

**Reed Van Schenck, M.A.**

Ph.D Student and Teaching Assistant  
Department of Communication  
University of Pittsburgh  
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**Education**

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| 2021 | M.A., University of Pittsburgh, Communication   |
| 2019 | B.A., Summa Cum Laude, Wake Forest University 2015-2019<br>Majors: History, Communication;<br>Minor: Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies |

**Current Academic Training**

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| 2019-present | Ph.D, University of Pittsburgh, Communication<br>Committee: Dr. Paul Johnson (Chair), Dr. Calum Matheson,<br>Dr. Gordon Mitchell, Dr. Josef Nguyen (University of Texas at Dallas) |
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**Honors and Awards**

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| 2022 | Teddy Albinak Award for Outstanding Instruction in Applied Persuasion, University of Texas, Austin, TX.   |
| 2019 | Dietrich School Fellowship for Incoming Students, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.<br><br>Top Student Paper in the GLBTQ Studies Division for "Surviving Whiteness," National Communication Association, Baltimore, MD.<br><br>Senior Award for Service and Activism, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC.<br><br>Senior Award for Distinguished Achievements in Communication, Department of Communication, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC.<br><br>Best Honors Thesis, Department of Communication, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC. |

## Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

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- Forthcoming      “‘Remaking the World Memetically’: Interrogating White Nationalist Subject Formation through the Circulation of the ‘Wagecuck’ Meme.” *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, vol. 20 iss. 3, September 2023.

## Book Chapters

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- Forthcoming      “‘America First is Inevitable’: The White Triumphalist Rhetoric of Nicholas Fuentes,” in *Extremism and Conspiracy Movements: From The Alt-Right to QAnon*, ed. Christopher T. Conner and Nicholas MacMurray, Lexington Books.

## Book Reviews

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- 2022      “Decoding the Digital Church.” *Southern Communication Journal* 87, no. 6 (October 11, 2022). Forthcoming in print.
- 2021      “Rhetoric in Neoliberalism.” *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 107, no. 1 (January 2, 2021): 112–16.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00335630.2020.1838073>.

## Conference Papers (selected)

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- 2023      “Memetic Expressions of Racial and Class Anxiety on 4chan,” LACK at the Lake, Burlington, VT.
- 2022      “Situating Ongoing Interventions Into Extremism: Whiteness, Gender, and Digitality,” National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.
- “Queer and Trans Participation in Intercollegiate Policy Debate,” National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.
- “Finding Our PLACE in Activism and Social Justice: A Rich Discussion about In-Progress Works from Graduate Students in the Division,” National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.
- “Neo-McCarthyism: Anti-Communist Rhetoric in U.S. American Reactionary Digital Networks,” Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association, online.
- “The Ethnostate of Father, Mother, and Me: The Sexual Relation of White Nationalism,” Lacan: Clinic and Culture, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.

- “Deplatforming the People: Reckoning with Victimhood, Censorship, and Radicalization in the Online Populist Rhetoric of Nicholas J. Fuentes,” Chair on “Erasure and Hyper-Exposure: Reckoning with Hate and New Media,” Cultural Studies Association, Chicago, IL.
- “Lurking in the Closet: A Cyberethnographic Analysis of Transgender Embodiment on 4chan's /lgbt/ Board,” Rhetoric Society of America, Baltimore, MD.
- “The Charge of Activism” (Chair), Rhetoric Society of America, Baltimore, MD.
- 2021 “Wacky Ideologies: The Memetic Circulation of the Political Compass,” National Communication Association, Seattle, WA.
- “Seeing versus Believing: Teaching Digital Rhetoric in a Post-Truth World,” National Communication Association, Seattle, WA.
- “From Debater to Coach: The Transition from Participant to Leadership Roles in Collegiate Policy Debate,” National Communication Association, Seattle, WA.
- “Watch Me Debate: Livestream Debate Cultures and Mediated Argument,” Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association, online.
- 2020 “Digital Dissent: Navigating a Future for Collegiate Policy Debate,” National Communication Association, online.
- 2019 “Surviving Whiteness: Fantasy, Faggotry, and the Androphile Politics of Jack Donovan,” National Communication Association, Baltimore, MD.
- “Debate and the Far Right,” National Communication Association, Baltimore, MD.
- “Dysphoria Wars: Transmedicalism and its Unthought Subjects,” Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.
- “The Historian of Non-Events: Re/Presenting the Past in Postmodern Times,” Undergraduate Moral and Political Philosophy Conference, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC.
- 2018 “Monsters at Play: The Rhetoric of Fear in Anti-Transgender

Bathroom Bill Visual Rhetoric,” National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.

"(Trans)Gender at Play: Enhancement as a Rhetorical Intervention into Gender-Affirming Surgery", National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.

## **Work Experience**

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### **Teaching**

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

2022-present

Interim Program Administrator, College in High School:

- Argumentation Forum (Spring 2023)

2020-present

Instructor, Department of Communication:

- Public Speaking (COMMRC 0520)
- Argumentation (COMMRC 0500)

### **Debate Pedagogy**

2020-present

Graduate Assistant, William Pitt Debating Union, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

2022

Lab Leader, Dartmouth Debate Institute, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.

2016-2020

Lab Assistant, Ross Kennedy Smith Debate Institute, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC.

### **Research Positions**

Institute for Research on Male Supremacism, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.  
Mentee, 2022-present.

Digital Scholarship Services, University of Pittsburgh Library System, Pittsburgh, PA.

Intern, Summer 2021.

Outputs: [“Pittsburgh Always Antifascist”](#) (Digital Exhibit) and [Geotags for Archival Material](#)

### **Public Advocacy**

The Ministry of Science, online.

Argument Consultant, 2022-present.

Design and organize live-streamed public debates about scientific controversies.

North Carolina Trans Pride, Charlotte, NC.

Co-Presenter: “The Labor of Trans Activism: Lessons from the Triad” with Tessa Harper, October 2018.

Wake Forest University LGBTQ Center, Winston-Salem, NC.

Speakers’ Bureau Member, 2017-2019.

Facilitated DEI trainings for faculty about gender and sexuality.

The Young Democratic Socialists of America

President, Wake Forest University Chapter, 2018-2019.

Co-Author, National [Mutual Mentorship Guide](#), Fall 2018.

Pro Humanitate Institute BRANCHES Social Justice Retreat, Washington, D.C.

Moderator, October 2017.

Directed modules designed to teach DEI best practices.

## Service

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2022-Present

Secretary, Rhetoric Society of America Student Chapter, University of Pittsburgh.

Vice President, Communication Graduate Student Organization, University of Pittsburgh.

Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization, University of Pittsburgh.

2021-2022

Proseminar Curriculum Committee, Department of Communication, University of Pittsburgh.

Arts and Sciences GSO Representative from Communication, University of Pittsburgh.

2020-2021

Social Media Coordinator, Cultural Studies and Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Graduate Student Organization, University of Pittsburgh.

Arts and Sciences GSO Representative from Communication, University of Pittsburgh.

2019-2020

Programming Coordinator, Cultural Studies and Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Graduate Student Organization, University of Pittsburgh.

Graduate Culture and Experience Representative,  
Communication Graduate Student Organization, University  
of Pittsburgh.

2018 Program Assistant, Wake Forest Argumentation Conference.

2016 Moderator, Wake Forest University Women's, Gender, and  
Sexuality Studies Symposium

### **Academic Affiliations**

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Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life

Institute for Research on Male Supremacism

Collaboratory against Hate Research and Action Center

National Communication Association

Rhetoric Society of America

Cultural Studies Association

Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association

Phi Beta Kappa, Wake Forest University

Lambda Pi Eta, Wake Forest University