

Dr. Meredith A. Johnson
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Democracy in the Post-Truth Era Lecture Series

What does it mean to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information in an age when objective facts are often less persuasive than emotions, intuition, and personal convictions? USF's Department of English brings internationally recognized rhetoric experts to Tampa Bay who specialize in understanding public discourse and democracy to explore the communicative opportunities, obligations, and responsibilities of citizens in a post-truth era.

Dr. Jennifer Mercieca, Texas A&M

"Demagogue for President: The Rhetorical Brilliance of Donald Trump"

2:30-4:00 on 1/19/18

Grace Allen Room USF Library 4th Floor

Mercieca writes about American political discourse, especially as it relates to citizenship, democracy, and the presidency. Mercieca has published two books about political rhetoric: *Founding Fictions* (University of Alabama Press, 2010) and *The Rhetoric of Heroic Expectations: Establishing the Obama Presidency* (Texas A&M University Press, 2014). She has also contributed to USA Today, The Huffington Post, Washington Post, and other major media outlets.

Dr. Candice Rai, University of Washington

"Operation Equity: Capacities for Ethical Public Response in Post-Truth Democratic Ecologies"

2:30-4:00 on 2/16/18 2:30-4:00 on 1/19/18

Grace Allen Room USF Library 4th Floor

Rai examines how stakeholders in a gentrifying neighborhood mobilize democratic rhetoric (to very different ends) around affordable housing developments, community policing initiatives, and other contested public spaces. Her book *Democracy's Lot: Rhetoric, Publics, and the Places of Invention* was published by University of Alabama Press in 2016.

Dr. Jenny Rice, University of Kentucky

"Awful Archives: Evidence, Argument, and Extraordinary Claims"

2:30-4:00 on 3/2/18

Marshall Center Room 3711 Egret Room

Rice researches pseudo-scientific claims including conspiracy theories. Rice's book, *Distant Publics: Development Rhetoric and the Subject of Crisis*, was published by University of Pittsburgh Press.

Dr. Rob Asen, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"How to Build a Democracy: John Dewey and Milton Friedman on Education, Democracy, and Public Life"

Grace Allen Room USF Library 4th Floor 2:30-4:00 on 3/23/18

Asen studies public policy debate, public sphere studies, and rhetoric and critical theory. Asen's most recent monograph *Democracy, Deliberation, and Education* was published by Penn State University Press.

Dr. Casey Boyle, University of Texas-Austin

Grace Allen Room USF Library 4th Floor 2:30-4:00 on 4/13/18

Boyle explores the role of practice and ethics in digital rhetoric. His book *Rhetoric as a Posthuman Practice* is forthcoming from The Ohio State University Press.