3, 2024.

Jennifer Mercieca, "What Is 21st-Century Truth? Propaganda Has Trapped Us in Plato's Cave—the Shadows Aren't Real but the Sun Is Blinding," [Zocalo, Public Square](#), February 26, 2024. Winner: LA Press Awards, LA Press Club 67th Southern California Journalism Award, 2nd Place, Political Commentary, National, 2025.

Guest, "Strategy Session: Expert Explains the Right-Wing Culture War on Taylor Swift," [Resolute Square](#), January 30, 2024.

Interviewed, "Pennsylvania's governor says he wants to 'get s--- done.' He's made it his slogan, profanity and all," *AP*, January 25, 2024.

Jennifer Mercieca, "The 2024 Elections: Trump and Biden's Inaugural Addresses show who may be more of a threat to US democracy," [London School of Economics](#), *United States Policy and Politics*, January 18, 2024.

Interviewed, "Vivek Ramaswamy wants to 'shock' the system in January. Why these early voters think his timing isn't right," *USA Today*, January 15, 2024.

Interviewed, "Biden and Trump marked two starkly different versions of Jan. 6. Voters are divided too," *USA Today*, January 7, 2024.

Jennifer R. Mercieca 17

Guest, "Prof. Jennifer Mercieca on America sleepwalking into authoritarianism," The Weekend Show," December 17, 2023.

Interviewed, "Trump quotes Putin condemning American democracy, praises autocrat Orban," The Washington Post, December 16, 2023.

Live Interview, "The Five8: The Posse Response," December 8, 2023.

Interviewed, "Trump tells supporters, 'Guard the vote.' Here's the phrase's backstory and why it's raising concern," AP, December 6, 2023.

Interviewed, "The fear of a looming Trump dictatorship," The Washington Post, December 4, 2023.

Interviewed, "Trump attempts to spin anti-democracy, authoritarian criticism against Biden," The Washington Post, December 2, 2023.

Interviewed, "Trump's Dire Words Raise New Fears About His Authoritarian Bent," New York Times, November 20, 2023.

Interviewed, "'Vermin:' Donald Trump is escalating his rhetoric into extreme territory," November 18, 2023.

Interviewed, "Trump, 'vermin' and Nazi rhetoric," ABC News Australia, November 26, 2023

Interviewed, "Indictments? Who cares? Donald Trump backers say they don't trust government anyway," USA Today, September 15, 2023.

Interviewed. "The Mehdi Hasan Show," MSNBC, September 7, 2023.

Interviewed, "Trump's lies tested limits of the bully pulpit. His right to say them is at core of criminal defense," AP, August 19, 2023.

Live Interview, "The Five 8: The Devil Went Down to Georgia," August 18, 2023.

Interviewed, "Biden has turned his age into a punchline. But are voters laughing?" USA Today, 2023.

Interviewed, "Trump is attacking DeSantis hard on policy, amid the flurry of insults," Reuters, May 17, 2023.

Interviewed, "The Weekend Show," December 4, 2022.

Interviewed, "Propaganda," Civics 101, NHPR, November 29, 2022.

Interview, "For Trump's Backers in Congress, 'Devil Terms' Help Rally Voters; democracy challenged," The New York Times, October 22, 2022.

Featured Interview, "Texas A&M Today," TAMU, October 10, 2022.

Asha Rangappa and Jennifer Mercieca, "The FBI's Mar-A-Lago Search Was 2,500 Years In The Making," Zocalo, Public Square, August 31, 2022.

Interviewed, "Defund the FBI? Why Republican rallying cry could boost Democrats in midterm elections," USA Today, August 29, 2022.

Live Interview, Reliable Sources, CNN, August 4, 2022.

Live Interview, "We're Speaking," LPTV, July 20, 2022.

Interviewed, "Who will be Jan. 6 hearing's most avid viewer? Donald Trump, with a team ready to hit back," USA Today, June 9, 2022.

Interviewed, "Lincoln Project Podcast," June 8, 2022.

Interview, "Inside the Apocalyptic Worldview Of 'Tucker Carlson Tonight'," The New York Times, May 1, 2022.

Live Interview, "We're Speaking," LPTV, April 13, 2022.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Ten actions every one of us can take to defend democracy," The Editorial Board, March 2, 2022.

Event Panelist, "Californians: Do They Help Or Hurt Texas?," Texas Tribune, February 11, 2022.

Jennifer Mercieca and Timothy Shaffer, "What is 'legitimate political discourse,' and does it include the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol?" The Conversation, February 8, 2022.

Featured interview, "MAGA-Phone: Dan Bongino and the Big Business of Returning Trump to Power," The New Yorker, January 5 and 10, 2022.

Featured interview, "How Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and Gwyneth Paltrow Short-Circuit Your Ability to Think Rationally," Bloomberg Business, October 15, 2021.

Live Interview, The Breakdown, Lincoln Project TV, July 28, 2021.

Jennifer Mercieca, "We are all propagandists now," The Conversation, July 20, 2021.

Live Interview, LPTV, June 30, 2021.

Jennifer Mercieca, "The Propaganda Playbook: A Section-by-Section Dissection of Tucker Carlson's Communication Strategy," Just Security, June 23, 2021.

Live Interview, [Reliable Sources](#), CNN, June 20, 2021.

Interviewed, "Losing a megaphone: Donald Trump's Facebook ban could limit fundraising, his work to impact elections," [USA Today](#), May 5, 2021.

Live Interview, [The Breakdown](#), Lincoln Project TV, March 2, 2021.

Interviewed, "A bloody insurrection, a deadly pandemic: Historians weigh in on Trump's legacy after his acquittal," [USA Today](#), February 15, 2021.

Interviewed, "'Tribalism is a hell of a drug.' Trump impeachment trial reopens GOP battle lines even as he is acquitted," [USA Today](#), February 14, 2021.

Interview, [The Debrief with Major Garrett](#), [CBS News](#), January 29, 2021.

Interview, [Texas Standard](#), [NPR](#), January 21, 2021.

Live Interview, [The Brian Lehrer Show](#), [NPR](#), January 20, 2021.

Live Interview, [All Things Considered](#), [NPR](#), January 19, 2021.

Interviewed, "Remember the Alamo? Donald Trump heads to Texas to defend legacy tarnished by Capitol riot," [USA Today](#), January 12, 2021.

Interview, [ABC Radio Australia](#), January 8, 2021.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Goodbye to Trump, America's Authoritarian PT Barnum," [Zocalo, The Public Square](#), January 7, 2021.

Live Interview, [KBTX](#), January 7, 2021.

Interview, [ABC News Radio](#), January 7, 2021.

Live Interview, [KTBC Fox 7](#), January 7, 2021.

Interview, [KTRK-TV](#), January 6, 2021.

Interview, [Fox44 News](#), January 6, 2021.

Interview, [Voice of America](#), January 6, 2021.

Interviewed, "Facing Electoral College vote, Trump continues election attack, but without risks to him, experts say," December 11, 2020.

Live Interview, [All Sides](#), [NPR](#), December 9, 2020.

Live Interview, *In Lieu of Show*, November 25, 2020.

Live Interview, [BBC World News](#), November 10, 2020.

Interviewed, "The Abnormal Presidency," *The Washington Post*, November 10, 2020.

Live Interview, [Television Malta](#), November 9, 2020.

Live Event, "Rhetorical Reflections on the 2020 Election," Rhetoric Society of America, November 6, 2020.

Interview, "Life Elsewhere," NPR, November 4, 2020.

Interviews related to the 2020 election, January 1-November 3, 2020, too many to count separately, [Politico](#), [Washington Post](#), [USAToday](#), [New York Times](#), etc.

Live Interview, "The Breakdown," Lincoln Project TV, October 19, 2020.

Interview, [ABC News](#), October 16, 2020.

Interview, "Reliable Sources," [CNN](#), October 11, 2020.

Interview, "Trumpspeak," [Democracy in Danger](#), October 7, 2020.

Interview, [Voice of America](#), September 30, 2020.

Live Event, "Leaving the Cult of Trump," September 25, 2020.

Interviewed, "From 'dark shadows' to 'thugs' on a plane, Trump wades deeper into conspiracy theories as election nears," *USA Today*, September 3, 2020.

Interviewed, "Trump's Tactic: Sowing Distrust in Whatever Gets in His Way," *New York Times*, September 3, 2020.

Interview, "New Book Explores Trump's Political Rhetoric," [Texas Standard](#), August 7, 2020.

Interview, "Unmasked and Unhinged," [The Gist](#), July 29, 2020.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Opinion: The rhetorical genius of Donald Trump and the problem with labeling him a racist," (book excerpt), [Houston Chronicle](#), July 17, 2020.

Interview, "The Dangerous Demagogue President," [Honestly Speaking](#), July 16, 2020.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Authoritarian voters pushed Trump to victory. Can they do it again?" (book excerpt), [The Guardian](#), July 15, 2020.

Interviewed, "Trump, Biden fight for primacy on social media platforms," AP, July 5, 2020.

Featured, "The secret of his success: Donald Trump's six weird tricks for authoritarian rule," [Salon](#), July 4, 2020.

Live event, "Four Questions," [Zocalo Public Square](#), June 16, 2020.

Asha Rangappa and Jennifer Mercieca, "The Ancient Greeks' Guide to Rejecting Propaganda and Disinformation: How Plato and the Sophists Can Help Us Find Shared Truth and Solve Our Political Problems," [Zocalo](#), June 7, 2020.

Jennifer Mercieca, "A field guide to Trump's dangerous rhetoric," [The Conversation](#), June 19, 2020.

Interview, Keen On, [LitHub](#) Podcast: Demagogue for President, June 16, 2020.

Interviewed, "Trump's threats to use force against protesters fit a long-standing pattern," [The Washington Post](#), June 2, 2020.

Interviewed, "Why Trump Is Peddling Extra-Strength Conspiracy Theories," [Politico](#), May 12, 2020.

Interviewed, "Trump labels Americans as 'warriors' in risky push to reopen amid pandemic," May 7, 2020.

Interview, [New Books Podcast](#): *Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump*, May 2020.

Jennifer Mercieca, "When Trump says he was being 'sarcastic,' it's just part of his gaslighting," [Washington Post](#), April 25, 2020.

Interview, "American Demagogue," [The Open Mind](#), PBS, April 30, 2020.

Interview, "260,000 Words, Full of Self-Praise, From Trump on the Virus," [New York Times](#), April 26, 2020.

Interview, "Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump," C-SPAN, [Book TV](#), April 17, 2020.

Interviewed, "Donald Trump's Greatest Escape," [Politico](#), April 17, 2020.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Why Does The 2020 Presidential Campaign Feel So Loud and Angry? In an Age of 'Post-Rhetorical' Politics, Candidates Now Compete, Rather Than Cooperate, With the Media," [Zocalo: The Public Square](#), March 15, 2020.

Jennifer Mercieca, "The Emergence of the Outrage Presidency," [Spectra](#), March 2020.

Interviewed, "These Rhetorical Devices Help Trump Maintain Power," [Trumpcast](#), Jan 24, 2020.

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Interviewed, "rump Has a Habit of Quoting His Allies on Twitter Saying Things They Never Said," *New York Times*, December 20, 2019.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Law-and-order or conspiracy? How political parties frame the impeachment battle will help decide Trump's fate," *The Conversation*, November 12, 2019. Adapted for high school students by *Actively Learn*.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Why won't Democrats say they want government to solve problems?" *The Conversation*, September 13, 2019.

Interviewed, "Why does Donald Trump seem to have such a problem with the truth? The Inquiry," *BBC The Inquiry*, September 4, 2019.

Live Event: "Beware the Propagandist You See in the Mirror: Americans Are Overwhelmed by Persuasive Messaging, Even as They Bombard Each Other," *Zocalo: The Public Square*. Live public event, June 5, 2019 recorded for C-SPAN, aired August 15, 2019.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Fighting words for a New Gilded Age - Democratic candidates are sounding a lot like Teddy Roosevelt," *The Conversation*, June 28, 2019.

Live Event: *Zocalo Salon, Demagogue for President*, Los Angeles, June 5, 2019.

Interviewed, "Trump is twice as extreme as his predecessors in the past century. That's dangerous," *The Washington Post*, May 24, 2019.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Mueller Report Illustrates Trump's Authoritarian Rhetorical Tactics," *Just Security*, May 1, 2019.

Interviewed, "The insiders' guide to the Mueller report," *Politico*, April 15, 2019.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Is Donald Trump a rhetorical genius? - video explainer," *The Guardian* video, April 10, 2019.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Michael Cohen's verbal somersault, 'I lied, but I'm not a liar,' translated by a rhetoric expert," *The Conversation*, February 27, 2019. Adapted for high school students by *Actively Learn*.

Live Interview, The State of the Union Address, *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*, February 6, 2019.

Live Interview, The State of the Union Address, *Background Briefing with Ian Masters*, February 5, 2019.

Contributing Editor, *Zocalo: The Public Square*, Arizona State University (January 2019-present).

Live Interview, "Why Incivility Is A Symptom of A Much Bigger Problem," Texas Standard, December 27, 2018.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Preaching Civility Won't Save Democracy," Zocalo, December 18, 2018. (widely reprinted, including a feature in W.W. Norton's "They Say, I Say").

Jennifer Mercieca, "The Denials of Trump," Houston Chronicle, December 11, 2018.

Live Interview, "The Art of the Obit," 1A NPR, December 4, 2018.

Live Interview, "Dotun Adebayo," BBC Radio, November 5, 2018.

Live Interview, "Harsh Words. Violent Acts. Who's Accountable?," 1A NPR, October 31, 2018.

Interviewed, "White House denies that Trump's rhetoric to blame for suspicious packages, 'anger' in society," USA Today, October 25, 2018.

Featured, "Nationalism vs. patriotism vs. globalism," Think Progress, October 24, 2018.

Featured, "6 rhetorical devices that have served Trump well," Austin-American Statesman, October 21, 2018.

Featured, "Video: Watch Alex Jones Crash Anti-Alex Jones/Trump Event In Austin," InfoWars, September 29, 2018.

Featured, "The political rhetoric of Donald Trump and Alex Jones: On fake news and weaponized communications," Austin-American Statesman, September 27, 2018.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Michael Cohen's guilty plea? 'Nothing to see here'" The Conversation, Aug 24, 2018.

Jennifer Mercieca, "America is in the Middle of a Battle Over Words Like "Diversity," The Conversation, July 23, 2018.

Live Interview, "Donald Trump's Helsinki Comments: A Rhetorical View," Texas Standard, July 17, 2018.

Interviewed, "In Trump's America, the Conversation Turns Ugly and Angry, Starting at the Top," The New York Times, June 20, 2018.

Interviewed, "Trump on Presidents' Day," Background Briefing with Ian Masters, February 19, 2018.

Interviewed, "President Trump's worst behaviors can infect us all just like the flu, according to science," The Washington Post, March 29, 2018.

Live Interview, "Analyzing President Trump's Rhetorical Style," Wisconsin Public Radio, February 9, 2018.

Featured, "Discussion in division: The founder of Aggie Agora discusses program and A&M," The Battalion, January 24, 2018.

Featured, "Paralipsis: Word of the Day," Dictionary.com, January 17, 2018.

Featured, "Shithole = Weaponized Communications," Life Elsewhere, January 13, 2018.

Featured, "A Scathing Takedown of Trump in *USA Today*," Background Briefing, December 13, 2017.

Featured, "Rhetorical Device of The Month: Paralipsis," Buckley School, December 11, 2017.

Featured, "7 Public Speaking Tips from Donald Trump," Vice News, November 13, 2017.

Live Interview, "Lying While Telling the Truth Has a New Name: Paltering," Texas Standard, November 16, 2017.

Jennifer Mercieca, "The Greatest Story Ever Told About Hyperbole, Humbug, and P.T. Barnum!"

In Turbulent Times, Showmen Can Distort Reality and Make Suckers of Us All," Zócalo, October 27, 2017.

Featured, "The Rhetoric of a 'Malignant Narcissist' ft. Jennifer Mercieca," Tarfu Report, September 1, 2017.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Trump's Missed Opportunity to Unite Nation," The Globe Post, August 13, 2017.

Live Event: "What it Means to be An American," Smithsonian Institute-Zócalo-Houston Museum of Fine Arts, May 2, 2017. With Nancy Barnes, Steven Petrow, Mickey Edwards, and Johann Neem.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "100 Days of Presidential Threats," The Conversation, April 25, 2017 (widely reprinted).

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "When Paranoid Rhetoric and Falsehoods Prevail, Public Trust Crumbles," Zócalo and World Post, Berggruen Institute, March 13, 2017 (widely reprinted).

Live Interview, "Decoding what Donald Trump is 'not saying, just saying' February 21, 2017, ABC Radio, Sydney.

Live Interview, "Comic Hero: Why Donald Trump's Candid Rhetoric Resonates With Supporters," NPR, All Things Considered, January 19, 2017.

Live Interview, "Obama's Rhetorical Legacy," Rhetorical Questions, December 20, 2016.

Live Interview, "From Alt-Right to Pro-Life Words Defining Policy Have a Big Impact," [Texas Standard](#), November 30, 2016.

Featured, "Donald Trump's Rhetorical Genius and the Making of a Demagogue," [Austin American Statesman](#), November 29, 2016.

Live Interview, "America, Nov 9. The Reactions." [Life Elsewhere](#), November 11, 2016.

Live Interview, "The role of political rhetoric in US election campaigns," RN Drive, [ABC Radio Australia](#), November 9, 2016.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "After Brutal Campaign, Clinton Embraces Transcendence," [The Conversation](#), November 9, 2016.

Live Interview, "What Would You Tell The Undecided?" [Life Elsewhere](#), November 3, 2016.

Live Interview, "What Constitutes Dangerous Political Speech And How It Can Incite Violence," The Diane Rheme Show, [NPR](#), November 2, 2016.

Live Interview, "Trump, Your Rhetoric is Showing: How His Nasty Woman Comment Reveals a Debate Strategy," [Texas Standard](#), October 20, 2016.

Live Interview, "The Secret Rhetorical Genius of Donald Trump," The Gist, [Slate](#), October 17, 2016.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Donald Trump and the Dangerous Rhetoric of Portraying People as Objects," [The Conversation](#), October 12, 2016. Widely reprinted including [The Huffington Post](#).

Live Interview, "Running on Hate: The Trump Camp Doubles Down," Background Briefing, [ABC Radio National Australia](#), October 12, 2016.

Live Interview, "Clinton-Trump Town Hall Debate Roundup," To The Point, [KCRW](#), October 10, 2016.

Live Interview, "For Tonight's VP Debate, How to Gain Insight Even From Candidate's Non-Answers," [Texas Standard](#), October 4, 2016.

Live Interview, "A Female Demagogue?" [Life Elsewhere](#), September 30, 2016.

Live Interview, "Clinton was in Command, Trump Out of Control," [Pacific Standard](#), September 28, 2016.

Live In-studio Interview, "Focus at Four: Breaking Down the First Presidential Debate," [KBTX](#), September 28, 2016.

Live Interview, "Debate This!" [Life Elsewhere](#), [WMNF-FM](#), September 23, 2016.

Interviewed, "Hillary Clinton Calls Many Trump Backers "Deplorables," and GOP Pounces, The New York Times, September 10, 2016. (cited in Wikipedia entries for "Hillary Clinton presidential campaign, 2016," "Basket of deplorables," and "United States presidential election, 2016").

Guest Appearance, "The Pros and Khans of Donald Trump," Ken Rudin's Political Junkie, August 4, 2016.

Live in-studio interview, "Focus at Four: Democratic National Convention," KBTX, July 28, 2016.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "In Acceptance Speech, Trump Embraces Role as Hero of the Forgotten," The Conversation, July 21, 2016. Widely reprinted.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Can America's deep political divide be traced back to 1832?" The Conversation, July 21, 2016. Adapted for high school students by Actively Learn.

Live Radio Interview, "Ted Cruz Refused to Endorse Trump, Now What?" Texas Standard, July 21, 2016.

Live Radio Interview, "Convention Crowd Turns on Ted Cruz as he Refuses to Back Donald Trump," KRMG, July 21, 2016.

Featured, "The Rise of Trump Studies," Politico (cover article in Politico Magazine), April 22, 2016.

Interviewed, "Donald Trump says 'America First' like isolationists before World War II," USA Today, April 10, 2016.

Live Interview, "Do Politicians Lie More than Other People?" KTRH Radio, April 20, 2016.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "We've Seen Trump's Like Before," USA Today, March 14, 2016. Widely reprinted.

Live Interview, KCBS, "Obama and Polarization," March 4, 2016.

Jennifer Mercieca, "How Donald Trump Gets Away With Saying Things Other Candidates Can't," The Conversation, March 8, 2016. Widely recirculated, most notably on the New Republic, Washington Post, Pangyrus. The Houston Chronicle added cartoons. Reposted as "There's an Insidious Strategy Behind Donald Trump's Retweets," November 29, 2017 and widely reprinted again.

Live Radio Interview, "How Trump Beat the GOP and the Media," To the Point, KCRW, Public Radio International.

Live Interview, "Donald Trump's Campaign," Newsday, BBC World News, February 23, 2016.

Live radio interview and call-in show, "Trump, the Demagogue," WPR, The Kathleen Dunn Show, December 15, 2015.

Jennifer Mercieca, "The Rhetorical Brilliance of Trump the Demagogue," The Conversation, December 11, 2015. The Houston Chronicle published it with added cartoons, December 14, 2015. It was translated into German and published by netzpiloten December 30, 2015. Translated into Japanese and published by Newsweek on January 26, 2016.

Live television interview, BBC World News, "Donald Trump's Rhetoric," December 10, 2015.

Contributed Analysis, "95,000 Words, Many of Them Ominous, From Donald Trump's Tongue," The New York Times, December 5, 2015.

Live television interview, "First Democratic Primary Debate," KAGS, October 14, 2015.

Live radio interview, "Tips for Fact-Checking," CBSDFW, September 28, 2015.

Live radio interview, "Who 'Won' Wednesday Night's CNN Republican Debates?" Texas Standard, September 17, 2015.

Live radio interview, "GOP Presidential Debate," CBSDFW, August 8, 2015.

Interviewed, "GOP Rivals Hold Fiery Debate," Houston Chronicle, August 7, 2015.

Live television interview, "Decision 2016: Debate wrap up," KAGS, August 6, 2015.

Live television interview, "A&M Political Expert Previews GOP Debate," KBTX, August 6, 2015.

Justin Vaughn & Jennifer Mercieca, "Why Presidents Must Play the Hero," Washington Post, February 17, 2014. Picked up in "Usually Center," Book Forum, July 14, 2014.

Justin Vaughn & Jennifer Mercieca, "Those who occupy the White House face daunting challenges," Idaho Statesman, February 15, 2014.

Jennifer Mercieca, "America's Love/Hate Relationship with Executive Power," TAMU Times, February 11, 2014.

Live Interview, "Reaction to the State of the Union," KAGS, January 30, 2014.

Featured in, "From Romantic Citizen to Tragic Victim: An Interview with Jennifer Mercieca," Review 31, August 5, 2013.

Live interview, "Social Media Takes Big Role in Debate Watch Party," KBTX, October 3, 2012.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Debate Watch Is Helping Young Voters Develop Citizenship Skills," TAMU Times, October 2, 2012.

Live Radio Interview: The Abolitionist Mail Crisis of 1835 by Backstory, "You've Got Mail: A History of the Post Office," July 20, 2012.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Of American Revolutionaries and American Occupiers," Encyclopedia Britannica Online, October 17, 2011. Picked up by [Book Forum](#), Omnivore, October 31, 2011.

Jennifer Mercieca, "On Political Rhetoric and Violence," Encyclopedia Britannica Online, January 10, 2011.

Jennifer Mercieca, "Has Obama Failed America or has America Failed Obama?" Forum on the Obama Presidency, Encyclopedia Britannica Online, December 13, 2010.

Interviewed on KEOS, "Information Underground," topic: [Founding Fictions](#), July 4, 2010.

Interviewed on WCPN, "Sound of Ideas," topic: Feuding Founders, June 30, 2010.

Interviewed by the Official City of Bryan You Tube Channel about Rhetoric, Politics, and the Obama Phenomenon conference, Episode 41, March 15, 2010.

Interviewed on KEOS about Rhetoric, Politics, and the Obama Phenomenon conference, February 28, 2010 and March 3, 2010.

National Communication Association, Spotlight Panel, November 2009 (filmed for NCA's "Five-Years Out" series and posted to the NCA website. James Jasinski & Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Analyzing Constitutive Rhetorics: The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions and the 'Principles of '98'."

Interviewed, "Bryan and College Station Schools Make President's Speech Optional," KBTX, September 3, 2009.

Jennifer R. Mercieca, "Don't Fear Oratory," [Communication Currents](#), December, 2008.

Courses Taught

Professor, Texas A&M University, 2021-present

- COMM 658 Graduate Seminar: The Dark Arts of Communication
- COMM 640 Graduate Seminar: Rhetorical Theory
- COMM 440 Political Communication
- COMM 438 Propaganda
- COMM 431 The Rhetoric of Social Movements
- COMM 243H Argumentation Theory & Practice

Associate Professor, Texas A&M University, 2009-2021

- COMM 640 Graduate Seminar: Rhetorical Theory
- COMM 649 Graduate Seminar: American Political Rhetoric to 1865
- COMM 651 Graduate Seminar: Presidential Rhetoric

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- COMM 659 Graduate Seminar: Citizenship & The Public Sphere
- COMM 658 Graduate Seminar: Democracy and Demagoguery
- COMM 681 Professional Development Seminar
- COMM 460 Special Topics: Rhetoric & Political Campaigning
- COMM 460 Rome in the Imagination of the American Founders
- COMM 459 Rhetoric & Activism
- COMM 440 Political Communication
- COMM 438 Propaganda
- COMM 431 The Rhetoric of Social Movements
- COMM 301 The Rhetorical Tradition
- COMM 243H Argumentation Theory & Practice
- LBAR 181: Thinking Critically About American Citizenship

Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University, 2003-2009

- COMM 640 Graduate Seminar: Rhetorical Theory
- COMM 649 Graduate Seminar: American Political Rhetoric to 1865
- COMM 659 Graduate Seminar: Citizenship & The Public Sphere
- COMM 460 Rome in the Imagination of the American Founders
- COMM 460 The Rhetoric of Rights and Safety in U. S. History
- COMM 460H The Rhetoric of Rights and Safety in U.S. History
- COMM 460 Rhetoric & Activism
- COMM 460 Rome in the Imagination of the American Founders
- COMM 431 Social Movements
- COMM 327 American Oratory
- COMM 301 The Rhetorical Tradition
- COMM 243H Argumentation Theory & Practice
- COMM 243 Argumentation Theory & Practice
- COMM 203 Public Speaking

Graduate Student Advising

Doctoral Director

Nance Heise

Julia Medhurst

Brady Creel, degree completed December 2016.

Andrea Terry, degree completed December 2016.

Doctoral Committee Member

Yael Avnaim Hamou-Regev

Andrew Christjoy

Kyra Heatly

Caitlin Miles, degree completed 2019.

Forrest Rule

Matt Ray

Krystal Fogle, degree completed 2021.

Robin Bedenbaugh, degree completed May 2018.

Rhiannon Goad, English, University of Texas, Austin, degree completed 2018.

Jennifer R. Mercieca 30

Ted Brown (Political Science), degree completed December 2013.
Casie Cobos (English), degree completed May 2012.
Chris Cudahy, degree completed January 2015.
Megan Kathleen Dyer (Political Science), degree completed May 2017.
Grant Ferguson (Political Science), degree completed May 2014.
Jeremiah Hickey, degree completed December 2008.
Jonathon Jones, degree completed December 2009.
Eleanor Lockhart, degree completed May 2015.
Christie Maloyed (Political Science), degree completed May 2010.
Ryan Malphurs, degree complete May 2010.
Susan Patterson (English)

Master's Committee Chair

Kathryn Kelly, degree completed December 2007.
Zoe Hess, degree completed May 2010.
Sara Rowe, degree completed August 2012.
Melisa Vanderhei, degree completed August 2014.

Master's Committee Member

Paul Stob, degree completed May 2004.
Adria Battaglia, degree completed August 2005.
Joshua Butcher, degree completed August 2006.
Claire E. Odom (English), degree completed May 2010.
Cory Lehman (English), degree completed May 2010.
Brad Serber, degree completed May 2012.
Caleb Westbrook, degree completed May 2012.

Texas A&M Department of Communication Service

- Promotion and Tenure Committee Chair, 2023-2025.
- Faculty Search Committee Member, 2023-2024.
- Undergraduate Committee Member, 2019-2020.
- Editor: Civic Dialogue & Leadership's Project Presidents' Day, February 17, 2014.
"Barack Obama's Heroic Rhetoric," Civic Dialogue & Leadership's Project Presidents' Day, February 17, 2014.
- Faculty Search Committee Chair, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 (two searches).
- Symbolic Violence Conference Planning Committee Member, 2011-2012.
- Director, Rhetoric, Politics & the Obama Phenomenon conference, 2010.
- Department Advisory Committee, 2010-2015.
- Colloquium Committee Chair, 2009-2010, 2011-2014, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023.
- Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2009-present.
- Awards Committee Chair, 2011-2018.
- Public Information Officer, 2011-2015.
- Resources and Technology Chair, 2011-2014.
- Graduate Committee Member, 2004-2008.
- Rhetoric Faculty Search Committee Member, 2005-2006, 2006-2007.

- Presidential Rhetoric Conference Planning Committee Member, 2004-2005.

Texas A&M College of Liberal Arts Service

- Reviewer: College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Research Award, February, 2026.
- Director, Aggie Lyceum, 2025-present.
- IFRAC committee member, 2022-2023.
- Aggie Agora, Director, October 2015-May 2018 (acting Director February 2015-October 2015).
- Co-Chair, Political Communication Colloquium Series, 2014-2016.
- Co-Chair, Taskforce on Undergraduate Education in the Arts and Humanities, 2013-2014.
- Taskforce on Strengthening Democracy Committee member, 2013-2016.
- Planning and Resources Committee Member, 2011-2013.
- Glasscock Center Advisory Council Member, 2010-2011.
- Communication Department Representative, Liberal Arts Council, 2007-2010, 2020-2022.
- Study Abroad Faculty, Santa Chiara Study Center, Castiglion Fiorentino, Italy, Fall 2008, Spring 2018.

Texas A&M University Service

- General Education Review Committee Member, Office of the Provost, 2026.
- Citizenship and Service Program, 2025-present.
 - President's Citizenship and Service Summit panelist
 - Pillar Holder: Skills
 - Assessment and Badging Committee
 - Civil Discourse Symposium Planning Committee
 - Aggie Lyceum Student Chapter Advisor
- Association of Former Students Teaching Award Selection Committee, Office of the Dean of Faculties, 2016-2017.
- TOP Grant Selection Committee, Office of the Dean of Faculties, 2016.
- Dean of Faculties Search Committee member, 2015-2016.
- Co-Chair, Presidential Debate Site Bid Academic Planning Committee, 2014-2015.
- Member, Presidential Debate Site Bid Executive Committee, 2014-2015.
- Member, Strengthening Democracy Steering Committee, 2014-2015.
- Reviewer, Program to Enhance Scholarly Research and Creative Activities Grant, Spring 2010.
- American Studies Advisory Council Member, 2005-2010.
- Moderator, Wiley Lecture Series, "Constitution Day Debate," Texas A&M University, September 19, 2005.
- Interviewer, Harry S Truman Scholarship Nominees, University Honors Office, 2005-2008.

Elected Offices & Disciplinary Service

- Rhetoric Society of America, Development Committee, 2023-present.
- Rhetoric Society of America, Research Network Forum Leader, Minneapolis, May 2018.

- Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award Committee Chair, National Communication Association, 2018.
- Vice-Chair Elect, Vice-Chair, Chair, Past-Chair, Public Address Division, National Communication Association, 2014-2018.
- Program Planner, Public Address Division, National Communication Association National Convention, 2016.
- Awards Committee, Gerard Hauser Award, Rhetoric Society of America, 2016.
- Chair, Kneupper Award Committee, Rhetoric Society of America, 2014.
- #TeamRhetoric organizer on Twitter, including organizing 23 schools to participate in DebateWatch during the four presidential and vice-presidential debates in 2012 and 2016. I started the #TeamRhetoric hashtag in August 2010.
- Secretary, Public Address Division, National Communication Association, 2006-2009.
- Awards Committee, Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association, 2005-2008.
- Representative to the NCA Resolutions Committee, Public Address Division, National Communication Association, 2005-2006.
- Representative to the NCA Resolutions Committee, Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association, 2004-2005.
- Nominating Committee Member, Rhetoric and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association, 2003-2004.
- Nominating Committee Member, Public Address Division, National Communication Association, 2003-2004.

Editorial Boards and Editorial Review

- Rhetoric & Public Affairs, Editorial Board Member, 2020-present.
- Texas A&M University Press, Editorial Board Member, 2018-present.
- Associate Editor, Current Commentary, National Communication Association, 2017-2019.
- Contributing Editor, Zocalo: The Public Square, Arizona State University, January 2019-present.
- Managing Editor, Citizen Critics, January 20, 2017-2019.
- Southern Journal of Communication, Editorial Board Member, 2014-present.
- The Quarterly Journal of Speech, Editorial Board Member, 2013-present; ad hoc reviewer, 2004-2013.
- Rhetoric Society Quarterly, Editorial Board Member, 2011-present.
- Voices of Democracy, Editorial Board Member, 2009-present.
- Western Journal of Communication, Editorial Board Member, 2012.
- Communication Monographs, Editorial Board Member, 2011-2014.
- Communication Theory, guest reviewer.
- Rhetoric & Public Affairs, guest reviewer, 2003-present.
- Management Communication Quarterly, guest reviewer.
- Congress and the Presidency, guest reviewer.
- Rhetoric Society of America, 2009, 2010, 2013.

- Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association Conference, 2009, 2010.
- Public Address Division, National Communication Association Conference, 2004, 2008, 2010.
- American Studies Division, National Communication Association Conference, 2006.

Memberships

- National Communication Association
- Rhetoric Society of America
- American Political Science Association
- International Communication Association