

## Jay P. Childers

Assistant Professor  
Department of Communication Studies  
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### Education

Ph.D. in Communication Studies, University of Texas at Austin, July 2006  
Specialization: Rhetoric and Language, 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, Assistant Professor, 2006-present

### Research

#### Scholarly Publications

- Childers, J.P. (forthcoming). Paternalistic Rhetoric and the American People. In Michelle Smith & Barbara Warnick (Eds). *The Responsibilities of Rhetoric* (Waveland Press).
- Childers, J.P. (forthcoming). 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.

### Convention Presentations

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 the War on Terror During the 2006 General Election. Paper presented in the 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 Communitarianism 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.

Childers, J.P. Political Socialization in the Heartland: A Focus Group Study of Young Adults in Mid-America. Paper presented at the Sooner Communication Conference, Norman, OK, 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](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](http://communication.utexas.edu/strauss/pdf/report_eight_focus_group_study_of_youth_and_politics.pdf)

#### Research In Progress

Childers, J.P. George W. Bush's Paternalistic Rhetoric. Under review *Western Journal of Communication*.

Hart, R. P., and Childers, J. P. The Misunderstood Presidency of George W. Bush: A Stylistic Analysis. Under review *Journal of Communication*.

### **Teaching/Research Experience**

Assistant Professor, Communication Studies, University of Kansas (2006-present)  
Courses Taught: Rhetoric, Politics, and Mass Media (COMS 335); Modern Presidential Rhetoric (COMS 560); Rhetoric and Popular Culture (COMS 560); Presidential Rhetoric (COMS 930); Rhetoric, Politics, and Mass Media (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)

Instructor, Department of English, West Central Technical College, Carrollton, GA (1998-1999).  
Courses Taught: Business English (E 111), Introduction to English (E 101), Developmental English (E 097)

#### Undergraduate Honors Theses Directed and Completed

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**

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

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

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

Students Advancing in Magazine Media Faculty Advisor, 2006-2008

#### For Discipline

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

Manuscript Reviewer for *Communication Yearbook*, 2007-present

Conference Paper Reviewer:

National Communication Association, 2005-2008; Central States Communication Association, 2006-2008

Conference Panel Respondent:

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

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.

### References

Dr. Roderick P. Hart, Dean  
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512-471-5775  
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