

# BRANDI J. LAWLESS

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PhD Student and Instructor

University of New Mexico  
Communication & Journalism  
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## EDUCATION

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<b>Doctor of Philosophy</b>	<b>University of New Mexico</b> , Albuquerque, NM Department of Communication and Journalism Concentration: Intercultural Communication Advisor: Dr. Mary Jane Collier	2012
<b>Master of Arts</b>	<b>San Francisco State University</b> , San Francisco, CA Department of Communication Studies Concentration: Critical Cultural Studies Thesis: 'Moving up in class? A study on college students' transition to academia' Advisor: Dr. Victoria Chen	2009
<b>Bachelor of Arts</b>	<b>California State University, Northridge</b> , Northridge, CA Department of Communication Studies Concentration: Rhetoric Magna Cum Laude	2007

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**Critical and Cultural Studies:** The construction of intersectional identities, especially concerning issues of social class. Central research questions: How does communication produce, maintain, and change systems of power and privilege? How can communication scholars create social change?

**Performance Studies:** Performativity of embodied identities, especially concerning issues of social class, gender, and race. Performances of everyday life and in contexts such as academia and non-profit organizations. The relationship between performance and pedagogy.

**Critical Communication Pedagogy:** The construction of student identities within the classroom, especially concerning lower and working class bodies, first generation college students, and issues of social justice. Becoming an ally in the classroom to students with marginalized experiences/subjectivities.

## PUBLICATIONS

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Lawless, B. (2012). More than white: Locating an invisible class identity. In Gonzalez, A., M. Houston, & V. Chen (Eds.), *Our voices: Essays in culture, ethnicity, and communication*. (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). (pp. 247-253). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Lawless, B. (2009). Guiding class consciousness in first-generation college students: A pragmatic approach to classism in the academy. In Housel, T. H. & V. L. Harvey (Eds.), *The invisibility factor: Administrators and faculty reach out to first-generation college students*. (pp. 23-34). Boca Raton, FL: Brown Walker Press.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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Lawless, B., & Collier, M. J. "Understanding a 'culture' of poverty: Subjectivity and social justice in poverty training materials. Paper to be presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, November 2011.

*\*Awarded top four paper*

Lawless, B. "Reviving reason in postmodern politics: An analysis of the 'Rally to Restore Sanity.' Paper to be presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, November 2011.

Lawless, B. Climbing the ivory ladder: Lower and working class students' transition to academia. Paper presented at the International Communication Association Annual Convention, Boston, May 2011.

Lawless, B. Social justice in the real world: Identity, subjectivity and performance in the non-profit sector. Panel presentation presented at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, May 2011.

Lawless, B. "'A funny thing happened on the way to our forums': Deconstructing the 2010 California Marriage Protection Act." Paper to be presented at the Western States Communication Association Annual Convention, Monterey, February 2011.

Lawless, B. "Critiquing communities: Adapting Hymes' speech community model for the college context." Paper to be presented at the Western States Communication Association Annual Convention, Monterey, February 2011.

Lawless, B., & Nainby, K. "Conversations about class: Performing social class in academia." Paper to be presented at the Western States Communication Association Annual Convention, Monterey, February 2011.

Lawless, B. "'You're doing right, but you're not doing *it* right': Negotiating non-profit relationships as a means for social justice." Panel presentation to be presented at the Western States Communication Association Annual Convention, Monterey, February 2011.

Lawless, B. "Understanding social justice through the body: Class embodiment in the Circles initiative." Paper to be presented at the Critical Knowledge Symposium, Albuquerque, November 2010.

Lawless, B. "Commies, Nazis, and aliens, oh my! Framing fear in the health care debate." Paper to be presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, November 2010.

*\*Awarded top four student paper*

Lawless, B. "Cleaning up your room to clean up communication: Using MTV's *Room Raiders* to teach nonverbal communication." Paper to be presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, November 2010.

*\*Awarded top ten paper*

Lawless, B. "Global warming rhetoric: The shaping of environmental issues to change perceptions of the general public." Paper presented at the Western States Communication Association Annual Conference, Anchorage, March 2010.

Lawless, B. "Critical pedagogy and class performativity: Contesting credibility narratives." Panel Presentation at the Western States Communication Association Annual Conference, Anchorage, March 2010.

Lawless, B. "Friends through Facebook: A twist on the introductory speech." Paper presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, Chicago, November 2009.

*\*Awarded top three paper related to convention theme*

Lawless, B. "Exploring academic borderlands: Lower class experiences in an upper class world." Panel presentation at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, Chicago, November 2009.

Lawless, B. "After dinner speaking: Problems, causes, and still no solutions." Paper presented at the Western States Communication Association Annual Conference, Phoenix, February 2009.

*\*Awarded top three paper*

Lawless, B. "Can I get a witness? 'Saving' ourselves from the first church of critical dogma." Performance panel presented at the Western States Communication Association Annual Conference, Phoenix, February 2009.

Lawless, B. "Social class as a context to study cultural identity." Panel presentation at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, San Diego, November 2008.

Lawless, B. "Moving up in social class?: A study on college students' transition to academic culture." Panel presentation at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, San Diego, November 2008.

Lawless, B. "After dinner speaking: Problems, causes, and still no solutions." Paper presented at the National Developmental Conference on Individual Events, Peoria, IL, July 2008.

*\*\*This was a working conference. A revised version of this paper was later presented.*

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

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Lawless, B. "'Something funny happened on the way to our forums': Using humor as a rhetorical strategy in the political arena." Colloquium presentation for Ohlone College Speaker Series, Fremont, CA, October, 2011.

Lawless, B. "Intro to critical pedagogy." Guest lecturer for Communication for Teachers, Albuquerque, NM, February, 2011.

## **AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

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The Outstanding Doctoral Student Award, University of New Mexico, 2011

Top Four Paper, National Communication Association – International and Intercultural Communication Division, 2011

Most Dedicated Graduate Student, UNM Communication Graduate and Professional Student Association, 2011

Outstanding Representation of the Student Voice, UNM Graduate and Professional Student Association, 2011

Top Four Student Paper, National Communication Association – Critical and Cultural Studies Division, 2010

Top Ten Paper, National Communication Association – Great Ideas for Teaching Speech Division, 2010

Everett Rogers Research Scholar Award, University of New Mexico, 2010

Outstanding Graduate Student of Distinguished Achievement, San Francisco State University, 2009

Graduate Equity Fellowship, San Francisco State University, 2009

Top Three Paper, Western States Communication Association – Forensics Interest Group, 2009

University Foundation Scholarship, San Francisco State University, 2008

Outstanding Communicator, California State University, Northridge, 2007

Outstanding Graduating Senior, California State University, Northridge, 2007

James Russell Simpson Scholarship, California State University, Northridge, 2006, 2007

Richard B. Aronstam Outstanding Undergraduate, California State University, Northridge, 2006, 2007

Qualified for American Forensics Association's National Speech Tournament, 2006, 2007

All Conference Academic Team, Pacific Southern California Forensic Association, 2006, 2007

Outstanding Forensics Team Member, California State University, Northridge, 2006  
Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society, California State University, Northridge, 2006  
President's Associate Scholarship, California State University, Northridge, 2004, 2005, 2006  
Jewish Studies Scholarship, California State University, Northridge, 2004

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**University of New Mexico** Albuquerque, NM August 2009-Present

*Instructor of Record*

CJ 327 Persuasive Communication, upper division, 1 term  
CJ 314 Intercultural Communication, upper division, 1 term  
CJ 314OL Online Intercultural Communication, upper division, 1 term  
CJ 221 Interpersonal Communication, lower division, 2 terms  
CJ 220 Communication for Teachers, lower division, 1 term  
CJ 101 Introduction to Communication, lower division, 1 term

*Co-Facilitator*

CJ 317 International Conflict and Community Building, upper division, 1 term

**City College of San Francisco** San Francisco, CA June 2011-July 2011

*Instructor of Record*

SPCH 20 Interpersonal Communication, lower division, 1 term  
SPCH 1A Public Speaking, lower division, 1 term

**San Francisco State University** San Francisco, CA August 2007-July 2009

*Instructor of Record*

COMM 150 Fundamentals of Oral Communication, lower division, 5 terms

*Co-Instructor*

COMM 356 Workshop in Forensics Speech and Debate, upper division, 4 terms  
AU101 Introduction to First Year Experience, lower division, 1 term

**Education Unlimited** Los Angeles, CA July 2007

*Summer Camp Instructor*

Speech and Debate for middle school and high school students

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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**University of New Mexico**

*Project Assistant*

October 2009-Present

Created assessment materials for Anderson School of Business and evaluated oral communication of business students

**San Francisco State University**

*Research Assistant*

May 2009-August 2009

Worked with Dr. Victoria Chen on projects such as research books, chapters, and book reviews

*Graduate Assistant for Living Learning Communities*

April 2008-August 2009

Worked with the program coordinator to manage and approve residential programming, train residential advisors on diversity and leadership, and build a relationship between residential life

and college deans

**California State University, Northridge**

August 2004-May 2007

*Forensic Speech and Debate Competitor*

Competed locally and nationally in platform and interpretation speech events. Won over fifty awards. President, Fall 2006-Spring 2007. Secretary, Fall 2005-Spring 2006

**SERVICE**

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**Professional Service**

National Communication Association *Graduate Student Representative*, Critical and Cultural Studies Division, November 2010-November 2011  
National Communication Association *Reviewer*, Critical and Cultural Studies Division, 2010, 2011  
National Communication Association *Reviewer*, Great Ideas for Teaching Speech Division, 2010, 2011  
International Communication Association *Reviewer*, Instructional and Developmental Communication Division, 2010  
Western States Communication Association *Reviewer*, Intercultural Communication Division, 2010  
National Forensics Journal *Manuscript Reviewer*, special issue *Autoethnography and Forensics*, May 2010  
Rocky Mountain Communication Review *Editorial Board Member*, November 2009-Present  
National Communication Association *Convention Volunteer*, 2008, 2009, 2010  
Northern California Forensics Association “*Spring Fling*” *Tournament Director*, April 2009  
American Forensics Association District 1 *Committee Member*, March 2008-March 2009

**Campus and Departmental Service**

Western States Communication Association Host Committee *Committee Member*, 2011-2012  
University of New Mexico Interim Provost Search Committee *Graduate Student Representative*, May 2011  
Communication Graduate and Professional Student Association *Co-President*, 2010-2011  
University of New Mexico Institute for Communication, Culture, and Change *Committee Member*, 2010-2011  
Communication Graduate and Professional Student Association *Awards Committee Member*, 2010-2011  
Graduate and Professional Student Association *Executive Board Member-Projects Committee Chair*, 2010-2011  
Graduate and Professional Student Association *Programs Committee Member*, 2010-2011  
University of New Mexico Communication & Journalism Department *Graduate Student Mentor*, 2010-2011  
University of New Mexico Graduate and Professional Student Association *Council Member*, 2009-2010  
Communication Graduate and Professional Student Association *Social Events Committee Member*, 2009-2010  
San Francisco State University *Graduate Student Mentor*, July 2008-June 2009  
San Francisco State University Residence Hall Association *Co-Advisor*, September 2008-June 2009

**Community Service**

Roadrunner Food Bank of New Mexico *Volunteer*, Spring 2010, Spring 2011  
City College of San Francisco *Volunteer Speech Coach*, September 2008-Present  
San Francisco State University *Volunteer Judge*, Fall 2010  
James Logan High School *Volunteer Judge*, May 2007-June 2009

**GRANTS**

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Career Services Student Conference Award Program (\$600)	Spring 2011
Student Research Allocation Committee Grant (\$500)	Spring 2011
Office of Graduate Studies Research, Project, and Travel Grant (\$440)	Spring 2010

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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“Radical performance, neoliberalism, and human rights.” 7<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry Workshop, Urbana, IL, May, 2011.

“Writing Autoethnography and Narrative in Qualitative Research.” 7<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry Workshop, Urbana, IL, May, 2011.

“Co-narrative research.” National Communication Association Short Course, San Francisco, CA, November, 2010.

“LGBTQ safe zone training.” Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Queer Resource Center, Albuquerque, NM, October, 2010.

“Using research to enhance and change the way we teach listening in the interpersonal communication course.” National Communication Association Short Course, Chicago, IL, November 2009.

“Graduate teaching assistant training.” Teaching Assistant Resource Center, Albuquerque, NM, October, 2009.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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International Communication Association	2010-Present
National Communication Association	2007-Present
Western States Communication Association	2007-Present
Northern California Forensics Association	2007-Present
American Forensics Association	2004-Present
National Association of College and University Residence Halls	2004-2009
Pacific Southern California Forensic Association	2004-2007

## GRADUATE COURSEWORK

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### PhD:

History and Philosophy of Communication  
Sociology of Education  
Critical and Cultural Studies  
Contemporary Rhetoric  
Performance Theory  
Communication Theory  
Communication, Culture, and Performance  
Culture, Sustainability, and Change  
Advanced Performance Methods  
Textual Analysis  
Theorizing Culture and Communication  
Quantitative Data Analysis  
Critical Discourse Analysis  
Critical Issues in Performance Arts

### MA:

Culture and Communication  
Directing Forensics  
Gender and Communication  
Field Research Methods  
Communication and Performance Intervention  
Interpersonal Communication  
Qualitative Research Methods  
Communication Education

**International Coursework:** Seminar in Gender and Sexuality in Odense and Copenhagen, Denmark