

Jay P. Childers

Associate Professor
Department of Communication Studies
1440 Jayhawk Boulevard
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045
785-864-1474—phone
jaychilders@ku.edu

Education

Ph.D. in Communication Studies, University of Texas at Austin, July 2006
Specialization: Rhetoric and Political Communication
Dissertation: *Cowboy Citizenship: The Rhetoric of Civic Identity among Young Americans, 1965-2005*.
Supervisor: Roderick P. Hart

M.A. in English, State University of West Georgia, August 1998
Specialization: American Novel, American Renaissance, and Transcendentalism
Master's Thesis: *A Voice in the Wind: Transcendentalism in the Writings of James Dickey*.
Supervisor: Jane Hill

B.A. in English, Minor in Communications, Georgia State University, August 1996

Employment

University of Kansas, Associate Professor, 2013-present
University of Kansas, Assistant Professor, 2006-2013
University of Texas, Graduate Instructor, 2003-2006
University of Texas, Research Assistant, 2001-2003
University of West Georgia, Instructor, 1999-2001

Research

Books

Childers, J.P. (2012). *The Evolving Citizen: American Youth and the Changing Norms of Democratic Engagement*. University Park: Penn State University Press.

Hart, R.P., Childers, J.P., & Lind, C. (2013). *Political Tone: Why People Feel What They Feel*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Scholarly Publications

Childers, Jay P., & Stangler, McKay (forthcoming). "Defining Fairness in the Economic Rhetoric of the 2012 Presidential Election." In John C. Tedesco et al. (eds.), *Alienation: The Divide and Conquer Election of 2012* (New York: Peter Lang).

Childers, Jay P., Wonnacott, Mark (forthcoming). "Imagining U.S. Democratic Values in Commencement Addresses." In Roderick P. Hart (ed.), *Communication and Language Analysis in the Public Sphere* (Hershey, PA: IGI Global).

Childers, Jay P. (2013). "The Democratic Balance: President McKinley's Assassination as Domestic Trauma." *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 99: 156-179.

Childers J.P., & Meserko, V. (2013). "Critical Pedagogy as Public Modality: Glenn Beck's Undemocratic Defensive Citizenship." *Western Journal of Communication* 77: 34-53.

Childers, J.P. (2013) "A Lighthouse at the Crossroads: Barack Obama's Call for Agonistic Democracy," In Jennifer R. Mercieca and Justin Vaughn (eds), *Obama's Burden: Rhetoric, Politics, and the Obama Phenomenon* (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press).

Childers, J.P. (2010). "The Decider and The Debater: George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Two Very Different Democratic Styles." In Barry Brummett (Ed), *The Politics of Style and the Style of Politics* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield).

Childers, J.P. (2010). "Talk about Talk: The Conversational Metaphor in the 2008 Presidential Primaries." *American Behavioral Scientist* 54: 337-354.

Childers, J.P. (2010). Paternalistic Rhetoric and the American People. In Michelle Smith & Barbara Warnick (Eds). *The Responsibilities of Rhetoric* Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

Childers, J.P. (2009). Going All In on the Global Market: The Rhetorical Performance of Neoliberal Capitalism on ESPN's World Series of Poker. In Barry Brummett (Ed.) *Cultural Rhetorics of Performance in Sports and Games*.

Childers, J.P. (2008). Deliberating Rhetoric: Review Essay. *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 94(4).

Childers, J.P. (2007). Rhetoric and Media Studies. In W. Donsbach (Ed.) *International Encyclopedia of Communication*.

Childers, J.P., & Doyle, J. (2006). Understanding the Power of Language. In J. Daly (Ed.) *Fundamentals of Communication*.

Hart, R.P., & Childers, J.P. (2005). The Evolution of Candidate Bush. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 48(3), 1-18.

Hart, R.P., & Childers, J.P. (2004). Verbal Certainty in American Politics: An Overview and Extension. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 34(3), 516-535.

Invited Presentations

Childers, J.P. Reshaping Democratic Norms following the 1946 Quadruple Lynching in Georgia. Seminar on Situated Discourses of Citizenship at the National Communication Association, Washington, D.C., November 2013.

Childers, J.P. The Evolution of Youth Citizenship. Presented in Soo-Hye Han's graduate seminar, Kansas State University, May 1, 2012.

Childers, J.P. The Rhetorics of Occupy Wall Street. Special Panel at Central States Communication Association, Cleveland, OH, March 2012.

Childers, J.P. Agonistic Democracy and the Realities of Rhetoric. Spotlight panel at the Rhetoric Society of America Biannual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, May 2010.

Convention Presentations

Childers, J.P. Lines in the Sand: The Taxpayer Protection Pledge and Congressional Civility. Paper presented at the Central States Communication Association, Kansas City, MO, April 2013.

Childers, J.P. The Rhetoric of America's Democratic Values in University Commencement Addresses, 1935-2012. Paper presented at DICTION Conference, Austin, TX, February 2013.

Childers, J.P. Unfit for Democracy: Theodore Roosevelt's Right Sort of Immigrant. Paper presented at the National Communication Association, Orlando, FL, November 2012.

Childers, J.P. Defining Democracy Following Domestic Crisis: McKinley's Assassination and the Productive, Sober-Minded Citizen. Paper to be presented at the Rhetoric Society of America Biannual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, May 2012.

Childers, J.P. Gustave Le Bon and Early Twentieth Century Rhetoric. Paper to be presented at the American Society for the History of Rhetoric Conference, Philadelphia, PA, May 2012.

Childers, J.P. Inciting Violence through Rhetoric in the Weak-Minded Foreigners: The Narrative Explanation of Leon Czolgosz's Assassination of President William McKinley. Paper presented at the Symbolic Violence Conference, Bryan, TX, March 2012.

Childers, J.P., and Meserko, V. Teaching Defensive Citizenship: Glenn Beck's Paranoia and Pedagogical Style. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, November 2011.

Hart, R. P., and Childers, J.P. George W. Bush Wasn't so Bad: An Empirical Study. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, November 2010.

Childers, J.P. 'By All Means, Let Us Argue,' John McCain and the Problem of Agonistic Democracy. Paper presented at the Rhetoric Society of America Biannual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, May 2010.

Childers, J. P. A Lighthouse at the Crossroads: Barack Obama's Agonistic Rhetoric at Notre Dame. Paper to be presented at the Obama Phenomenon Conference, Texas A&M University, March 2010.

Childers, J. P. Democratic Imaginaries: A Brief Theoretical Justification. Paper presented in the Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, NCA, Chicago, 2009.

Childers, J. P. Talk about Talk: Calls for Conversation in the 2008 Presidential Election. Paper presented

- in the Political Communication Division, CSCA, St. Louis, MO, 2009.
- Hart, R. P., and Childers, J. P. The Misunderstood Presidency of George W. Bush: A Stylistic Analysis. Paper presented at the International Society for Political Psychology, Paris, France, 2008.
- Childers, J.P. Paternalistic Rhetoric and the American People. Paper presented at the Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Seattle, WA, 2008.
- Childers, J.P. Paternal Rhetoric: George W. Bush's Political Style. Paper presented in the Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, NCA, Chicago, 2007.
- Childers, J.P. Citizens at the Kid's Table: George W. Bush's Paternal Rhetoric of Exclusion. Paper presented in the Public Address Division, NCA, Chicago, 2007.
- *Childers, J.P. A New Generation of Removed Volunteers: The Changing Civic Identity of Adolescents in the United States. *Top Paper presented in the Political Communication Division, CSCA, Minneapolis, MN, 2007.
- Childers, J.P. Paternal Rhetoric versus Communal Discourse: The Rhetorical Framing of War on Terror in the 2006 General Election. Paper presented in Political Communication Division, CSCA, Minneapolis, MN, 2007.
- Childers, J.P. Civic Identity: Understanding Today's Citizenship Through Rhetorical Praxis. Paper presented at the Rhetoric Society Association Conference, Memphis, TN, 2006.
- Childers, J.P. Civic Identity: A Research Construct for Reassessing Community Involvement and Political Engagement. Paper presented in the Political Communication Division, NCA, Boston, MA, 2005.
- Childers, J.P. From Citizen to Consumer: A New Civic Identity for American Youth. Paper presented in the Applied Communication Division, NCA, Boston, MA, 2005.
- Childers, J.P. Creating a Society of Addicts: The Dangers of a Simulated Political Rhetoric. Paper presented in the Rhetorical and Communication Studies Division, NCA, Boston, MA, 2005.
- Hart, R.P., and Childers, J.P. George W. Bush and the Language of Command: A Daily Diary. Paper presented in the Political Communication Division, APSA, Washington, DC, 2005.
- Childers, J.P. Cosmopolitan Flaneurs: How Television is Creating a Democratic Void. Paper presented at the National Communication Association's Doctoral Honors Conference, Norman, OK, 2005.
- Childers, J.P. The Strauss Institute for Civic Participation: A Research Trajectory for Political Communication Centers. Invited presentation in the Political Communication Interest Group, ECA, Pittsburgh, PA, 2005.
- *Childers, J.P. Assessing the Democratic Void: The Effects of Cosmopolitanism and Communitariansim on the Political Participation of Young Adults." *Top Paper presented in the Political Communication Interest Group, CSCA, Kansas City, MO, 2005.

Childers, J.P. Talking His Way to Power: A DICTION Analysis of George W. Bush's First 1,000 Days. Paper Presented in the Political Communication Division, NCA, Chicago, IL, 2004.

*Sawyer, J.K., and Childers, J.P. Bush Rhetoric on the International Stage: A Comparison of Style Between Global Leaders. *Top Paper presented in the Political Communication Division, NCA, Chicago, IL, 2004.

Childers, J.P. Global Cosmopolitan, Local Flaneur: New Youth Political Attitudes. Poster Presentation at NCA, Chicago, IL, 2004.

Hart, R.P., and Childers, J.P. The Evolution of Certainty in Presidential Discourse. Paper presented at the Researching the Presidency Conference, College Station, TX, 2004.

Funded Research Experience

National Focus Group Coordinator for the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Participation's Young Voter Initiatives II and III. Roderick P. Hart and Sharon E. Jarvis Co-Principal Investigators. Funding for the Evaluation of the Campaign for Young Voters, a project aimed at increasing the involvement of young people in the democratic process. The national campaign was sponsored by Council for Excellence in Government and funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts. \$340,000.

Research Reports

Childers, J.P., & Hart, R.P. (2003). "Interviews about Toolkit Reaction." Report Prepared for the Council for Excellence in Government. http://communication.utexas.edu/strauss/pdf/report_three_interviews_about_toolkit_reaction.pdf

Childers, J.P., & Hart, R.P. (2003) "Focus Group Study of Youth and Politics." Report prepared for the Council for Excellence in Government. http://communication.utexas.edu/strauss/pdf/report_eight_focus_group_study_of_youth_and_politics.pdf

Teaching/Research Experience

Assistant/Associate Professor, Communication Studies, University of Kansas (2006-present)
Courses Taught: Rhetoric, Politics, and Mass Media (COMS 335/POLS521); Modern Presidential Rhetoric (COMS 560); Rhetoric and Popular Culture (COMS 560); Presidential Rhetoric (COMS 930); Rhetoric, Politics, and Mass Media (COMS 930); Rhetoric and the Public Sphere (COMS 930); Rhetoric and Agency (COMS 930); Rhetoric, Democracy, and Citizenship (COMS 930)

Assistant Instructor, Communication Studies, University of Texas, Austin (2003-2006).
Courses Taught: Speechmaking & Society (CMS 317C); Language, Culture and Communication (CMS 314L); Professional Communication Skills (CMS 306M)

Research Assistant, Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Participation, University of Texas (2001-2003)
Projects worked on: Campaign for Young Voters, Voices of Citizenship Symposium

Instructor, Department of English, State University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA (1999-2001).

Courses Taught: Introduction to Text-Based Writing (E 1101), Introduction to Literature (E 1102)

Doctoral Students Directed

Steven Melling, University of Kansas, 2012

Vince Meserko, University of Kansas, In Progress.

McKay Stangler, University of Kansas, In Progress.

Mark Wonnacott, University of Kansas, In Progress.

Master's Students Directed

Tyler Kimbrell, University of Kansas, In Progress.

Carl Walz, "Constructing the Message: The Influence of Differing Political Communication Styles of Voter Decision Making," University of Kansas, 2009

Tony Venturella, Comprehensive Exams, University of Kansas, 2009

Vince Meserko, University of Kansas, University of Kansas, 2010

Undergraduate Honors Theses Directed and Completed

Zachary Pollack, "Palestinian Identity: Constitutive Rhetoric and the Failure of the Two-State Solution," University of Kansas, 2010

Monica Crane, "On a Theory of Paranoid Rhetoric: President George W. Bush's Address to Congress on September 20, 2001," University of Kansas, 2008

Awards and Fellowships

Outstanding Professor in Communication Studies, 2010

New Faculty Grant, University of Kansas, \$8,000, Summer 2007

Top Paper, CSCA, Political Communication Division, 2007

National Communication Association, Doctoral Honors Conference, Summer 2005

Auer Award for Top Graduate Student Paper, CSCA, Political Communication Interest Group, 2005

Top Four Paper, National Communication Association, Political Communication Division, 2004

Jesse H. Jones Fellowship, \$5,600, College of Communication, University of Texas at Austin, 2004-2005.

University Tuition Fellowship, \$5,300, Graduate School, University of Texas at Austin, 2005-2006

Service

For Department

Advisory Committee, 2013-present

Awards Committee, 2012-present

Undergraduate Affairs Committee, 2008-present

Students in Communication Studies Faculty Advisor, 2008-present

Organizational Communication Search Committee, 2008

Library Resource Committee member, 2001-2003, Chair 2001-2002

Organizational Communication Search Committee, 2007

For College and University

University Senate, 2013-present

KU Core Curriculum Transition Committee, Spring 2012

Committee on Undergraduate Studies and Advising, 2010, 2011 to present

Faculty Mentor, University of Kansas Football Team, 2006 to present

Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Masters Thesis Judge, 2007, 2008

Students Advancing in Magazine Media Faculty Advisor, 2006-2008

For Discipline

Editorial Board, *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 2012-present

Editorial Board, *Communication Quarterly*, 2008-present

Manuscript Reviewer for *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 2010-present

Manuscript Reviewer for *Western Journal of Communication*, 2008-present

Manuscript Reviewer for *Communication Yearbook*, 2007-present

Conference Paper Reviewer:

National Communication Association, 2005-2009; Central States Communication Association, 2006-2009

Conference Panel Respondent:

National Communication Association, 2008, 2009; Central States Communication Association, 2008, 2011

Nominating Committee (Elected), Political Communication Division, National Communication Association, 2008-2009

Executive Committee (Elected), Political Communication Interest Group, Central States Communication Association, 2007-2010

Program Planner, Political Communication Interest Group, Central States Communication Association, 2008-2009

Secretary (Elected), Political Communication Interest Group, Central States Communication Association, 2005-2007

Membership

National Communication Association, 2001 – present.

Rhetoric Society of America, 2006 – present.

Central States Communication Association, 2004 – present.