

## Curriculum Vitae

### Neil S. Butt

Department of Communication Studies  
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#### **I. Education**

Ph.D., Communication Studies, Wayne State University, May 2010.

Dissertation Title: Argument Construction, Argument Evaluation, and Decision-making:  
A Content Analysis of Argumentation and Debate Textbooks  
Advisor: Kelly Young

M.A.I.S., Communication and Policy Analysis, George Mason University, January 2000.

Project Title: Critical Thinking and Public Communication: Revitalizing Participation in  
Regional High School Debate.  
Advisor: Star Muir

B.A., International Studies; Communication (double major), George Mason University, May  
1993.

#### **II. Teaching**

##### *Experience*

Senior Lecturer, Vanderbilt University, Department of Communication Studies, August 2011-  
present.

Lecturer, Vanderbilt University, Department of Communication Studies, August 2010-July 2011.

Adjunct Instructor, Wayne State University, Department of Communication, August 2008-  
December 2008.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Wayne State University, Department of Communication, August  
2006-August 2008.

Graduate Research Assistant, Wayne State University, Department of Communication, August  
2005- August 2006.

Adjunct Instructor, John Carroll University, Department of Communications, August 2003-June  
2005.

Visiting Instructor, John Carroll University, Department of Communications, August 2000-May  
2003.

Adjunct Faculty, George Mason University, Department of Communication, August 1996-May  
2000.

Teaching Assistant, George Mason University, Department of Communication, August 1993-  
August 1996.

*Courses Taught*

**Argumentation and Debate** (as Comm 260: Basic Debate Theory and Practice at GMU, as CO 245: Argumentation and Debate at JCU, as Comm 2110: Argumentation and Debate at WSU, and as CMST 200/2100 at Vanderbilt).

Introduction to argumentation and debate, focusing on argument construction, presentation, refutation, and evaluation. Includes theory and practice.

**Interpersonal and Small Group Communication** (as Comm 101: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication at GMU)

Introductory level course in interpersonal and small group communication. This particular class at GMU was actually focused more on small group communication, despite the title.

**Persuasion** (as CMST 201 at Vanderbilt)

This was a combination of traditional and social scientific theories of persuasion which required students to apply persuasion theory at multiple levels, such as analyzing mass media persuasive campaigns and applying persuasive techniques in a public speaking situation.

**Public Speaking** (as Comm 100: Introduction to Oral Communication at GMU, CO 100: Speech Communication at JCU, and as CMST 100/1500: Foundations of Public Speaking at Vanderbilt)  
Introductory public speaking course. All versions have included informative, persuasive, and argumentative speeches, as well as audience analysis. Some versions have included ceremonial and impromptu speaking, and some included presenting with technology.

**Research Methods** (as Comm 250: Introduction to Communication Research at GMU)

Introduction to the field of communication and an overview of a variety of research methods, including both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

**Rhetorical Criticism** (as Comm 300: Foundations of Public Communication at GMU)

Overview to rhetorical criticism that included a variety of critical methods from Neo-Aristotelian to Feminist criticism.

**Independent Studies/Directed Readings** (as CMST 289/3850 at Vanderbilt)

I have overseen several independent studies/directed readings projects. Most projects have focused on aspects of debate pedagogy (including developing a guide for transitional debaters, comparing and evaluating different approaches to teaching debate, and comparing different approaches to coaching debate), but I have also worked with students in other areas, such as communicating scientific and technical information on climate change and policy responses to public audiences.

### **III. Debate**

#### *Coaching Experience*

Director of Debate, Vanderbilt University, January 2014-present.  
Assistant Director of Debate, Vanderbilt University, August 2010-January 2014.  
Assistant Debate Coach, Wayne State University, August 2005-August 2008.  
Assistant Director of Debate, John Carroll University, August 2000-May 2005.  
Assistant Debate Coach, George Mason University, August 1992-May 2000.  
Assistant Debate Coach, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, August 1991-June 1992.  
Director of Debate, Langley High School, Langley, VA, August 1990-June 1991.  
Assistant Debate Coach, Mount Vernon High School, August 1988-June 1990.

#### *Tournament Administration*

Tab room director, Vanderbilt University College Debate Tournament, 2010-2015.  
Tab room director, American Debate Association Fall Championship at Wake Forest University, 2013 & 2015.  
Tab room director, Hoosier Invitational College Debate Tournament, Indiana University, 2015.  
Tab room director for Policy Debate, DSR-TKA National Tournament (at the University of Florida), February 2012.  
Tab room director, John Carroll University “Austin J. Freeley” College Debate Tournament, 2000-2009.  
Tab room director, “Motor City Classic” Debate Tournament at Wayne State University, 2005-2008.  
Tab room director, Edward Pappas High School Debate Tournament at Wayne State University, 2005-2008.  
Host, Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association Middle Level Spring Tournament, 2006-2008.  
Tab room director, Detroit Urban Debate League, 2006-2008.  
Tab room director, Case Western Reserve High School Debate Tournament, November 2004.  
Tab room director and Host, Ohio High School Pre-District Qualifier Debate Tournament, 2000-2004.  
Tab room director and Host, John Carroll University High School Round Robin Debate Tournament, 2000-2001.  
Tab room staff, George Mason University High School Debate Tournament, 1992-2000.  
Tab room staff, George Mason University “Patriot” College Debate Tournament, 1992-2000.  
Tab room director, Virginia High School League State Tournament, 1997.

#### *Institute/Workshop Administration*

Interim Dorm Director, Catholic University “Capitol Classic” High School Debate Institute, June 2002.  
Future Stars (Novice) Program Director and Dorm Director, Catholic University “Capitol Classic” High School Debate Institute, June-July 2001.  
Instructor, George Mason University High School Debate Workshop, 1989-1997.  
Director, George Mason University High School Debate Workshop, 1992-1995.  
Instructor, George Mason University College Debate Workshop, 1992-1994.

*Individual Awards:*

SEC/District 6 Debate Coach of the Year, 2011.

Namesake for “Neil Butt Judging Award”, awarded annually to debate judge providing the best written feedback to students at the West Virginia University “Mountaineer Classic”

Debate Tournament, starting in 2003 (I didn’t win it then—they just named it after me).

“Neil Butt Judging Award”, West Virginia University “Mountaineer Classic” Debate Tournament, 2005 (I won the award they named after me in 2005).

Critic of the Year, East Central Region, 2003, 2005.

Critic’s Award, Towson University “Chesapeake Novice and JV Nationals”, 2001, 2003.

*Selected Team Awards:*

**Vanderbilt University (2010-present)**

Overall debate program standing in the American Debate Association (ADA):

Ranked #4 in the nation in 2016.

Ranked in top 10 every year since 2010.

Ranked in top 5 every year but one (#7 in 2013).

First Round At-Large Bid to the National Debate Tournament, 2011.

National Debate Tournament (NDT) Qualifiers, 2011, 2014, 2015.

CEDA National Tournament: 6 Debate All-American Awards and 21 Debate Scholar Awards, 2011-2015.

ADA National Champions, Open division, 2011.

ADA National Champions, JV division, 2012.

ADA National Champions, Novice division, 2011.

Top Speaker, ADA National Tournament, JV Division, 2012.

Top Speaker, ADA National Tournament, Novice Division, 2011.

Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha (DSR-TKA- Forensics Honor Society) National Champions, Novice division, 2012.

SEC Tournament: District 6 Champions in Open, 2011.

SEC Tournament: District 6 Champions in JV, 2011, 2016.

SEC Tournament: District 6 Champions in Novice, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016.

Top-10 Finish, Madison Cup debates (resulted in \$500 award for the Debate Team).

Participants in Lafayette international debates, 2014, 2015.

Participants in Mvubu international debates, October 2014.

**Wayne State University (2005-2008)**

ADA National Champions, Open division, 2007.

ADA National Finalists, Junior Varsity division, 2006.

Semifinalists, CEDA National Tournament, 2007.

Semifinalists, National Debate Tournament, 2006, 2007.

Top Speaker, National Debate Tournament, 2007.

Qualifiers to National Debate Tournament: 2006 (2 teams), 2007 (2 teams), 2008 (2teams)

### **John Carroll University (2000-2005)**

Finalists, ADA National Tournament, Junior Varsity division, 2002.

Semifinalists, CEDA National Tournament, 2001.

Semifinalists, ADA National Tournament, Open division, 2001.

Octafinalists, National Debate Tournament, 2001.

### **George Mason University (1992-2000)**

ADA National Champions, Novice division, 1993, 1997, 2000.

ADA National Champions, Junior Varsity division, 1994, 1998.

ADA National Champions, Open division, 1993, 1994.

Octafinalists, National Debate Tournament, 1993, 1994 (2 teams simultaneously).

Double-octafinalists, National Debate Tournament, 1998.

First Round At-Large Bid to the National Debate Tournament, 1993, 1994.

Qualifiers for National Debate Tournament, 1993-2000.

#### *Other Debate-related Activities*

Advisor, Nashville-area Elementary and Middle School debates, 2011-present.

Advisor, Great Debaters Series, 2010-present.

Volunteer, Nashville Debate League, 2010-present.

Volunteer, Wayne State University DebateWatch, October 2008.

Wayne State University Liaison, Detroit Urban Debate League, 2006-2007.

Advisor, Student Debate on Business Ethics, John Carroll University, November 2004.

Co-Coordinator for John Carroll University, DebateWatch, September-October 2004.

Advisor, Student Debate on Iraq, John Carroll University, November 2002.

Co-host for John Carroll University, British national debate team, 2002

## **IV. Advising**

Interdisciplinary Major Advisor, Vanderbilt University, January 2014-May 2015.

Internship Advisor, Communication Studies Department, Vanderbilt University, January-May 2012.

Student Advisor, Department of Communications, John Carroll University, January 2004-May 2005.

Faculty Sponsor, Cooperative Education Program, John Carroll University, September 2004-May 2005.

Project Advisor, Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, George Mason University, January 2000-May 2003.

Student Advisor, Department of Communication, George Mason University, August 1993-May 2000.

Project Advisor, Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, George Mason University, January 2000-May 2000.

## **V. Research**

### *Books*

Muir, S. A., & Butt, N. S. (2009). *The lore and practice of policy debate*. Fairfax, VA: Athena Communication. [10 annual editions; 2000-2009 editions published by Paradigm Research in Denton, Texas.]

Muir, S. A., & Butt, N. S. (1999). *The George Mason University college policy debate manual*. Fairfax, VA: Athena Communication. [5 annual editions 1995-1999]

Muir, S. A., & Butt, N. S. (1999). *The George Mason University high school policy debate manual*. Fairfax, VA: Athena Communication. [5 annual editions 1995-1999]

#### *Book Chapters*

O'Donnell, T., Butt, N. S., Bauschard, S., Bellon, J., Decker, W., Katsulas, J., ... Packer, J. (2010). A rationale for intercollegiate debate in the twenty-first century. In A. D. Loudon (Ed.), *Navigating opportunity: Policy debate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century* (pp. 27-56). New York: International Debate Education Association.

#### *Competitive Papers*

Butt, N. S. (2009, November). *Stable core content but changed pedagogical approach: Judging debates as a method to increase decision making ability*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.

Butt, N. S. (2001, April) *The Classic Division: An Effort to Renew Interest in High School Policy Debate*, Top Three Paper in Argumentation and Forensics, Eastern Communication Association Convention, Portland, ME.

#### *Invited Papers*

Butt, N. S. (2011, April). *Integrating Argumentation and Debate into Public Speaking Classrooms*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Arlington, VA.

Butt, N. S. (2010, April). *New Technology Use in Debate*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Baltimore, MD.

Butt, N. S. (2009, November). *Cooperation and competition: Adding cooperative elements to an argumentation and debate classroom without sacrificing the benefits of competition*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.

Butt, N. S. (2008, November). *The critical thinking movement: An unconventional social movement*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, San Diego, CA.

Butt, N. S. (2008, May). *Mutually reinforcing: The application of debate to critical pedagogy and critical pedagogy to debate*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Pittsburgh, PA.

Butt, N. S. (2007, April). *In Defense of 'Old School' ADA: Why Rules are Good for Debate Education*. Eastern Communication Association Convention, Providence, RI.

Butt, N. S. (2002, November). *Judging Dilemmas: Exploring Tensions between Competing Judging Demands*. National Communication Association Convention, New Orleans, LA.

Brossmann, B., & Butt, N. S. (2002, April). *Rookie Debate: Reflections on the New Division*. Eastern Communication Association Convention, New York, NY.

Butt, N. S. (2001, April). *The Expansion of Kritiks: Implications for Accessibility*. Eastern Communication Association Convention, Portland, ME.

Butt, N. S. (2000, November). *Corporate Welfare* [CEDA Topic Paper]. National Communication Association Convention, Seattle, WA.

- Butt, N. S. (2000, April). *Collegiate Support for Regional High School Debate: The Northern Virginia Example*. Eastern Communication Association Convention, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Butt, N. S. (1999, May). *Cooperation and Competition within Collegiate Policy Debate Communities: Implications for New Debate Programs*. Eastern Communication Association Convention, Charleston, WV.
- Muir, S. A., & Butt, N. S. (1995, November). *Community Perspectives on Critiques*. Report to the National Debate Tournament Committee, presented at the Speech Communication Association Convention, San Antonio TX.

### *Panels*

- Chair, *Forensics, Debate and Politics*, Eastern Communication Association Convention, Arlington, VA, April 16, 2011.
- Chair, *Coaching, Teaching, and Life*, Eastern Communication Association Convention, Arlington, VA, April 16, 2011.
- Chair/Respondent, *Argumentation and Forensics Pedagogy I: Documented Benefits*, Eastern Communication Association Convention, Arlington, VA, April 14, 2011.
- Chair, *Argumentation and Forensics Pedagogy II: Priorities, Goals, and Practices*, Eastern Communication Association Convention, Arlington, VA, April 14, 2011.
- Panelist, *Is Forensics Meeting the Needs of the Millennial Student?*, Eastern Communication Association Convention, Baltimore, MD, April 24, 2010.
- Panelist, *Stability and Change: Forensics at a Generational Crossroads*, National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, IL, November 14, 2009.
- Panelist, *Re-inventing Connections for High School Debate*, Michigan Association of Speech Communication Convention, Clinton Township, MI, October 3, 2009.
- Panelist, *Searching for Political Identity: Assumptions, Challenges, and Changes*, Michigan Association of Speech Communication Convention, Clinton Township, MI, October 3, 2009.
- Respondent, *The Growing Divide between Competitive Forensics and Academic Life and How to Cross the Divide*, National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, IL, November 16, 2007.
- Panelist, *Contemporary Developments in Political Communication*, Michigan Association of Speech Communication Convention, Hillsdale, MI, October 6, 2007.
- Chair, *Current Issues in Debate Participation: An Intersection of Theoretical, Personal, and Practical Questions*, Eastern Communication Association Convention, Providence, RI, April 26, 2007.
- Panelist, *Expanding Debate Opportunities for High School Students*, National Communication Association Convention, Boston, MA, November 18, 2005.
- Chair, *Adjudicating Debate Rounds: On the Demands of Judging*, National Communication Association Convention, New Orleans, LA, November 21, 2002.
- Chair, *Building Debate Communities: Opportunities for Students New to Debate*, Eastern Communication Association Convention, New York, NY, April 27, 2002.
- Chair, *Recent Changes in Debate: Access, Arguments, Rules, and Trends*, Eastern Communication Association Convention, Portland, ME, April 26, 2001.

## **VI. Service**

### *Professional service*

Chair, Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group, Eastern Communication Association, 2010-2011.

Secretary, Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group, Eastern Communication Association, 2001-2002, 2007-2009.

East Central Representative, Cross Examination Debate Association Executive Council, 2005-2007.

Interim Executive Council Representative, Argumentation and Forensics Interest Group, Eastern Communication Association, 2001-2002.

### *University Service*

Chair, Facilities and Equipment Committee, Communication Studies Department, Vanderbilt University, 2016.

Search Committee for Assistant Director of Debate, 2016.

Student Representative, Communication Department PhD Enhancement Position Search Committee, Wayne State University, 2007-2008.

President, Communication Graduate Student Association, Wayne State University, 2007-2008.

Faculty Liaison, Communication Graduate Student Association, Wayne State University, 2006-2007.

Chair, Department of Communications Research Methods Course Committee, John Carroll University, 2002-2005.

Member, Department of Communications Argumentation and Debate Class Committee, John Carroll University, 2000-2001.

## **VII. Professional Development**

Getting Ready for Review: Reflecting On and Documenting Your Teaching (Instructors: Allison Pingree, Director, Center for Teaching at Vanderbilt University), September 23, 2010.

New Horizons for Learning: Teaching Digital Natives (Instructors: Star A. Muir and Janette Kenner Muir), Short Course at Eastern Communication Association Convention, Baltimore, MD, April, 2010.

Preparing and Submitting an External Grant Proposal Step by Step, Wayne State University Professional and Academic Development Seminar (Instructors: James Barbret, Andrew Feig, Jeffrey Loeb, and Joanne Sobeck), December 18, 2009.

Setting Expectations in Graduate Education, Wayne State University Professional and Academic Development Seminar (Instructors: Elizabeth Faue and Loreleigh Keashly, February, 2009.

How to Resolve Conflict between a Student and a Faculty Member, Wayne State University Communication Graduate Student Association Workshop (Instructor: Loreleigh Keashly), February, 2009.

Communication Activism: Engaged Scholarship (Instructor: Larry Frey), Wayne State University Summer Doctoral Seminar, May 2008.

Intergroup Communication: Its Ubiquity and Dynamics (Instructor: Howard Giles), Wayne State University Summer Doctoral Seminar, May 2007.



Teaching a Course or Unit on Argumentative and Aggressive Communication: Taking Action and Changing Lives (Instructors: Andrew Rancer and Theodore Avtgis), Short Course at Eastern Communication Association Convention, Providence, RI, April, 2007.

Communication Media and the Public Interest: Challenges in the Digital Age (Instructors: Thomas McCain and Robert Avery), Wayne State University Summer Doctoral Seminar, May 2006.

### **VIII. Affiliations**

American Debate Association

American Forensic Association (Life Member)

Cross Examination Debate Association

Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha (DSR-TKA) Forensics Honor Society

Eastern Communication Association (Life Member)

National Communication Association (Life Member)

National Debate Tournament

### **IX. Grants, Fellowships, and Awards**

Summer Dissertation Fellowship (\$5,000), The Graduate School, Wayne State University, 2009.

Graduate Dissertation Research Support (\$1,000), The Graduate School, Wayne State University, 2009.

Dissertation Fellowship (\$2,000), Department of Communication, Wayne State University, 2009.

Graduate Student Service Award, Department of Communication, Wayne State University, 2006, 2007.

### **X. Additional Relevant Employment**

Associate Editor, *Space Energy and Transportation* (formerly *Journal of Practical Applications in Space*), Arlington, VA, January 1998-January 2000.