

## ***Leslie J. Harris***

Assistant Professor  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

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### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., December 2006

Northwestern University—Evanston, Illinois  
Area of Study: Communication Studies, Rhetoric and Public Culture  
Certificate: Gender Studies  
Dissertation: Gender and Family in Legal Change: The Rhetoric of Child  
Custody Law in Illinois Courts, 1849-1899  
Committee Chair: David Zarefsky  
Committee Members: Claire Priest, Law School  
Angela Ray

M.A., June 2003

Northwestern University—Evanston, Illinois  
Area of Study: Communication Studies, Rhetoric and Public Culture  
Committee Chair: Michael Leff  
Committee Members: Dilip Gaonkar  
Jean Goodwin

B.S., June 2001

Northwestern University—Evanston, Illinois  
Majors: Communication Studies and Gender Studies  
Honors Thesis: Child Custody, the Court, and Social Change: A  
Rhetorical Analysis of Child Custody Cases in Late Nineteenth  
Century America  
Thesis Director: Michael Leff  
Graduation Honors:  
Summa cum Laude  
Excellence in Communication Studies  
Departmental Honors—Communication Studies

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Harris, Leslie J. "Law as Father: Metaphors of Family in Nineteenth-Century  
Law." *Communication Studies*. 61 (2010): 526-542.

Harris, Leslie J. and Kimberly Smith. "Feminists for Life and the Appropriation of

- History.” In *The Functions of Argument and Social Context*, edited by Dennis S. Gouran, 158-163. Washington D.C.: National Communication Association, 2010.
- Harris, Leslie J. “Motherhood, Race, and Gender: The Rhetoric of Women’s Antislavery Activism in the *Liberty Bell* Giftbooks.” *Women’s Studies in Communication*. 32 (Fall 2009): 293-319.
- Harris, Leslie J. “Torn from Her Very Bosom: Melodramatic Argument in Nineteenth Century Law.” In *Engaging Argument*, edited by Patricia Riley, 293-298. Washington: National Communication Association, 2006.
- Harris, Leslie J. “The Court, Child Custody, and Social Change: The Rhetorical Role of Precedent in a 19th Century Child Custody Decision.” *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*. 34 (Winter 2004): 29-45.

In Progress:

*Marriage in America: Nineteenth-Century Marriage Controversies and the Making of American Identity*

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2010-2011 | University of Wisconsin Libraries Research Fellow   |
| 2009      | Graduate School Research Committee Award, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee   |
| 2009-2010 | Center Scholars in Teaching and Learning (with J. Johnson, K. Dindia, H. Song, and J. Jordan), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee    |
| 2009      | Faculty Arts and Humanities Travel Award, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee   |
| 2004      | Donald H. and Caroline C. Ecroyd Dissertation Year Fellowship, Communication Studies, Northwestern University (one of two awarded)  |
| 2003      | Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University  |
| 2002      | James L. Golden Outstanding Student Essay in Rhetoric, Laureate Group (one of the top eight essays), Bowling Green State University |
| 2001-2002 | Graduate School Fellowship, Northwestern University   |
| 2001      | Summa cum Laude, Northwestern University  |
| 2001      | Excellence in Communication Studies, Northwestern University  |
| 2001      | Departmental Honors—Communication Studies, Northwestern University  |
| 2001      | Roy V. Wood Scholarship (outstanding senior planning to pursue graduate study), School of Speech, Northwestern University           |
| 2000      | Mary Peterson Gilbert Prize (excellence in speaking), School of Speech, Northwestern University                                     |
| 2000      | Milton S. Florsheim Prize (excellence in debate), Northwestern University   |
| 1999      | James H. McBurney Award (promise in the area of logic), School of Speech, Northwestern University                                   |
| 1998      | James H. McBurney Award (promise in the area of logic), School of Speech, Northwestern University                                   |
| 1997-2001 | Dean’s List, Northwestern University  |

1997-2000 Clarion DeWitt Hardy Scholarship/ Owen L. Coon Scholarship (debate),  
Northwestern University

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- “The Paradox of Authentic Identity: Mormon Women and the Nineteenth Century Polygamy Controversy,” co-authored with Mike Allen, NCA/AFA Summer Conference on Argumentation, July 2011.
- “An Agonistic Rhetorical Criticism: Marriage and Conflict in American Public Culture,” co-authored with Elizabeth Benacka, Central States Communication Association Annual Convention, April 2011.
- “Making Gender Visible Through Music in the Non-Gender Studies Classroom,” UW System Wisconsin Women’s Studies and LGBTQ Conference, March 2011.
- “Constituting the American Identity in the Nineteenth Century Mormon Defense of Polygamy,” National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2010.
- “Feminism and the “Spiral of History”: History in the Rhetoric of Gloria Steinem,” Rhetoric Society of American Convention, May 2010
- “Gender, Law, and Public Spectacle: Rhetorically Constituting the Divorced Woman in the 1860s Popular Divorce Trials,” National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2009.
- “Feminists for Life and the Appropriation of History,” co-authored with Kimberly Smith, NCA/AFA Alta Conference on Argumentation, August 2009
- “Sensationalist Rhetoric, Gender, and Law: Making Law into Public Spectacle in 1860s Divorce Trials,” National Communication Association, November 2008
- “Listening to History Speak: Interpreting Family and State from the Nineteenth Century to the Contemporary Gay Marriage Debate,” paper competitively selected, National Communication Association, November 2008
- “Rhetorics of Marriage and Family: The Public Nature of a Private Institution,” co-authored with Elizabeth Benacka, paper competitively selected, Rhetoric Society of America Convention, May 2008
- “Race and Motherhood in the *Liberty Bell* Anti-Slavery Books,” paper competitively selected, Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Conference, April 2008
- “Race and Motherhood in the Anti-Slavery Movement,” paper competitively selected, National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2007
- “Limiting the Rule of the Father: Culture and Legal Change in Nineteenth Century Child Custody Law,” paper competitively selected, National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2007
- “Law as Father: The Relationship between the State and Family in Progressive Era Child Custody Law,” paper competitively selected, Conference on Law and the Humanities, March 2007
- “Law as Father: The Relationship between the State and Family in Progressive Era Child Custody Law,” Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference, May 2006
- “Fighting for Legal Change: The Legal Rhetorics of Susan B. Anthony and Myra Bradwell,” Susan B. Anthony & the Struggle for Equal Rights Women’s History Conference, March 2006

- “Performing Parenthood in the Law: Law as Father in the Creation of the Juvenile Court,” paper competitively selected, American Society for the History of Rhetoric/NCA pre-conference, November 2005.
- “Myra Bradwell: Redefining the Relationship between Women and Law,” paper competitively selected, Feminism(s) & Rhetoric(s) Conference, October 2005
- “Torn from Her Very Bosom: Melodramatic Argument in Nineteenth Century Law,” paper competitively selected, Alta Conference on Argumentation, August 2005
- “Torn From Her Very Bosom: Rhetorics of Motherhood in Nineteenth Century Child Custody Law,” paper competitively selected, Northwestern University Mellon Dissertation Forum, May 2005
- “Defining Race in Plessy v. Ferguson: Reconciling Contradiction through the Use of Associational Clusters,” paper competitively selected, Central States Communication Association Annual Conference, April 2005
- “The Value of Motherhood: Supreme Court Appropriations of Second Wave Rhetorics of Motherhood,” paper competitively selected, National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, November 2004
- “Arguing Evolution: Carrie Chapman Catt and First Wave Feminist Appropriations of Social Evolutionism,” paper competitively selected, Rhetoric Society of America Biannual Convention, Austin, Texas, May 2004
- ”Polarization in Martin Luther King’s ‘Letter from Birmingham Jail’ and George Wallace’s ‘1963 Inaugural Address,’” Rhetoric Conference, Northwestern University, Spring 2003
- “Social Change, the Court, and Child Custody: a Rhetorical Analysis of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Child Custody Decision,” paper competitively selected, National Communication Association Convention, New Orleans, November 2002

### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- “Pure, Pious, and Polygamous: Mormon Women and the Defense of Polygamy in the Nineteenth Century United States,” University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Communication Department, March 19, 2010
- “Pure, Pious, and Polygamous: Mormon Women and the Defense of Polygamy in the Nineteenth Century United States,” University of Wisconsin – Madison, Center for Print Culture, April 16, 2010

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee*

*Assistant Professor, 2007-present*

- Critical Analysis of Communication (graduate and undergraduate)
- Rhetorics of Radicalism in the United States (undergraduate)
- Rhetoric of Women’s Rights in the United States (graduate and undergraduate)
- Theory and Practice of Argumentation (graduate)
- Public Deliberation (graduate)

*Lake Forest College:*

*Instructor, Spring 2005-2006 and Visiting Assistant Professor, 2006-2007:*

Introduction to Communication  
 Rhetoric and Speech  
 Topics in Communication: Legal Communication  
 Topics in Communication: Gender and Media  
 Topics in Communication: Rhetorics of Radicalism

*Northwestern University:*

*Graduate Instructor, 2002-2004:*

Arts of Controversy: Introduction to Rhetorical Thinking  
 Introduction to Public Speaking

*Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2003-2004:*

Theories of Argumentation

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

2007-present Assistant Professor, Communication Department, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
 2006-2007 Visiting Assistant Professor, Communication Department, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois  
 2005-2006 Instructor, Communication Department, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois  
 1999-2000 Research Assistant for Louise Knight, Evanston, Illinois  
 2000-2001 Conference and Administrative Assistant, Gender Studies Program, Northwestern University  
 2000 Research Assistant for Michael Leff, Northwestern University  
 2000 Research Assistant for Jean Goodwin, Northwestern University  
 2000 Conference Assistant, Communication Studies, Northwestern University  
 1999-2001 Intern and Volunteer, Chicago Legal Aid to Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM), Chicago, Illinois  
 1998-2000 Volunteer, Chicago Debate Commission, Community Renewal Society, Chicago, Illinois

### **SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

*Disciplinary Service:*

Secretary, Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association 2008

Ad Hoc Reviewer:

*Communication Monographs* 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010  
 Rhetorical and Communication Theory division of the National Communication Association 2008, 2009, 2010  
 Public Address Division of the National Communication Association 2010, 2011  
*Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly* 2010  
*Law and Social Inquiry* 2010

*University Service:*

## Department Committees:

Awards Committee 2007-2009  
 Rhetorical Leadership Committee 2007-present  
 103 Advisory Committee 2007-present  
 Graduate Affairs Committee 2009-present  
 Undergraduate Research Committee 2009-present  
 Website Liaison 2010-present  
 Women's Studies Affiliate 2007-present  
 Faculty Advisor for University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Student Chapter of the  
 Rhetoric Society of America

## Directed Independent Studies/Research Practicum for:

Kimberly Smith, MA student (Spring 2009)  
 David Nawrocki (Spring and Summer 2009)  
 Semra Schneider (Fall 2009, Spring 2010)  
 Stephanie Gille (Spring 2010)  
 Amy Ogrezovich (Fall 2010)  
 Ruth Beerman, PhD student (Fall 2010)  
 Malynnda Johnson, PhD student (Fall 2010)

## MA Committee Member:

Tony Jones, 2008  
 Alex Wright, 2009  
 Marion Artner, 2011  
 Ashley Lund, 2011

## MA Thesis Director

Anne Davis, 2010

## PhD Advisor:

Ruth Beerman

## PhD Committee Member:

Malynnda Johnson  
 Lindsey Harness

**MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

National Communication Association  
 Rhetoric Society of America  
 Central States Communication Association