

Sidi Becar Meyara
Curriculum Vitae

Assistant Professor, Utah State University
 Department of Communication Studies and Philosophy
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 Logan, UT 84322
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EDUCATION - DEGREES

- Ph.D. Ohio University
 Communication Studies, 2017
Dissertation: "Mauritania is an Eye:" A Community Association's Effort to Promote Unity
 Committee: Dr. Devika Chawla (Advisor), Dr. Roger Aden, Dr. Benjamin Bates
 Outside Committee Member: Dr. Steve Howard
- M.A. Ohio University
 Communication Studies, 2015
- M.A. Ohio University
 Center for International Studies, African Studies, 2013
Project: "No Longer Zombies: Beyond the Esthetics of Vulgarly"
- B.A. Ohio University
 Linguistics, 2011
- Associate Degree University of Nouakchott
 English, 2008

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2022-Present Assistant Professor of Global Communication, Department of Communication Studies and Philosophy, Utah State University
- 2019-2022 Lecturer, Department of Languages, Philosophy, and Communication Studies, Utah State University
- 2017-2019 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Department of Languages, Philosophy, and Communication Studies, Utah State University
- 2013- 2017 Graduate Teaching Associate, Communication Studies, Ohio University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

In my research pursuits, I focus primarily on communication at the intersection of postcolonial theory and rhetoric. From a postcolonial perspective, I am interested in how immigrant communities navigate their identities in their transnational spaces of migration. My work has, thus far, focused on the Mauritanian immigrant community, examining how different members from different facets of this community negotiate their problematic shared past together in an effort to achieve more unity as a diaspora. From a rhetorical and postcolonial perspective, I examine how xenophobia and Othering manifest in Western public discourses with a specific focus on understanding how these discourses perpetuate an orientalist tradition that portrays the Other negatively.

- Postcolonial theory
- Rhetoric
- Intercultural Communication

SCHOLARSHIP

PUBLICATIONS

Meyara, S. (2024). Speaking soundly: Postcolonial approaches to the future of public speaking. In S. Munz, T. McKenna-Buchanan, & A. Wright (Eds.), *The Routledge handbook of public speaking research and theory* (pp. 355-363).

Meyara, S., Phillips, K, E., Seiter, C, R., Seiter, J, S. (2020). Outplay, outwit, outlast, outlearn: Using Survivor to experience and understand concepts from group communication: *Carolinas Communication Annual, XXXVI*, 103-109.

Meyara, S. (2017). A Muslim's Experience in Post-9/11 America. *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research*, 6(2), 72-73. doi:10.1525/dcqr.2017.6.2.72

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Meyara, S. & Smith, J. Reclaiming our past: The significance of the African renaissance in the development of African American rhetorical theory (Paper under review at *The Howard Journal of Communication*).

Meyara, S. Netanyahu speaks to Congress: Israeli exceptionalism and orientaling discourses (Paper submitted to the Journal of the Middle East and Africa).

PARTICIPATION IN ACADEMIC MEETINGS

Project Presentations:

Meyara, S. (2024). Slahi's Guantanamo Diary: Implications for Prisoner's Voice and Prison Publicity. Paper Presented at Southern States Communication Association in Frisco, TX.

- Meyara, S. (2024). Reflections on Occupy: Democracy and the Question of Dissent. Paper presented at Eastern Communication Association in Cambridge, MA.
- Meyara, S. (2024). Speaking Soundly: Public Speaking in the Era of Post-truth. Paper presented at Western States Communication Association in Reno, NV.
- Meyara, S. (2020). Netanyahu Speaks to Congress: Israeli Exceptionalism and Orientalizing Discourses. Paper Accepted to Western States Communication Association in Denver, CO.
- Meyara, S., Phillips, K., Seiter, J., & Seiter, C. (2019). Outplay, Outwit, Outlast, Outlearn: Using *Survivor* to Experience and Understand Concepts from Group Communication. National Communication Association in Baltimore, MD.
- Meyara, S. (2019). Language, Identity, and Community Relations. Paper Presented at Western States Communication Association in Seattle, WA.
- Meyara, S. (2019). History, Trauma, and Community dialogue. Paper Presented at Eastern States Communication Association in Providence, RI.
- Meyara, S. (2018). Intersections of Race, Power, and Sexuality in Tomine's Shortcomings. Paper Presented at Public Culture Association. Indianapolis, IN.
- Meyara, S. (Co-Performer, 2016). Autobiographical Performance as Civic Calling: My History of History. Paper presented at the National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Meyara, S., Smith, J. W. (2014). Reclaiming our past: The significance of the African Renaissance in the Development of African American Rhetorical Theory. Paper Presented at the National Association in Chicago, IL.
- Meyara, S., Parsloe, S.*, Guthrie, S.*, Eugene, N.* (2014). Working out and Fitting in: Communicating Fitness at a University Recreational Facility. Paper presented at Ohio University's Student Expo, Athens, OH.

Panel/Round Table Discussions:

- Aldridge-Stanford, A., Meyara, S., Munz, S., Batchelor, L. (2024). Reconciliation and Reparation: The Oft Forgotten and Neglected Step(s) in Activist Movements. Panel Discussion at the 2024 Central States Communication Association Conference, Grand Rapids, MI – Presenter
- Music Manifestos: Examining Challenges, Tensions, and Possibilities. Paper Panel at the 2024 Western States Communication Association Conference, Reno, NV – Respondent

- Munz, S., McKenna, T., Meyara, S., & Wright, A. (2022). Honoring the Classroom “Place” in Post-Truth Era. Panel Discussion at National Communication Association in Louisiana, New Orleans – Presenter
- Munz, S., Meyara, S., Reali, V., Hernandez, L., & Wadbuesser, C. (2022). Creating a Culture of Argument in the Classrooms: Challenges and Possibilities. Panel Discussion at National Communication Association in Louisiana, New Orleans – Presenter
- Meyara, S., Cohen, E., Elmoudden, S., Keshishian, F., Kumar, P., & Wu, J. (2018). Bridging Connections between New and Old Immigrants: Discourses on Identity, Unity, Integration, and Discrimination. Round Table Presentation at Eastern States Communication Association in Pittsburg, PA. – Presenter
- Meyara, S., Foote, J. G.* (2014). Communicating the Presence of Our Pasts: A Discussion of Multicultural Experiences in the Classroom. Panel Discussion at the National Communication Association in Chicago, IL – Presenter

GRANTS, AWARDS, & HONORS

- Teacher of the year, Communication Studies and Philosophy, USU 2023-2024
- \$ 20,000 Seed Grant with Dr. Nicole Allen and Dr. Kaitlin Phillips on building assessment for education abroad students’ attitudes, Summer, 2023
- UG Mentor of the year, Communication Studies and Philosophy, USU 2022-2023
- Lecturer of the year, Communication Studies and Philosophy, USU 2021-2022
- 1st Place for Outstanding Presentation at the 2014 Student Research and Creative Activity Expo, Ohio University.
- Top Paper Award from the African American Communication and Culture Division, NCA, Chicago, 2014
- Made the Dean’s List throughout my undergraduate career, 2009-2011
- Fulbright Scholar, 2009-2011
- 1st in my class throughout my time at the University of Nouakchott, 2006 - 2008

TEACHING: TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Participated in e-LearnX – Center for Empowering Teaching Excellence, 2024
- Chair, eLearnX/Learning Circles/Springboard Series/Sparkshops Subcommittee, Empowering Teaching Excellence 2023 – Present
- Committee member, ETE 10 2023 – Present
- Committee member, Empowering Teaching Faculty Committee, Empowering Teaching Excellence 2023 – 2024
- Attended Community Engaged Scholars Network Launch Event – Spring, 2024
- Attended The Digital Rhetorical Privacy Collective panel on teaching about privacy in the age of AI Spring 2024

- Moderator, Teaching outside the classroom: how to leverage time and energy to help students soar to success, Empowering Teaching Excellence Conference, 2023
- Moderator, Your syllabus matters: Creating a sense of belonging on day 1, Empowering Teaching Excellence Conference, 2023
- Participated in Empowering Teaching Excellence Conference, 2023 - 2024
- Participated in Beyond the Diversity Assignment Workshop – University Libraries and Center for Intersectional Gender Studies & Research Division of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Spring 2023
- Participated in Diversity and Mentoring Learning Circle – ETE – USU – SPRING 2023
- Participated in Springboard to Action! Rethinking Student Assessment – ETE – USU – SPRING 2023
- Participated in Diversity and Mentoring Sparkshop – ETE – USU – Fall 2022
- Participated in Empowering Teaching Excellence Conference, 2019 - 2020

PEDAGOGIC EXPERIENCE

Utah State University – Communication Studies

CMST 6300 – Culture and Difference

Spring 2023 – Present

This graduate level course introduces students to the history of intercultural communication and the different paradigmatic shifts before focusing on specific areas of importance to intercultural communication research and pedagogy.

CMST 4270 – Communication, Culture, and Power

Spring 2022 – Present

The course exposes students to a broad array of perspectives that showcase how communication is sometimes used to perpetuate, as well as resist, problematic ideas in cultural contexts. The goal is to invite students to reflect on the role communication (broadly construed) plays in the creation and sustenance of hegemonic ideas as well as its potential is resisting them.

CMST 1330 – Intro to Global Communication – Online

Spring 2020 – Fall 2022

This course serves as an introduction to a variety of issues that are of interests to scholars of global communication. Examining globalization as a phenomenon, we explore the role communication, and the implications globalization has for us as students of global communication. In this course, students learn about cross cultural communication, differences in media systems, communication and the Other, public diplomacy, transnational spheres, etc.

CMST 4800 – Qualitative Research in Communication Studies

Fall 2019 – Present

This course explores the qualitative paradigm, exposing students to the ontological orientation and the epistemological assumptions that guide qualitative

research. As an intro to qualitative research in communication studies, the course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to understand both the theory and the practice of conducting qualitative research.

CMST 3270 – Culture and Public Discourse

Spring 2018 – Present

This course examines the symbiotic relationship between media and culture. It is designed to help students recognize the impact the media we use have on our culture, and ultimately our public discourse - the conversations we are able/unable to have. The course starts from the assumption that the different media we use come with its own biases allowing certain types of conversations and disallowing others. Students are also invited to examine media content reflecting on the ideas it serves/those that it marginalizes.

CMST 2120 – Small Group Communication

Fall 2017 – Spring 2021

This intro to small group communication course is meant to help students become effective group members. Learning about group communication theories, students reflect on and deal with the challenges that make it hard to engage in effective decision making and problem solving.

CMST 3330 – Intercultural Communication

Fall 2017 – Present

This course is designed to help students become ethical intercultural communicators. Starting with the assumption that reality is socially constructed, the course helps students understand that others have “good reasons” for the things they believe. Realizing that our attitudes towards the world are largely a product of our experiences, students are able to see where others are coming from without necessarily agreeing with them. Students are then able to appreciate the differences and recognize the similarities they have with others.

Ohio University – Communication Studies

COMS 2350 – Introduction of Communication Theory (Teaching Assistant) 2016 - 2017

This is an upper level course that is designed to familiarize the students with the major theories that communication scholars draw from. Serving as a survey of major theories, students are introduced to the types of questions communication scholars ask and the different approaches they follow in attempting to answer them.

COMS 2050 – Techniques of Group Discussion

2015 - 2017

This intro to group communication course is meant to help students become effective group members. Learning about group communication theories, students reflect on and deal with the challenges that make it hard to engage in effective decision making and problem solving.

COMS 2050 – Techniques of Group Discussion – Online

2016 - 2017

This intro to group communication course is meant to help students become effective group members. Learning about group communication theories, students reflect on and deal with the challenges that make it hard to engage in effective decision making and problem solving. Because many individuals now find themselves working with others virtually, students are introduced to the challenges that arise when working with others in the online space.

COMS 1100 – Communication Among Cultures

2014 - 2017

Starting from the assumption that we all occupy multiple identities that may be a source of both advantages and disadvantages, this course is meant to help students learn/reflect on major identities and how they can contribute to issues of privilege and marginalization. The idea behind the course is for them to be familiar with the nuances of these issues and recognize the role they can play in being a positive presence in others' lives.

COMS 1030 – Fundamentals of Public Speaking

2013 – 2015

This course introduces students to the practice of public speaking as a form of civic engagement. Students learn to construct and deliver different types of speeches that are suitable for different occasions/audiences.

Ohio University – African Studies

MEDIA 5170 – Media and the Muslim World (Teaching Assistant)

2012 – 2013

This course examines media in the Muslim world, looking at issues of freedom, government control, and oppression. It also looks at the portrayal of Muslims in Western media, highlighting how Western media portrayal of Muslims has tended to perpetuate an orientalist tradition of viewing the Muslim as the Other.

INST 113 – Africa (Teaching Assistant)

2011 -2012

This intro to Africa is a course designed to introduce students to the development challenges that face the continent, while highlighting some of the important efforts that are taken to help improve the livelihood of Africans.

Ohio University – Linguistics

English for All – Free English course for F-2 students. Taught English to intermediate ESL adult learners in an interactive, enriching environment. Developed lesson plans, activities, and materials for students based on language level

WORKSHOPS

- Panelist, Life of an instructor, Empowering Teaching Excellence, 2023
- A workshop on intercultural communication for new RAs, 2018
Utah State University, Office of Housing and Residence Life – Presenter

EDUCATION - CERTIFICATES

Graduate Certificate	<u>Ohio University</u> Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, 2017
Online Facilitator	<u>Ohio University</u> Ohio University Online Facilitator Training, 2015
Teacher Training	<u>Ohio University</u> Advanced Teacher Training Academy Certificate, 2014
CALL Certificate	<u>Ohio University</u> Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) Certification, 2011
TEFL Certificate	<u>Ohio University</u> Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language, 2011
OPIE Completion	<u>Ohio University</u> IIE Fulbright Pre-academic English Language Program, 2009

SERVICE TO DISCIPLINE

- Reviewer for Public Address Division, National Communication Association 2023-2024
- Reviewer for Ethnography Division, National Communication Association 2023-2024
- Reviewer for Communication, Identities, and Difference Interest Group, Western States Communication Association – 2018 - 2019
- Reviewer for Ethnography Division, National Communication Association 2022-2023

- Reviewer for Public Address Division, National Communication Association
2022-2023

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY

Utah State University – Communication Studies and Philosophy

- Global Communication Coordinator 2023 – Present
- Mehdi Haravi Scholarship – Graduate Students 2023 – Present
- Mehdi Haravi Scholarship – Undergraduates 2021 - Present
- Member of the performance committee 2021 – Present
- Member of the scheduling committee 2021 – Present
- Mentor to a graduate student 2022 – Present
- Faculty Advisor, Global Communication 2017 – Present
- Search committee member, Department Outreach Coordinator. 2023 – Present
- Search committee member, Department Advisor 2023 - 2024
- Search committee member – Academic advisor 2023 - 2024
- Graduate Applications Committee 2022 - 2023
- Search committee member - Assistant Professor in Interpersonal 2022 - 2023
- Search committee - Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow 2021 - 2022

Utah State University – College of Humanities and Social Sciences

- Committee member, Department Head Search, 2023 - 2024
- Committee member, Experiential Learning Fund, ChaSS Award Committee
2023-2024
- Committee member, ChaSS Awards Committee 2022 -2023

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY

Ohio University - Communication Studies

- Co-copyeditor, *Student guidebook for COMS 1030: Fundamentals of public speaking.*
Cincinnati, OH: Van-Griner Publishing.
- Peer mentor to graduate students, School of Communication Studies, Ohio
University

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

- President, Muslim Student Association, Ohio University, 2012-2013
- Vice President, Muslim Student Association, Ohio University, 2011-2012

OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

- Certified Language Tester, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, 2013. Conducted tests of Proficiency in Hassaniya, one of the languages spoken in Mauritania, Western Africa.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN: Hassaniya, Arabic, English, and French