



# COMM-ENTARY

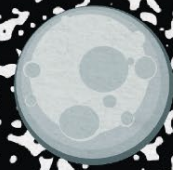
43rd edition

2021 - 2023

Media Rhetoric Interpersonal



603



Cover Art

by

Kali Couronis

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Simply search for “commentary UNH” in your browser

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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 43rd edition of *Comm-Entary*! We are proud to present you with this year's edition of the Communication Department's research journal at the University of New Hampshire. The annual publication of *Comm-Entary* is a time-honored tradition here in the Communication Department. Over the past 43 years, *Comm-Entary* has enabled young scholars to share their insights on media, rhetoric, and interpersonal studies. We have reached audiences in six continents and in dozens of countries around the world. We are so excited to share it with you.

This year, I had the privilege of witnessing and being part of the incredible achievements of our journal. Our team recruited innovative new talent this year that helped shape our goals and bring our objectives to life. Furthermore, in pursuit of last year's goal of expanding our reach, we are proud to announce that our social media strategy has expanded to a new platform: Tik Tok. For the second year in a row now, we have also fostered collaborations with UNH's chapter of Lambda Pi Eta (LPE), the Communication Department's Honors Society. Some of the research in this publication, in fact, stems from the bright minds of LPE students. We are also proud to have highlighted two panels of authors at the annual Undergraduate Research Conference for the second year in a row. The nine young scholars that presented their research at the conference speak to the academic excellence of the students of the Communication Department.

Our Editorial Board and student editors made the publication of the 43rd edition a success by their true commitment and hard work. And, of course, none of it would have been possible without the guidance and leadership of our incredible faculty advisor, Professor R. Michael Jackson. The dedication and passion for academia that our members demonstrate can be clearly seen in the pages that follow. Thank you, team!

*Comm-Entary* is a true example of scholarship and young minds coming together to contribute something meaningful to the communication field of study. From the *Comm-Entary* team to you, we hope you enjoy and find meaning within the following pages!

Sincerely,

Ashley White

Editor-in-Chief

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## ***Comm-Entary 43<sup>rd</sup> Edition Authors and Abstracts***



Name: Lauren Cole  
Year: Senior  
Major: Communication: Business Application  
Fun Fact: I have a rescue dog from Brazil!

“Pandemic through the Lens: an Examination of Repeat Photography during Lockdown”

The Covid-19 pandemic had sweeping effects on environments across the globe including, decreases in pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and many others. Repeat photography and social media became tools to document these changes for people to see. Generally, traditional climate imagery and repeat photography depict the degradation of the environment rather than its recovery. This paper works to show how the use of this unique situation, to promote positive environmental change, might work better as a persuasive tool in the fight for climate action.



Name: Michael Thomas Crowley  
Year: Junior  
Major: Music Education  
Fun Fact: I've strictly worn white, high-top Converse and white, unbranded, half-calf socks every day for the last 4 years -- I'm going for the record.

“El Chupacabra”

Burning red eyes, gnarly fangs and claws, raging blood lust: A ravenous beast, El Chupacabra (literally translated to “The Goat-Sucker”) terrorizes livestock throughout the Central Americas. Tonight, our warm, romantic evening is cut fatally short, when an un-welcomed guest leads us away from the ranch and into the slaughter. I've always enjoyed music videos, animated shorts, clever soundtracks, and storytelling -- I wanted to get in on the fun! El Chupacabra is my first work that combines my very own musical composition and animation; I hope you enjoy in your very own way!





Name: Emma DaRocha

Year: Senior

Major: Communication, Business Application

Fun Fact: My favorite food is ice cream!

### "Short Analysis of Emma Watson's 'He for She' Speech"

This case study examines power imbalances within organizations. Like many freshmen, a college student in a new state found himself yearning for a sense of belonging. He made the decision to join a fraternity on campus, but this group did not provide him with this sense of community. Instead, he was hazed and left paralyzed from the pledging process. I decided to conduct my case study on a story that involves hazing on a college campus since, regrettably, it still happens frequently in our nation. Having discussions about these situations can help raise awareness and provide information so that no other students experience similar situations.



Name: Céilí Flot

Year: Senior

Major: Communication

Fun Fact: One of my favorite things to do is create my own tea blends.

### "Remembering the AIDS Crisis & ACT UP: The Failures of the American Public, Government, and Cultural Institutions"

This paper discusses the history of the AIDS crisis and the activist group ACT UP. During the early stages of the outbreak, there was much confusion and hysteria surrounding the nature of the illness. Many misconceptions about the illness had led to inaction from the public and government. In response, ACT UP had formed to address this inaction. This paper analyzes a set of six photographs taken during ACT UP's protest efforts and analyzes the arguments within them.

### "A Close Look at Emma Chamberlain's Success: Para-social Relationships and Authenticity"

This blog post focuses on the popular YouTuber Emma Chamberlain and examines how she has found success in the traditional media landscape. Unlike other YouTubers, Emma has gone from vlogging in her car to walking red carpets with some of Hollywood's biggest stars. How has she been able to do what so many YouTubers fail to do? This paper attempts to answer this question through looking at para-social relationships and the appeal of authenticity.



Name: Kaley Lambert

Year: Junior

Major: Triple major in Communication, Philosophy, and Italian Studies

Fun Fact: I'm an officer for The Socratic Society at UNH, and I have a tattoo in honor of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*!

### “The Almost-Feminism of *Midsommar*”

This paper argues that the 2019 horror film *Midsommar* accomplishes *almost-feminism*. It includes a matriarchal society, respects older women, punishes toxic masculinity, rewards emotional vulnerability, has complex and unique female characters, and has a strong female protagonist. There is also, however an overt lack of intersectionality, as *Midsommar* exhibits a lack of consideration for class, ableism, racism, or body diversity. This film is nevertheless a worthwhile counterweight in a sea of actively sexist horror films.

### “Environment Influence on Interaction Outcomes”

In tandem with other interactional elements, the body plays a substantial role in communicative interactions with companions and oneself. This research compares environmental differences between spaces from two different reality television program environments (*Love is Blind* and *Love Island*) which are specified as having the same interaction-goal, observes how the spaces may influence the types of interpersonal interactions they are built for, and compares data regarding the outcomes of said interactions within these spaces so as to provide support for the argument that environments may influence interpersonal interaction outcomes.

### “Media Responsibility for Environmental Influence”

The United States media functions as a key resource that many citizens may use to form and/or strengthen their opinions on a variety of subjects. Such stances in turn can influence the behaviors of those who hold them. Content creators ought to deliberately engage with and consider their influence when developing content and narratives, lest they contribute to cycles of perspective-holding and action-making that may be harmful to social and environmental life.

### “Empathy Meditation to Soothe Division”

In that widespread lack of empathy and the presence of excess stress may be contributing factors toward harsh social division in the United States, programs to increase empathy and decrease stress may help to soothe these issues. Classrooms act as spaces which may be specially suited to trial and implement such programs. This research presents the foundational backing for such

programs, and offers a detailed proposal for one set within the structure of a college level course.

#### “Content for change”

This piece considers the perspectives of environmental activist Paul Kingsnorth, and author of *Anthropocene Unconscious: Climate Catastrophe Culture* Mark Bould when assessing the power of storytelling in efforts for climate crisis action. Stories hold the potential to change perspectives and encourage new mentalities. Media content is able to perpetuate, develop, and share stories to a massive audience. This paper argues that if media content were, on a wide scale, to deliberately shift narratives to encourage compassion, action, and concern for the environment, and to discourage wastefulness and mentalities of expansion and colonialism, then it may become more feasible to mitigate the progression of the global climate crisis.

#### “Kill ‘Objectivity,’ Save the Planet?”

This piece argues that objectivity is a flawed journalistic standard that is detrimental to pursuits for climate crisis action. Objectivity encourages practices that reiterate structures of injustice, disadvantage voices from marginalized communities while simultaneously advantaging stances with minimal scientific backing, and worsens matters of audience disengagement. In pursuit of reducing or eliminating this environmentally burdensome practice, this paper proposes a transition toward transparent objectivity as a possible alternative to objectivity for journalistic standards.



Name: Matthew Morley  
Year: Alumni (December 2022 Graduate)  
Major: Communication  
Fun Fact: I have two dogs

#### "Art in Climate Argumentation"

My paper examines the role of art in the environmental crisis that we are currently facing. I believe that the climate emergency is largely the result of a disconnect between the scientific community and the non-scientific community. In other words, scientists are trying to portray scientific information to a non-scientist demographic. I believe that if we are to prevail during these uncertain times, we need a middleman between these two parties. We need someone who is able to take the information that the scientists are bringing to the table and break it down to non-scientists in a way that makes sense to them, and I believe that this role falls upon the artists of the world. In this research paper, I examine the historical framing of the environmental crisis,

and propose a few alternative approaches which incorporate arts and media. I also take a look at one of my own personal favorite music acts, and how they've taken their own unique approach to environmentalism.



Name: Samuel Maynard

Year: Junior

Major: Communication – Media Practices Option

Fun Fact: Photographing nature, especially birds, is a favorite pastime of mine.

### "The Death Penalty Does Not Deter Murder"

This essay was intended to explore and highlight the evidence that suggests that the death penalty is not effective in deterring violent crime. While recognizing the fact that research on this topic is complex and often inconclusive, there are enough credible sources available to indicate a lack of effectiveness in crime prevention via capital punishment. Elements of human influence and natural rationale are also mentioned, as well as public opinion on the matter, as the subject of the death penalty is ultimately a social issue. Research suggests that ideas of personal retribution keep capital punishment in place more than practicality or results.



Name: Lydia Osmer

Year: Senior '23

Major: Communication, English Teaching

Minor: Women's & Gender Studies

Fun Fact: I rode in a hot air balloon in Cappadocia, Turkey!

### "*Death with Interruptions* Short Analysis"

In this writing piece, *Death with Interruptions* by José Saramago is analyzed through the lens of its stream of consciousness writing style. Using concepts from End of Life Communication studies and traditional literary analysis, this short analysis on *Death with Interruptions* focuses on the both the personified character of Death as well as Saramago's stylistic choices throughout the story in order to illustrate human perceptions of love, life, and death.

### “Case Study Report: The Five Stages of Grief in *WandaVision*”

This report analyzes the Marvel Cinematic Universe’s 2021 limited Disney+ series *WandaVision* through the lens of Elisabeth Kübler-Ross’s framework of the Five Stages of Grief: Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, and Acceptance. In the show, Wanda Maximoff uses her magic to create a personal-utopian reality “hex” following the death of her lover Vision. This magical reality works within the plot of the show to reveal how Wanda experiences and demonstrates Kübler-Ross’s Five Stages of Grief.



Name: Grace Righini

Year: Senior

Major: Communication with Business Administration and Spanish Minor

Fun Fact: My favorite food is sushi!

### "Rhetorical Analysis of 'Surviving R. Kelly'"

This essay discusses the documentary *Surviving R. Kelly*, which details allegations of sexual abuse against the musician Robert "R" Kelly. The documentary provides a platform for young black women to speak out against Kelly and explain why he is an abuser. It also sheds light on victims' difficulties in obtaining justice, particularly when a celebrity is involved. The essay analyzes the impact of the documentary and how it has empowered women to come forward with their own stories, regarding other women speaking out during the #MeToo movement and paving the way for future documentaries speaking out against other powerful celebrities. It also explores how the music industry enabled Kelly's crimes and why people continued to support him despite the allegations against him. Finally, it discusses the documentary's emotional impact and how it successfully persuaded the audience through visuals and interviews with victims and experts.



Name: Lily Neher

Year: Senior

Major: Communication and Dance

Fun Fact: I am a radio DJ here at UNH!

### “A Gorgeous Mosaic of People: A Multimodal Meditation on the Death and Life of Tyre Nichols”

This is a video collaboration tribute in honor of Tyre Nichols. It features photographs taken by Tyre Nichols, as well as video of Tyre skateboarding. This memorial project is directed by the Experimental & Civic Arts Lab in the Department of Communication at UNH and funded by a grant from the Responsible Governance and Sustainable Citizenship Project (RGSCP) and the Global Racial and Social Inequality Lab (GRSIL) of the UNH College of Liberal Arts. I choreographed it. Professor Kevin Healey composed and performed the music. Jon Donahue and Rhianwen Watkins danced with me.



Name: Ashley Kayla White

Year: Senior

Major: Communication: Media Practices and Women's and Gender Studies Dual Major

Fun Fact: I used to play Bridge competitively.

#### “The Role of Epistemics in Storytelling”

Epistemics play a vital role in storytelling sequences. In fact, laying the necessary epistemic groundwork before engaging in a storytelling sequence may make the difference between successful and unsuccessful story receptions. Taking a conversation analytic approach and drawing from one story-rich recording, this paper aims to explore the role of epistemics in storytelling sequences captured in day-to-day interaction. To achieve this, several critical conversation analytical concepts are employed. These include repair, expansion, physical gesturing, preference organization, reference, delicate formulations, assessments, and more. This paper adds to a framework of conversation analysis scholarship by drawing explicit connections between two distinct concepts (epistemics and storytelling).

#### “Performing Relationships During Special Occasion Openings”

All conversations start with an opening. However, opening sequences take on different and at times more grandiose representations during special or uncommon interactional events. How these openings are performed, furthermore, conveys much about the social dynamics and relationships between interactants. The goal of this research is to explore how special event opening practices display relationships between people in day-to-day interaction by drawing from two recordings of special occasion communication. To achieve this, a conversation analytic perspective is employed and several concepts are analyzed in conjunction with openings. These include preference organization, affiliation, repair, body torque and spatial orientation, gaze, epistemics, delicates, and more. Overall, this paper adds to the body of literature that draws connections between the formulation of openings and social relationships.

#### “Framing Radical Care And Radical Empathy In The #BlackLivesMatter Movement”

This thesis looks at the ongoing media framing of the #BlackLivesMatter movement (primarily in the realm of journalism) to argue that incorporating elements of radical care and radical empathy in how we communicate stories can lead to transformative change. After setting up the necessary framework to

understand radical care, radical empathy, and framing, main two research questions are developed. First (Q1), how can the issues involving the #BlackLivesMatter movement be reframed to incorporate a praxis of radical care and radical empathy? And second (Q2), what does such reframing achieve (and why does it matter)?



Name: Alec Dubois

Class: Junior

Major: Communication and Media Practices

Fun Fact: One of my favorite things is becoming engrossed in the world of a great film or novel. Thanks for checking out my work!

“UNH Blue”

Two unremarkable college students in the process of making a lackluster film for their short documentary class accidentally stumble upon a campus-wide conspiracy that could ruin the lives of their students and the school’s reputation - and it’s up to them to put a stop to it.

Name: Josh Kalman

Year: Junior

Major: Communication

Fun Fact: Rainy days are my favorite thing because they bring a fresh perspective and really shake everything up.

“UNH Blue”

Two unremarkable college students in the process of making a lackluster film for their short documentary class accidentally stumble upon a campus-wide conspiracy that could ruin the lives of their students and the school’s reputation - and it’s up to them to put a stop to it.



Name: Julia Gomes

Year: Senior

Fun Fact: I am ambidextrous!

#### “The Rightwing Populism of Marine Le Pen”

This film explores the evolution and threat of Marine Le Pen in French politics.

Name: Daniela Farfan

Year: Senior

Major: Communication

Fun Fact: I watched the Twilight series for the first time this winter break.

#### “God’s Favorite: Hollywood Archivists and Peddlers”

In his exhibition, Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow? Photographer David LaChapelle features well-known celebrities that are sometimes revered as God’s favorites. The mirage of Hollywood is glamorous and beautiful. Hollywood is a place of dreams congruent with limitless imagination and youth. LaChapelle’s photographs feature celebrities who sacrifice themselves to achieve and exemplify the ideals of show business and celebrity. LaChapelle’s portraits offer insight into the fantasy and truth behind celebrity.

Name: Brie Surawaski

Year: Senior

Major: Communication

Fun Fact: My interests in Communication include leading, coaching, and mentoring others.

#### "Analysis of 'My Sister's Keeper' and Parents of Terminally Ill Children"

This paper uses the film and the novel that it is based on to examine the behavior and communication strategies of parents with terminally ill children.



### ***Comm-Entary 43<sup>rd</sup> Editorial Board Members***



Name: Patrick Hussey

Year: Junior

Major: Dual major in Educational Studies & Communication

Fun Fact: I was a cheerleader for 5 years!!



Name: Robert Briggs

Year: Senior

Major: Communication

Fun Fact: I love the sport of cyclocross! It is of European origin and consist of many laps of a short course featuring tarmac, wooded trails, grassy fields, steep hills. Often times the rider must dismount their bicycle to navigate obstacles.



Name: Hayleyann Gifford

Year: Senior

Major: Communication Business Applications, Business & Spanish Minor

Fun Fact: I'm excited to be moving to Boston after graduation!



Year: Senior

Name: Mya Sanders

Major: Communication

Fun Fact: I'm in Army ROTC.



Name: Céilí Flot

Year: Senior

Major: Communication

Fun Fact: One of my favorite things to do is create my own tea blends.



Name: Shaielyn Spensley

Year: Junior

Major: Communication

Fun Fact: My favorite show is Stranger Things.



Name: Layla Hanissian

Year: Sophomore

Major: Communication

Fun Fact: I have a beagle named Prudie.



Name: Spencer Quillen

Year: Sophomore

Major: Communication

Fun Fact: I ran a half marathon for red pandas.



Name: Evie Wiechert

Year: Junior

Major: Communication

Fun Fact: My favorite animal is a lobster, and I'm also an archer.



Name: Marlouise Siguenza

Major: Communication with Business Administration Minor

Year: Junior

Fun Fact: I'm from Fairfield, CT.



Name: Ashley Kayla White

Year: Senior

Major: Communication: Media Practices and Women's and Gender Studies Dual Major

Fun Fact: I used to play Bridge competitively

Name: Brie Surawaski

Year: Senior

Major: Communication

Fun Fact: My interests in Communication include leading, coaching, and mentoring others.

Name: Josh Kalman

Year: Junior

Major: Communication

Fun Fact: Rainy days are my favorite thing because they bring a fresh perspective and really shake everything up.