

**John P. Koch**  
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Department of Communication Studies  
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## **Education**

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Ph.D., Communication, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, December 2016  
M.A., Communication, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, August 2011  
B.A., Communication Studies, Capital University, Columbus, OH, December 2004

## **Academic Appointments**

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*Senior Lecturer/Director of Debate*  
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, August 2019-Present

*Senior Lecturer/Associate Director of Debate*  
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, August 2017-July 2019

*Lecturer/Associate Director of Debate*  
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, August 2016-July 2017

*Visiting Assistant Professor/Interim Director of Forensics*  
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, July 2015-June 2016

*Graduate Teaching Assistant to the Debate Team*  
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, July 2009-May 2015

*Adjunct Instructor*  
Oakland Community College, Royal Oak, MI, August 2013-May 2015

*Graduate Teaching Instructor/Assistant*  
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, August 2011-June 2015

## Publications

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### *Journal Articles*

Young, Kelly M., Avery Henry, and **John P. Koch**. "Why Forensics Matters: The Development of Emotional Competence in Competitors." *National Forensics Journal* 35 (Fall 2017): 47-55.

Young, Kelly M., **John P. Koch**, et al. "Restoring Balance: An Academic Review of Arguments For and Against the Restriction of Presidential War Powers." *Contemporary Argumentation and Debate* 34 (2013-2014): 51-128.

### *Book Chapters*

Koch, John P. "Bill Clinton's 1998 State of the Union." In *The State of the Union is...* (Ed.) Aaron Kall, Ann Arbor: MI, Createspace, 2019.

Koch, John P. "Barack Obama's First Address 2/24/09." In *Mr. Speaker, The President of the United States of America: Addresses to a Joint Session of Congress* (Ed.) Aaron Kall, Ann Arbor: MI, Createspace, 2017.

Koch, John P. "Sinners and Saints: Civil Religion, Public Memory, and the Presidency at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum." In *The Rhetoric of American Civil Religion: Symbols, Sinners, and Saints* (Eds.) Jason Edwards and Joseph Valenzano, Lanham: MD, Lexington Books, 2016.

### *Works in Progress (listed in order of anticipated submission)*

Koch, John P. "The importance of Switch-Side Debate in the Age of Myside Bias." To be submitted to a national debate journal

Koch, John P. "Looking to the Past and Abroad to Enhance Presidential To Enhance Presidential Debates." To be submitted to a national debate journal.

## Conference Presentations

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Justice, Jacob, Talya Slaw, and **John P. Koch**. "Looking to the Past and Abroad to Enhance Presidential Debates." Presented at the 2022 National Communication Association Conference, New Orleans, LA. (Competitively selected paper).

Koch, John P. "Transforming Forensics Through Renewal: Reflections on Pedagogy and Lessons Learned Coaching During a Pandemic." Presented at the 2021

National Communication Association Conference, Seattle, WA. (Panel Participant).

Justice, Jacob W., Talya Slaw, and **John P. Koch**. “Renewing Jacksonian Democracy: Trump’s 2017 Address at Jackson’s Hermitage and Spatial Counter-Argumentation.” Presented at the 2021 National Communication Association Conference, Seattle, WA. (Competitively Selected Paper).

Henry, Avery and **John P. Koch**. “Engaging the Trolls: A Horizontal Analysis of Trolling Argumentation.” Presented at the 2019 Alta Argumentation Conference, Alta, UT. (Competitively Selected Paper).

Henry, Avery, **John P. Koch**, and Kelly M. Young. “Engaging the Trolls: The Rhetorical Re-invention of Trolling as Argument. Presented at the 2018 Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Minneapolis, MN. (Competitively Selected Paper).

Koch, John P. “The Affective Presidency: Democracy, Political Emotions, and Woodrow Wilson. Presented at the 2018 Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Minneapolis, MN. (Competitively Selected Paper).

Koch, John P. “Fiating Past Trump: The Implications of the Trump Presidency for Policy Debate.” Presented at the 2017 National Communication Association Conference, Dallas, TX. (Panel Participant).

Koch, John P. “Affective Argument and the American Presidency.” Presented at the 2017 National Communication Association Conference, Dallas, TX. (Part of a competitively selected panel).

Young, Kelly M., **John P. Koch**, and Avery J. Henry. “What’s the Value of Argumentation and Debate for Civic Education in the Age of Trump and Populist Reasoning?” Presented at the 2016 National Communication Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA. (Competitively Selected: Top Paper Panel)

Young, Kelly M., **John P. Koch**, and Avery Henry. “Throwing a Penalty Flag on the NFL: The NFL’s Dramatic Framing and Botched Efforts to Change Racial Discourse.” Presented at the 2016 Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Atlanta, GA. (Competitively Selected)

Henry, Avery, **John P. Koch**, and Kelly Young. “Embracing Debate 2.0: The Rhetorical Circulation of the Digital Debate Subject.” Presented at the 2015 National Communication Association Conference, Las Vegas, NV. (Competitively Selected: Top Paper CEDA Division)

Henry, Avery, Kelly Young, and **John P. Koch**. “Obama’s Missed Opportunity: Embracing Change in Drone Strikes, Citizenship, and Endo-colonizing Rhetoric.” Presented at the 2015 National Communication Association

Conference, Las Vegas, NV. (Competitively Selected: Top Paper Panel  
Argumentation and Forensics Division)

Koch, John P., Avery Henry, and Kelly M. Young. "Creative Democracy: Towards a  
Pluralistic Framework for Debate." Presented at the 2014  
National Communication Association Conference, Chicago, IL.  
(Competitively Selected)

Henry, Avery, Kelly Young, and **John P. Koch**. "Redefining the Borders of the War  
on Terror: Drone Strikes, Citizenship, and Endo-colonizing Rhetoric."  
Presented at the 2014 Rhetoric Society of America Conference, San Antonio,  
TX. (Competitively Selected)

Koch, John P. "Bush Take the Wheel: The Presidency, Argumentation, and the  
Public Sphere in the Age of Bush." Presented at the 2013 National  
Communication Association Conference, Washington, D.C. (Competitively  
Selected)

Koch, John P. "Constructing the Sublime: Classical Rhetoric, George W. Bush, and  
the National Pastime." Paper presented at the 2013 Eastern Communication  
Association Conference, Pittsburgh, PA. (Competitively Selected)

Koch, John P. "What Would Reagan Do? Memoro-Politics, The Ronald Reagan  
Presidential Museum, and Docile Citizenship." Paper presented at the 2013  
Eastern Communication Association Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.  
(Competitively Selected)

Koch, John P. "War Rhetoric and Protest: Challenging Presidential Foreign Policy  
Doctrines." Paper presented at 2011 National Communication Association  
Conference, New Orleans, LA. (Panel Presentation)

## **Invited Presentations**

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"Introduction to Rhetoric and Sports." Presented as a Guest Speaker at the  
University of Indianapolis, November 2018 and 2021.

"Introduction to Parliamentary Debate." Presented as a Guest Speaker at the  
University of Indianapolis, October 6, 2017.

"Rhetoric as Method." Presented as a Guest Speaker at the Department of  
Communication Graduate Student Research Colloquium, Wayne State  
University, Detroit, MI, February 25, 2015.

"Sinners and Saints: Public Memory and Civil Religion at the  
Gerald Ford Presidential Museum." Presented as the Featured Speaker at the

Department of Communication Faculty/Student Research Colloquium,  
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, February 20, 2015.

“The Affective Presidency.” Presented as a Guest Lecturer for Rhetorical Criticism  
(COM 4190) at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, November 11, 2014.

“Rhetoric at Political Party Conventions.” Presented as a Guest Lecturer for Public  
Address (COM 5120) at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, February 12,  
2014.

“Classical Rhetoric Brought to Life: The Relevance of Classical Rhetoric to  
Contemporary Society.” Presented as a Guest Speaker for Introduction to  
Communication Studies (COM 2000) at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI,  
January 23, 2013.

“The Power of Presidential Rhetoric: A New Approach.” Presented  
as a Guest Speaker for Introduction to M.A. in Communication Studies  
(COM 7000) at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, November 20, 2012.

Koch, John P. “An Overview of Rhetoric.” Presented as a Guest Speaker for  
Communication Theories (COM 3400) at Wayne State University, Detroit,  
MI, February 2012.

## **Professional Development**

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Online Course Design, Vanderbilt Center for Teaching, Summer 2020.

Shifting Grounds of War Rhetoric. National Communication Association Pre-  
Conference, November 20, 2013.

Bringing Deliberative Democracy into Electoral Politics. Wayne State University  
Summer Doctoral Seminar with Dr. John Gastil, May 30- June 2, 2012.

Remembering as Citizens: Rhetoric, Memory, and Citizenship. Rhetoric Society of  
America Workshop, June 24-26, 2011.

Visual Rhetoric and Public Culture. Wayne State University Summer Doctoral  
Seminar with Dr. John Lucaites, June 12-15, 2011.

## **Teaching**

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*Vanderbilt University*

CMST 1001: Immersive Study in Presidential Politics

CMST 1500: Fundamentals of Public Speaking  
CMST 3002: Rhetoric of the American Experience 1945-Present  
CMST 3890: Rhetoric, Sports, and Society

*University of Puget Sound*

COM 171: Introduction to American Public Address  
COM 344: Rhetorical Theory  
SSI 186: Seminar in Scholarly Inquiry: Presidential Rhetoric  
SSII 186: Seminar in Scholarly Inquiry: Presidential Rhetoric

*Wayne State University (Instructor of Record)*

COM 1010: Oral Communication (Basic Speech)  
COM 2160: Persuasive Campaigns and Movements

*Wayne State University (Graduate Teaching Assistant)*

COM 2110: Argumentation and Debate

*Oakland Community College*

COM 1290: Interpersonal Communication  
COM 1600: Fundamentals of Speech

## **Academic/Professional Service**

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*National/International Service*

Instructor, IDebate Rwanda Dreamers Academy Camp, August 2023

Coach, United States National Debate Team, June 2023 (Japan Tour)

Editorial Board, *Studies in Debate and Oratory*, May 2023-Present

Vice-President, Civic Debate Consortium, June 2023-Present

Member, Committee on International Discussion and Debate, January 2021-Present (Chair January 2023-January 2024)

Member, National Communication Association Legislative Assembly, 2018, 2020, and 2021

Editorial Board, *Speaker and Gavel*, December 2021-Present

Immediate Past Chair, National Communication Association, Argumentation and Forensics Division, November 2020-November 2021

Chair, National Communication Association, Argumentation and Forensics Division, November 2019-November 2020

Editorial Review Board, *Cotemporary Argumentation and Debate*, October 2018-October 2021

Vice-Chair, National Communication Association, Argumentation and Forensics Division, November 2018-November 2019

Vice-Chair Elect, National Communication Association, Argumentation and Forensics Division, November 2017-November 2018

Secretary, National Communication Association Argumentation and Forensics Division, November 2015-November 2017

Member, Nominations Committee, American Forensic Association, August 2014-August 2016

Reviewer, National Communication Association Argumentation and Forensics Division, Political Communication Division, and Public Address Division, 2012-Present

#### *University Service*

Dialogue Vanderbilt, Civil Discourse Education Programming, Fall 2023-Present

Senator, Vanderbilt Faculty Senate, Fall 2023-Present

Member, Communication Studies Curriculum Review Committee, Fall 2022-Spring 2023

Faculty Advisor, University Honor Council, Fall 2022-Present

Travel Management Services Committee, Vanderbilt University, September 2021-November 2021

Sports and Society Committee, Vanderbilt University, Fall 2019-Present

Communication Studies Assessment Committee, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, May 2018-Present

Graduate Student Representative, Rhetoric Faculty Search Committee, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, August 2013-January 2014

Graduate Student Representative to University Tenure and Promotion Committee, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, February 2013-April 2013

Assistant Consultant/Founding Member of Wayne State Public Speaking Consulting Cooperative, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, August 2012-May 2015

#### *Debate Service*

Board Member, Nashville Urban Debate League, October 2017-May 2021

Cross Examination Debate Association Southeast Region Representative  
June 2017-June 2019

Co-author of the CEDA/NDT National Debate Topic (2013-2014, 2017-2018)

Tab Room Assistant, Nashville Elementary and Middle School Debate, Nashville, TN, August 2016-Present

Coach, Judge, and Tab Room Assistant, Detroit Urban Debate League, Detroit, MI, August 2009-May 2015

#### *Community*

Interviews for and/or Appearances on: *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post*, *Time Magazine*, CBS News Radio Los Angeles (2020 Presidential Debate Commentator), *Voice of America*, *Newsday*, *Agence France Presse*, *One Metro*, *Newsweek*, Newspoint 360, NewsChannel 5 Morning Line (Nashville), WSMV Channel 4 NBC 10pm News (Nashville), WKRN Channel 2 ABC (Nashville), *Courthouse News Service*, *The Tennessean*, *The Washington Examiner*, *The Nashville Ledger*, *The Hill*

“How to Make Presidential Debates Serve Voters, Not Candidates.” *The Conversation*. March 19, 2020.

“Presidential Debates aren’t Debates at All-They are Joint Press Conferences.” *The Conversation*. October 18, 2019.

## **Awards & Recognition**

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#### *Academic*

Vanderbilt Sesquicentennial Grant, “Producing Democratic Citizens:



A History of Debate, Deliberation and Dialogue at Vanderbilt,”  
2023-Present (\$50,000)

Vanderbilt Summer Course Development Grant, “Communication, Sport,  
And Society, Summer 2022 (\$5,000)

Mellon Partners for Humanities Education Collaboration Grant, “Digitizing  
the Grantland Rice Papers”, 2021-2022 (\$10,000)

Sports and Society Micro-Grant, Vanderbilt University, 2018  
(\$5,000)

Top Paper: National Communication Association CEDA Division, 2015

Thomas C. Rumble Fellowship  
Wayne State University, Department of Communication, August  
2014-May 2015 (Approximately \$40,000)

2014 Summer Research Award  
Wayne State University, Department of Communication, May 2015-  
August 2015 (\$5,000)

Departmental Service Award  
Wayne State University, Department of Communication, 2013-2014  
(\$500)

*Select Debate Awards and Coaching Accomplishments*

4<sup>th</sup> ranked British Parliamentary Debate Program in the BP Coaches  
Conference, 2022-2023

2022 BP Coaches Conference Novice National Champions

United Nations Association of the United States of America/UNICEF  
2021 Case Competition Champions

3<sup>rd</sup> seeded team at 2020 USUDA BP National Debate Championship  
Tournament (Octo-finalists)

Champions of the Fall 2020 “What Do We Owe Each Other?” Civic Debates  
in Bogota, Colombia

2019 Western Regionals British Parliamentary Novice Champions

2016-2017 Southeast CEDA Junior Varsity Champions

Double-Octofinalists at the 2016 CEDA National Policy Debate Tournament  
(4<sup>th</sup> seed)

Qualified one team to the 2016 National Debate Tournament at Binghamton University

2014-2015 Cross-Examination Debate Association East-Central Region Critic of the Year

2015 Michigan Interscholastic Speech League Lincoln-Douglas Debate State Champion and Top Speaker

Coach of two teams ranked in the top 25 of the final 2013- 2014 National Debate Coaches' Poll and National Debate Tournament Pre-Bid Rankings

Cleared one team to elimination rounds at the 2014 National Debate Tournament at the University of Indiana (9<sup>th</sup> Seed)

NDT/CEDA Debate Program ranked in the Top 20 Nationally 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

Qualified two teams to the National Debate Tournament in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

Coach of the 2011 American Debate Association Open Division Top Speaker

## **Memberships and Affiliations**

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### *Member*

Southern States Communication Association, April 2021-Present

American Forensic Association, May 2014-Present

Rhetoric Society of America, May 2010-Present

National Communication Association, January 2009-Present  
Member of the Argumentation and Forensics Division  
Member of the Communication and Sport Division  
Member of the Public Address Division

