

Amber L. Jannusch

EDUCATION

University of Iowa

Ph.D., Communication Studies

M.A., Communication Studies

Iowa City, IA

2014

2008

Dissertation Title: [*Politics Among Friends: Political Persuasion Through the Lens of Sequential Inferential Paradigm*](#)

Dissertation Committee: Kristine (Fitch) Muñoz, Steve Duck, David Hingstman, Carolyn Colvin, Steven Hitlin

Honors: Presidential Fellowship (2 years full research fellowship)

College of William and Mary Law School

J.D.

Williamsburg, VA

2005

Honors: *Cum Laude*, Graduate Research Fellow, Journal of Women and Law (*now Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice*), Institute of Bill of Rights Law, Honors in Legal Skills

Gustavus Adolphus College

B.A., Honors Communication Studies

St. Peter, MN

2000

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mitchell Hamline School of Law

Assistant Teaching Professor, Academic Excellence

St. Paul, MN

2026-current

Amber Tutors Law

Founder, President

St. Paul, MN

2021-current

- Created and developed tutoring business focused on legal education and mindful wellness
- Tutored one-on-one for the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE), California and Bar Exams, Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE), Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), Legal Writing, and 1L subjects
- Coached and advised pre-law and pre-graduate students in navigation of the application process
- Created “Retake to Pass” program, a wholistic coaching and tutoring program for people re-taking the Bar Exam

Minnesota Judicial Branch

Law Clerk to Judge Terri Yellowhammer

Minneapolis, MN

2020-2021

- Researched and drafted orders and memorandum of law.
- Scheduled, coordinated, and managed court hearings in person and remotely.

Thomson Reuters

Eagan, MN

Reference Attorney

2018-2020

- Researched myriad complicated legal issues across practice areas nationwide.
- Selected for Premier team, responsible for research for Top 100 law firms and specialty research product assistance.
- Produced content for internal and external blog posts and articles of notable and interesting cases, and legal research-focused newsletters for IRS and DOJ.
- Participated in projects designed to test and improve user experience for legal researchers using Thomson Reuters Westlaw online database.
- Mentored and trained incoming team members.

Hamline University

St. Paul, MN

Adjunct Professor

Spring 2020

- Course taught: Legal Studies in American Society

University of Wisconsin La Crosse

La Crosse, WI

Visiting Assistant Professor

2016-2018

- Courses taught: Communicating Effectively, Nonverbal Communication, Interpersonal Communication (2 sections)

Iowa Legal Aid

Iowa City, IA

Legal Researcher and Volunteer Attorney

2015-2016

- Researched, drafted, edited, and revised memorandum of law and legal opinion publications.
- Analyzed statutes, recorded judicial opinions, legal articles, statutes, and codes.
- Conducted client interviews and data gathering.
- Presented Community Legal Education classes to low income community members.

University of Iowa

Iowa City, IA

Visiting Assistant Professor

2014-2015

- Courses taught: Business and Professional Communication, Nonverbal Communication, Communication of Social Support (capstone course)

Administrator, Participant Recruitment System

2014-2015

- Facilitated implementation of online research organization system to connect departmental researchers with student participants receiving required or extra class credit.
- Served as point of contact and troubleshooter for undergraduate participants, graduate student and faculty researchers, and course instructors.
- Created manuals to ensure institutional memory for further system use.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

2007-2014

- Primary instructor: Persuasion
- Discussion instructor: Theory and Practice of Argumentation, Communication Methods, Communication and Everyday Life, Introduction to Sociology

- Teaching Assistant: Senior Research Seminar (Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies), Honors Thesis Seminar (Communication Studies)

Cornell College

Mount Vernon, IA

Adjunct Professor

Fall 2014

- Course taught: Intimate Relationships

Scott Community College

Davenport, IA

Adjunct Professor

Spring 2011 - Spring 2012

- Courses taught: Public Speaking, Business and Professional Communication

HONORS , AWARDS, AND GRANTS

High Impact Practices Grant

Spring 2018

University of Wisconsin La Crosse

Course Embedded Undergraduate Research Grant

2017

University of Wisconsin La Crosse Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning

Presidential Graduate Fellow

2006-2011

University of Iowa

Awarded to 25 incoming students in the University of Iowa Graduate College; provided tuition stipend, summer funding, and two years of fellowship funding.

Graduate Research Fellow

2002-2005

College of William and Mary, Marshall-Wythe School of Law

Merit based research assistantship and scholarship; researched Constitutional Law and legal history for Professors Douglas and Van Alstyne.

Honors in Legal Skills

2004

College of William and Mary, Marshall-Wythe School of Law

Recognized for excellence in research, writing, analysis, negotiation, interviewing and client relations, and trial and appellate practice.

Outstanding Scholar in Communication Studies

2000

Gustavus Adolphus College

Guild of St. Ansgar

2000

Gustavus Adolphus College

Selected for elite academic society for students extensively involved in leadership, service and scholarship activities.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Law School Success: I am interested in how models of psychology and wellness can inform and improve the law school experience and how to integrate wellness interventions into legal education and the legal profession.

Interpersonal Persuasion: I am interested in how interpersonal communication works to affect persuasion and identity. I use discourse analysis and social interaction to examine expressed and embedded forces that underlie everyday conversation.

Methodology: I am trained in quantitative and qualitative approaches. My general methodology is qualitative, looking at actual communication and discourse between people. I advocate for increased use of case studies as a way of understanding persuasion inherent within a conversation or relationship.

PUBLICATIONS

Thomas, L. & Jannusch, A. (2021) Policy Fosters Family: Examining discourses of biology and care in foster care-related government texts. *Communication Law Review*, 20, 84-108.

Jannusch, A., & Huisman, D. (2015) The person we knew: Perceptions of the identity of loved ones with dementia by family caregivers. *Speaker and Gavel*, 52, 17-31.

Baxter, L., Scharp, K. Asbury, B., Jannusch, A., & Norwood, K. (2012). "Birth mothers are not bad people": A dialogic analysis of online birth mother stories. *Qualitative Communication Research*, 1, 53-82.

Baxter, L, Norwood, K., Asbury, B., Jannusch, A., & Scharp, K. (2012). Narrative coherence in online stories told by members of the adoption triad. *Journal of Family Communication*, 12, 265-285.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Fostering Family: Child Welfare Services, Child Protection and Care, and the Biological Family. (2018). Paper presented at National Communication Association 2018 convention.

"Queer," difference, and shared identity: Who (and what) counts as queer? Panel accepted to Central States Communication Association 2018 convention in Milwaukee, WI.

Identity After Memory Loss. (2017). Presentation for Creative Imperatives Conference, University of Wisconsin La Crosse.

Social Support and Legal Support. (2016). Presentation in Dr. Dena Huisman's Social Support course, University of La Crosse.

A Case study of disagreement through the lens of discourse analysis. (2015). Paper presented at Central States Communication Association convention, Madison, WI.

Media and Body Image. (2015). Invited discussion facilitator for Girl Scout Regional Convention, Cedar Rapids, IA.

Communicating: Matching your style to the one you want to influence (2014). Invited speaker for University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine “For Women in Medicine” program.

Looking at Politics Through Discourse Analysis: Political Communication Among Friends. (2014). Paper presented at Central States Communication Association Convention, Minneapolis, MN.

“Are you my mommy?”: Perceptions of the identity of loved ones with dementia by family caregivers. (2011) Paper presented at National Communication Association Convention, New Orleans, LA.

Gaining compliance from a family member with dementia. (2011). Paper presented at Central States Communication Association Convention, Milwaukee, WI.

An encomium to Helen and Nixon. (2009). Paper presented at Jakobsen Conference, University of Iowa.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH WORK

Jannusch, A. (2005). Potential ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women: What women Senators can do. William and Mary Journal of Women and the Law (note).

Jannusch, A. (2000). Small Group Decision Making in Jury Deliberation. Honors Thesis, Gustavus Adolphus College (unpublished honors thesis).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Board , <i>The Qualitative Report</i>	2017-current
Public Speaking Competition Committee Chair University of Wisconsin La Crosse	2016-2018
Interdepartmental reviewer for undergraduate research University of Wisconsin La Crosse	2016-2018
Presenter , Public Speaking Center	2016-2018

University of Wisconsin La Crosse

- Invited to give presentations on public speaking and interviewing to advanced classes in the Business College, facilitated through the University Public Speaking Center.

Reviewer, *Argumentation and Advocacy* 2015-2017

Judge, Undergraduate Research Festival 2014
University of Iowa

Reviewer, Political Communication Interest Group 2014
Central States Communication Association Convention

Reviewer, *Journal of Communication Inquiry* 2014-2015

Reviewer, Student Section 2014
National Communication Association Convention

Reviewer, *Journal of Family Communication* 2011-2014

Student Representative, Graduate Affairs Committee 2011-2012
University of Iowa

Undergraduate Program paper reviewer 2011
Central States Communication Association

Graduate Student Advisory Committee 2009-2010
University of Iowa

Mentor, Communication Studies Graduate Program 2007-2009
University of Iowa

- Worked with incoming graduate students to address concerns and questions about acclimating to the department and the university.

Assistant to the Editor, *Journal of Women and the Law* 2003-2005
College of William and Mary, Marshall-Wythe School of Law

Member, Public Service Fund 2002-2004
College of William and Mary, Marshall-Wythe School of Law

- Participated and assisted in fundraising activities designed to provide alternative summer funding to law students involved in unpaid public service positions.

Chair, Symposium and Moot Court, Institution of Bill of Rights Law 2003-2004
College of William and Mary, Marshall-Wythe School of Law

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND COURSES

Strategies to Promote Deeper Learning during Lecture. University of Wisconsin La Crosse (2017). Workshop through the Center for Advancing Teaching & Learning on evidence-based recommendations to make lectures interesting, keep students involved, and promote deeper understanding and retention of material.

Online Instructor Training, University of Wisconsin La Crosse (2017). Intensive three-week, asynchronous online training for faculty, focusing on how to design, deliver, and facilitate online courses.

Assignment Charette, University of Wisconsin La Crosse (2017). Two-part workshop through the Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning, with concentration on developing a class assignment, including improving objectives and assessment.

Designing Effective Service Learning, University of Wisconsin La Crosse (2017). Workshop through the Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning, focusing on what makes service learning effective and how instructors can find community partners and engage students in effective community-based learning opportunities.

Assessment Commons: Asking Questions, Sharing Practices, Finding Answers, University of Wisconsin La Crosse (2016). Workshop through the Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning, including panel presentations and roundtable discussions regarding assessment practices. Content includes understanding assessment efforts and how to measure and improve student learning.

Teaching as Faculty, University of Iowa (2014). An orientation to teaching as a faculty member at the University of Iowa, including how to deal with larger class sizes, lecture styles, visual aids, and how to keep students engaged.

Using Online Discussions, University of Iowa (2011). Presentation through the Office of Teaching, Learning, and Technology, focused on how to effectively use online discussions, through course management software, to supplement course material and engage students.

Seminar in College Teaching, University of Iowa (2009). A three-credit class in the College of Education, designed for graduate students interested in teaching in their professional career. Content included techniques and strategies for teaching adult learners, syllabi and lesson plans, issues in the classroom and how to deal with them, leading class discussion, and how to stay motivated as a teacher throughout the semester. Class included an observation and discussion of a class session.

Introduction to Research, University of Iowa (2006). A two-credit course in the communication studies department for first year graduate students. Content included information about research methods, faculty research, and publication processes.

Issues in Teaching, University of Iowa (2006). A one-credit course in the communication studies department for first-year graduate students. Content included information about managing class discussions, choosing textbooks, building a rubric and grading scale, dealing with sexual harassment, testing strategies, using effective visual aids, and using student evaluations for improved teaching.

Teaching Assistant Orientation, University of Iowa (2006-2011). A three-day introduction to the graduate program and included processes of being a teaching assistant. Content included creating rubrics, assessing and grading, class culture and development, and common issues in the classroom and how to deal with them.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INVOLVEMENT

Volunteer Lawyer, Pro Bono bond program 2026-current
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid

- Trained and prepared for emergency bond hearings in federal immigration court

Volunteer Attorney, SJIS program 2025-2026
Advocates for Human Rihts

- Prepared Special Juvenile Immigrant Status application for unaccompanied minor

Volunteer Lawyer 2019-2020
Minnesota Legal Advice Online, Minneapolis, MN

Volunteer Lawyer, Pro-Se Asylum Project 2019
Volunteer Lawyers Network, Minneapolis, MN

Legal Researcher 2019
Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis, MN

- Interviewed documented and undocumented immigrants about labor violations.
- Researched state and federal labor statutes and its intersection with immigration in case law.
- Contributed to memo for United Nations consideration in review of United States labor policy and enforcement.

Moot Court Judge 2019
Mitchell Hamlin School of Law

Volunteer Lawyer 2016-2018
Iowa Legal Aid

Mentor, Critical M.A.S.S. (Critical Mentoring and Student Support) 2013-2015
University of Iowa

- Mentored undergraduate students on Disciplinary Reprimand or Probation, including serving as a check-in for personal accountability, a resource for referrals for collegiate resources, and an early intervention advocate to decrease future Code of Student Life Violations.

City Circle Acting Company of Coralville 2011-2013

- **Secretary on Board of Directors** - served as information coordinator and on executive committee of an education-focused theater organization with \$200,000 operating budget.

- **Assistant Director** – helped guide production of Our Town through creative, production, and promotional processes.
- **Promotional photographer** – organized and coordinated promotional photographs for each production, and assisted in development of displays.

MEMBERSHIPS AND LICENSES

Licensed to practice law in the state of Iowa	2016-2021
Licensed to practice law in the state of Minnesota	2020-present
Association of Academic Support Educators	2026-present