

John T. Moist, Ph.D.

Contact Information

John T. Moist
Gies College of Business, University of Illinois
Champaign, IL, 61820
Moist2@Illinois.edu

Educational Background

PhD: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign 2022
Communication
Area of Study: Rhetoric and Public Discourse
Dissertation:
“Money for Nothing: A Rhetorical History of Arguments for a Universal Basic Income”
Advisor: Dr. Cara Finnegan

MA: Baylor University 2017
Communication
Thesis: “The Reward of Merit: Digital Constructions of the Economic Self”
Advisor: Dr. Martin Medhurst

BA: Mount Aloysius College 2014
English Literature
Thesis: “The Language of a Great Society: Political Rhetoric and the Affordable Care Act”
Advisor: Dr. Michael Jones

Employment

Gies College of Business, The University of Illinois 2024-
Research Communications Coordinator

Abilene Christian University 2024
Adjunct Faculty

Graduate College, The University of Illinois 2022-2024
Communications Specialist

Department of Communication, The University of Illinois 2017-2022
Teaching Assistant
Assistant Course Administrator
Research Assistant

Department of Communication, The University of Illinois 2019-2022

Social Media Coordinator

Baylor University 2015-2017
Instructor of Record, Baylor Honors College/Interdisciplinary Core
D.M. Edwards Fellow, The Texas Collection

The University of Maine at Presque Isle 2014-2015
AmeriCorps VISTA for Early College Access and Community Engagement

WUPI, Presque Isle ME 91.1 FM 2014-2015
Production Manager
Host, Engineer
Broadcast Mentoring

Mount Aloysius College 2011-2014
Communications Associate

Teaching

Courses Taught:

Communication 111: Oral and Written Communication (The University of Illinois)
Communication 112: Oral and Written Communication II (The University of Illinois)
Public Communication in Everyday Life (The University of Illinois)
World of Rhetoric I (Baylor University)
World of Rhetoric II (Baylor University)
Public Speaking (Abilene Christian University)

Administrative:

Communication 111-112, Oral/Written Communication 1/2: Peer Instructor and Mentor
2018 - 2019 (The University of Illinois)

Courses Assisted:

World of Rhetoric I, Dr. Sarah Walden, Baylor University, 2015, 2016
World of Rhetoric II, Dr. Sarah Walden, Baylor University, 2015
Media, Money, and Power, Dr. Robert W. McChesney, University of Illinois, 2019
The Political Economy of Communication, Dr. Robert W. McChesney, University of Illinois, 2019
Propaganda and Modern Society, Dr. Inger Stole, University of Illinois, 2019
World-Building in Film and Popular Culture, Dr. Grace Giorgio, University of Illinois, 2020
Public Communication in Everyday Life, Dr. Ned O’Gorman, University of Illinois, 2020, 2021

Honors in Teaching:

Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award, Department of Communication, 2022

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent, University of Illinois, 2017 - 2022 (Top 10% '18, '19, '21, '22)

Nominee, *Outstanding Graduate Instructor*, Baylor University, 2017

List of *Most Impactful Educators*, Baylor University, 2017

Scholarship

Publications:

“Review: ‘The Rhetoric of Religious Freedom in the United States,’ ed. Eric C. Miller
Rhetoric & Public Affairs, Vol. 24, No. 4

“Making Sense of Online Space: How Rentierism Explains Big Tech,” w/ Randall Fowler
The Pacific Journal 17, 2022

“On Master Tropes: Polysyndeton in the Age of Social Media” w/ Randall Fowler
The Pacific Journal 18, 2023

“Polysyndeton, Social Media, and the Contested Meanings of January 6, 2021,” w/ Randall Fowler
International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society

“Topoi at Work: The Rhetoric of Universal Basic Income and Getting Paid”
in *Place in the Liberal Arts: An Interdisciplinary Introduction to Text and Topos* (2026)

Conference Presentations, Workshops, and Talks:

University of Illinois Web Con, 2025
John Moist: Level Up Your Interviews (Workshop and Talk)

ASPIRE Illinois, 2023, 2024, 2025
John Moist: “Personal Branding and Social Media for Academics” (Talk and Workshops)

Association for Core Texts and Courses, 2023
John Moist: “John Maynard Keynes' "Economic Possibilities for our Grandchildren" and the Mythos of Progressive Economics,” Competitive Paper.

National Communication Association Convention (Seattle), 2021
John Moist: “Saving, Spending, and Surviving: Economic Rhetoric in the Promotion of Health Savings Accounts to those with Disabilities,” Competitive Paper.

Rhetoric Society of America, 19th Biannual Conference (Portland, OR), 2020
John Moist: “Noise Abatement and Noise Complaints: Hearing Disruption,”
Competitive Paper (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)

National Communication Association Convention (Baltimore), 2019

- John Moist: "Platforms of (Dis)Content: Scale and Modeling in the Platform Age,"
Competitive Paper.
- National Communication Association Convention (Baltimore), 2019
John Moist: "Building Wealth, Figuring Capacity: The PA ABLE Act and Rhetorics of
Disability Policy," Competitive Paper.
- National Communication Association Convention (Salt Lake City), 2018
John Moist: "Shaping a Transition: Barack Obama, the 2008 Financial Crisis, and the
Rhetorical President-Elect," Competitive Paper.
- Union for Democratic Communication Conference, 2018
John Moist: "The New Publishing: VaynerMedia, Mergers, and the Rise of Digital
Platforms," Competitive Paper.
- Union for Democratic Communication Conference, 2018
John Moist: "App-Based Drivers, Organization, and the Politics of Labor Communication in
a Changing Economy," Competitive Paper.
- Graduate Symposium on Critical Research in Communication, University of Illinois, 2017
John Moist: "Platforms of (dis)Content: How Advertisers and Publishers are Changing what
we See and Read Online."
- Graduate Symposium on Critical Research in Communication, University of Illinois, 2017
John Moist: "Not of their Own Making: Uber and the New Economy."
- National Communication Association Convention (Dallas), 2017
John Moist: "Reductio Ad Absurdum: Paul Graham and the Search for the Economic
Agent," Competitive Paper.
- Southern States Communication Association Convention (Greenville), 2017
John Moist: "An Awesome Responsibility to Withstand Her Barrage: William F. Buckley JR.
and the Role of the University in Civil Society," Top Student Paper Panel– Rhetoric and
Public Address Division.
- Southern States Communication Association Convention, 2017
John Moist: "A Thankless Compromise: YouTube, Uber, Gary Vaynerchuk, and the
Language of Hustle," Competitive Paper, Top Paper– Popular Communication Division.
- National Communication Association Convention (Philadelphia), 2016.
John Moist: "A People Set Apart: Misgendering and Rhetorical Violence," LGBTQ Studies
Division.
- National Communication Association Convention (Philadelphia), 2016
John Moist: "Different in Every Way: Rhetorical Constructions of Mediated Difference in
David Fincher's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*," Competitive Paper, Top Paper– Theater,
Film, and New Multi-Media Division.

Southern Political Science Association Convention (New Orleans), 2015
John Moist and Michael Jones: "Truth be Told: The Irrelevance of Fact in Modern Political Discourse," Competitive Paper.

Awards

James Madison Prize, Southern States Communication Association, 2025

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent, The University of Illinois, 2017 - 2022

Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award, The University of Illinois, 2022

Wayne Brockriede Fellowship, The University of Illinois, 2017

Top Paper, Southern States Communication Association Conference, Popular Communication Division, 2017

Top Paper, National Communication Association, Theater, Film, and New Multi-Media Division, 2016

D.M. Edwards Research Fellow, The Texas Collection at Baylor University, 2016

Graduate Fellowship in Interdisciplinary Rhetorical Studies, Baylor University, 2015

Service

Advisor, Student Government Association, *University of Maine at Presque Isle*, 2014-2015

Advisor, UMPI 100% LGBTQ Group, *University of Maine at Presque Isle*, 2014-2015

Editorial Intern, *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*, 2015-2017

Reviewer, Theater, Film, and New Multi-Media Division,
National Communication Association, 2017

Paper Selection Committee, CMN 111/112, University of Illinois

Reviewer, Economics, Communication and Society Division,
National Communication Association, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

Reviewer, Rhetoric and Public Address Division,
Southern States Communication Association, 2017

Panelist and Speaker

University of Illinois Department of Communication Welcome Weekend, 2019, 2020

Teaching/Coaching Volunteer, *EngineerSpeak*,
University of Illinois Department of Engineering, 2019, 2020

Graduate Student Mentor, Department of Communication, 2019-2020, 2020-2021

University of Illinois Department of Communication Professional Seminars Panelist, 2020, 2021,
2023

Communication Internship Mentor, *University of Illinois Department of Communication*, 2019, 2020, 2021

Teaching Internship Mentor, *University of Illinois Department of Communication*, 2021

Career Exploration Fellow Mentor, University of Illinois Graduate College, 2022-2024

Students Advising on Graduate Education Working Group Leader, 2022-2023

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council, Graduate College, University of Illinois, 2022-2024

Graduate College Council, University of Illinois, 2023-2024

Campus Charitable Fund Drive Unit Leader, 2022-2024

ASPIRE Illinois Contributor, 2023 -

Humanities and Social Sciences Judge, Illinois Summer Research Symposium, 2024 -