

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR  
THE HISTORY OF RHETORIC (ASHR)  
2024 SYMPOSIUM

RHETORIC &  
UNCERTAINTY  
HISTORICAL  
DIMENSIONS  
OF AMBIGUITY  
IN PERSUASION

MAY 22-24, 2024

DENVER, COLORADO

MAY 22

LOCATION: DIRECTOR'S H

WEDNESDAY

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Jordan Loveridge, Mount St. Mary's University  
*President, American Society for the History of Rhetoric*

1:15 PM – 3:00 PM

**UNCERTAINTY IN ANCIENT RHETORICS AND  
CONTEMPORARY MEDIA**

Mari Ramler (Tennessee Tech University)  
*"Ruining Sex for the Western World and Other Sins of Rhetorical Invention: St. Augustine and Me (and You and Everyone We Know)."*

Michael Young (The Pennsylvania State University)  
*"Charisma's Sophistic History and the Rhetorical Criticism of Fascist Speech"*

Amy Anderson (West Chester University)  
*"The Madonna of Kyiv: Using Digital Media and Religious Iconography to Protest Russian's War in the Ukraine"*

Charles Woods (Texas A&M University - Commerce)  
*"Towards A Theory of Rhetorical Privacy"*

3:15 PM – 5:00 PM

**CONTINGENCY IN LOGIC, DIALECTIC, AND ARGUMENTATION**

David Frank (University of Oregon)  
*"Certainty and Ambiguity in Chaïm Perelman and Lucie Olbrechts-Tyteca New Rhetoric Project"*

Jeanne Fahnestock (University of Maryland)  
*"Need Not Be: Contingency in 16th-Century Dialectic"*

Ben Wetherbee (Northern Michigan University)  
*"Toward Logological Skepticism: Or, Bowing at the Altar of Metonymy"*

Xiaobo Belle Wang (Sam Houston State University)  
*"Embracing the Beauty of Uncertainty: Chan Rhetoric in the Blue Cliff Record"*

MAY 23

LOCATION: DIRECTOR'S H

THURSDAY

9:15 AM – 11:00 AM

## UNCERTAINTY AND DOUBT IN MODERN POLITICS

Craig Rood (Iowa State University)

*“Strategic Certainty in Rhetorics of Gun Reform”*

Brandon Johnson (The Pennsylvania State University)

*“Carter’s Coalition: Race, Ambiguity, and Strategic Character in Jimmy Carter’s Political Rhetoric”*

Thomas Dunn (Colorado State University)

*“Homosexuality, Henchmen, and Hitler: Rhetorical Permutations of Facts in the Aftermath of the Roehm Purge”*

T. Kenny Fountain (The University of Virginia)

*“Strategically Equivocal: The OK Hand Gesture as White Nationalist ‘Figured Speech’”*

11 AM – 12:45 PM **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

1 PM – 2:30 PM

## UNCERTAINTY AND MEDIA ACROSS TIME

Alireza Eshraghi (University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill)

*“Prosecuted for Unintended Puns: Dissenting Press and Judicial Revenge under Iran’s Islamic Regime”*

Heidi Nobles (The University of Virginia)

*“Editing Texts to Edit Culture: Stakes of Revisionist Editing As Seen in the Ancient Religious Texts of Philo of Alexandria and Paul of Tarsus”*

Iklim Goksel (Independent Scholar)

*“Apology, Ambiguity, and Satire in 16th century Turkish Shadow Plays”*

MAY 24

LOCATION: DIRECTOR'S H

FRIDAY

9 AM – 10:45 AM

## UNCERTAINTY AND THE RHETORICAL SITUATION

Caddie Alford (Virginia Commonwealth University)  
*"Rhetorical Restoration: A Paradigm of Repair"*

Jeremy Cox (University of Texas – Permian Basin)  
*"The Rhetorical Situation: Myth, Uncertainty, and Significance"*

Rebecca Ottman (Texas A&M University - Galveston)  
*"Ambiguous Eloquence: Asignification as Rhetorical Resistance"*

Jennifer Buchan (The Pennsylvania State University)  
*"Rhetorical Speculation in Ancient Greek Elpis and Today's Artificial Intelligence"*

11 AM – 12:30 PM

## KEYNOTE LECTURE

Martin Camper (Loyola University Maryland)

*"Certainty from an Uncertain Text:  
The American Methodist Debate over Women's Preaching."*