
BOBBI K. OTIS

botis@westga.edu

CV updated 08/07/2026

EDUCATION

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, ATLANTA, GA

Doctor of Philosophy (ABD)

Public Communication

Concentration: Rhetoric and Politics

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA, DAHLONEGA, GA

Master of Public Administration (2016 - 2018)

Concentration: Public Affairs

Phi Kappa Phi international interdisciplinary honor society

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY, MILLEDGEVILLE, GA

Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication (2009 - 2013)

Concentrations: Print Journalism and Public Relations

Minor: Political Science

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

Limited Term Instructor for Communication Courses in the School of Communication, Film, and Media (August 2026 - present)

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, ATLANTA, GA

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record) for Communication Courses (August 2018 - July 2026)

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, ATLANTA, GA

Graduate Research Assistant (August 2018 - July 2026)

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA, DAHLONEGA, GA

Printing Associate (February 2015 - August 2018)

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

Education cannot be a solitary or passive endeavor. Instead, students and instructors must be active and collaborative partners in the classroom. The importance of teamwork informs my choice to use a mix of student-centered instruction and short traditional lectures in my courses. As the literature shows, students retain more information when they are energetically involved in their learning.

Students are asked to relate course material to current affairs or personal experiences to further explicate more difficult concepts. Learning course content is of great importance, but the student-centered approach provides the opportunity for an even greater educational expansion. It is with these views in mind that, in addition to meeting specific

course objectives, my goals in the classroom are to (1) help students develop and foster critical thinking skills, (2) apply course content in “real life” contexts, and (3) facilitate sharing from students who all have unique perspectives to offer their peers.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on structural inequality and the diverse political communication environment surrounding state voting rights policies. My current project uses rhetorical framing analysis, guided by the rhetoric of containment, to examine voter suppression efforts.

AWARDS

NCA STUDENT CAUCUS TRAVEL GRANT - OCTOBER 2022

Conferred support in the amount of \$200 by NCA IDEA Council to present research at the 2022 NCA Conference in New Orleans.

CAROL WINKLER GRADUATE TEACHING AWARD - MAY 2022

This award recognizes graduate teaching excellence in undergraduate instruction.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

**NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE –
NOVEMBER 2022**

Presented paper titled “Containing citizenship through ‘criminality’”

**SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE –
APRIL 2022**

Presented paper titled “Rebuilding democracy: An analysis of message content factors in persuasive appeals during state legislative debate”

**NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE –
NOVEMBER 2021**

Presented paper titled “‘Felon’ disenfranchisement: Labeling in state voting rights news coverage”

**NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE –
NOVEMBER 2021**

Presented paper titled “Crowdfunding during COVID-19: Keeping the ideological state apparatus strong”

**SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE –
APRIL 2021 [VIRTUAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATION]**

Presented paper titled “Public images and the civil contract of photography: Without context institutional power is privileged”

SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE –
APRIL 2021 [VIRTUAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATION]

Presented paper titled “Exploring the media coverage of Supreme Court Nominee Brett Kavanaugh: An analysis of Fox News reporting”

NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE –
NOVEMBER 2020 [VIRTUAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATION]

Presented paper titled “Legislative backlash: Florida statehouse’s response to a restoration of voting rights”

NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE –
NOVEMBER 2020 [VIRTUAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATION]

Presented paper titled “Media credentialing policies: Differences between state legislatures based on party control and professionalization level”

NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE –
NOVEMBER 2020 [VIRTUAL CONFERENCE CO-PRESENTATION]

Assisted co-author to prepare presentation on paper titled “Locating solidarity in communication studies”

SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE –
APRIL 2020 [CONFERENCE CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19]

Cancelled paper presentation on paper titled “Exploring the media coverage of Supreme Court Nominee Brett Kavanaugh: An analysis of Fox News reporting”

NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE –
NOVEMBER 2019

Presented paper titled “Florida’s felon disenfranchisement policy under fire: A look at the narrative of the movement to amend Florida’s constitution”

Organized the panel titled “Surviving Silence: Rhetorical analyses of structural inequalities and their remedies” on which my paper was presented.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FIVE PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE COURSEDEN MODULES

Attended a session detailing best practices for LMS design.

CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE IN COLLEGE TEACHING

Earned a certificate from the GSU Center of Excellence in Teaching, Learning & Online Education to demonstrate a dedication to pedagogy

REGULAR AND SUBSTANTIVE INTERACTION COURSE COMPLETION

Earned a badge for successfully completing a training course for regular and substantive interaction. The goal of the course was to introduce faculty to the interactive best practices for online course design and delivery.

INTERNATIONAL PEDAGOGICAL MENTORSHIP & TRAINING PROGRAM

Worked as the student leader on an international collaboration project to plan for and offer pedagogy instruction assistance at a university abroad.

MASTERING ONLINE TEACHING: FUNDAMENTALS OF COURSE DESIGN AND DELIVERY

Earned a badge for successfully completing a training course for online course development. The goal of the course was to introduce faculty the fundamentals of online course design and delivery.

TITLE IX & SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND BYSTANDER INTERVENTION IN THE CLASSROOM

Attended the training session presented by The Office of Graduate Services, College of Arts & Sciences

FERPA GUIDELINES

Attended the training session presented by The Office of Graduate Services, College of Arts & Sciences

EFFECTIVE CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS

Attended the training session presented by The Office of Graduate Services, College of Arts & Sciences

SAFE ZONE TRAINING

Attended the training session presented by Georgia State University Multicultural Center

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

Member (October 2018 - Present)

SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

Member (December 2018 - Present)

PEER MENTOR

Mentored a peer in the GSU Ph.D. program meeting with my peer weekly in Fall 2024 and bi-weekly in Spring 2025 to discuss challenges and opportunities in college instruction.

NCA CONFERENCE PANEL CHAIR

Chaired a panel for the Political Communication division for the 2023 and 2024 National Communication Association conference.

NCA CONFERENCE PAPER REVIEWER

Reviewed submissions to the Political Communication division for the 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 National Communication Association conference.

SSCA CONFERENCE PANEL CHAIR

Chaired a panel for the Political Communication division for the 2024 Southern States Communication Association conference

RHETORIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA

GSU Chapter Treasurer (2019 - 2020)