

David (Dáithí) Aaron Rooney

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Education

PhD candidate in Communication Studies, specializing in Rhetoric, Language and Political Communication, University of Texas at Austin, September 2020-present. 4.0 GPA.

M.A. Communication Studies, Baylor University, May 2020. 4.0 GPA.

Focus on depictions of animality in rhetoric and film. Thesis on the use of Animal Metaphor in nuclear war and climate catastrophe discourse.

B.S. Industrial and Labor Relations, focusing on Disability Studies and Labor Economics. Minor in Law and Society, Cornell University, 2018.

Article Publications

Rooney, David and Muller, S.M. “Woke Sausages at the Cracker Barrel: Gastronomism and the Synecdochic Politics of Plant-Based Meat,” *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* (accepted).

Rooney, David, Cerja, Cecilia and Muller, S.M., “‘Long Live the (Liver) King: Carnivore Diets, Alt-Right Influencers, and the Rhetoric of White Nationalism’” extended abstract accepted May 2023 at *Frontiers in Communication*. Full Manuscript to be returned in December 2023 [**Special Issue “Media, Racism, Speciesism: Issues and Solutions for Creaturely Racism in the Anthropocene” edited by Natalie Khazaal, Ellen Gorsevksi and Tobias Linné**].

Rooney, David. “‘A Primordial Situation’: Metonymical Linkages in US Newspaper Coverage of Wet Markets.” *Environmental Communication* (2022): 16(6), 836-849; <https://doi.org/10.1080/17524032.2022.2125548>.

Rooney, David. “‘All Fishing is Wildlife Poaching:’ Nonhuman Animal Imagery and Mutual Avowal in *Racing Extinction* and *Seaspiracy*.” *Journalism and Media* (2022): 3(2), 257-277; <https://doi.org/10.3390/journalmedia3020020>. [**Special Issue, “Communication in Defense of Nonhuman Animals during an Extinction and Climate Crisis,” edited by Carrie P. Freeman and Nélia Almiron**.]

Book Chapters in Textbooks

Rooney, David, Tyler Welsh, Johnathan Henson, Millie A. Harrison, & Jessica Knapp. “Argumentation & Persuasive Claims” In *Professional Communication Skills*, edited by Nathaniel R. Repay, Millie A. Harrison, & John A. Daly. Toronto: Tophatmonocole Corp., 2023.

Rooney, David, Timothy Steffensmier, Jessica Knapp, & Jessica L. Ford. “Persuasive Presentations” In *Professional Communication Skills*, edited by Nathaniel R. Repay, Millie A. Harrison, & John A. Daly. Toronto: Tophatmonocole Corp., 2023.

Research in Progress

****Omitted for peer review****

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Rooney, David. “‘He died like a dog:’ Trump, Conan the Dog and the Racialization of Animal Metaphor.” Manuscript intended for *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*. Intended submission: May 2023.

Muller, S.M, **David Rooney** and Zane McNeil. *Cheeseburger Paradise: Alt-Right Food Rhetoric and the Meatification of Right-Wing Extremism*. Manuscript intended for University of Mississippi Press. Intended submission date: Summer 2023. One chapter of proposal drafted, another in progress.

Rooney, David. “‘Monstrous Mutations Deserve Beastly Names!’ Mythological Names, COVID-19 and the Disappearance of Grief.”

- Long term project on the rhetoric of naming in citizen-scientist alternative naming schemas for COVID-19 variants that intend to draw attention to disappeared disability/death through mythological names (e.g., Cerberus, Gryphon, Basilisk).

Rooney, David. “#NoBonesDay: On Debility and Animal Rendering in Pandemic Times.”

- Long term project on intersections between critical disability studies and animal studies, looking to critically examine universalized feelings of incapacity through digital platforms, particularly the viral #NoBonesDay phenomenon in 2021 and the Spoon Theory of disability.

Book Reviews

Rooney, David. Review of *Impersonating Animals: Rhetoric, Ecofeminism, and Animal Rights Law* by S. Marek Muller. *Environmental Communication Division blog*, December 22, 2021. <https://sites.google.com/view/ecdnca/blog>.

Rooney, David. Review of *Climate in Motion: Science, Empire, and the Problem of Scale* by Deborah R. Coen. *Not Even Past*, December 4, 2020. <https://notevenpast.org/climate-in-motion-science-empire-and-the-problem-of-scale-by-deborah-r-coen-2018/>.

Rooney, David & Vilo, Felipe. Review of *Future Remains: A Cabinet of Curiosities for the Anthropocene* ed. Gregg Mitman, Marco Armiero and Robert S. Emmett. *Not Even Past*, May 11, 2021. <https://notevenpast.org/ihs-climate-in-context-future-remains-a-cabinet-of-curiosities-for-the-anthropocene-2018/>.

Conference Presentations

Rooney, David and Muller, M.S. (2023, June 5-9) “Woke Sausages:” Reading the Gastronomist Backlash to Cracker Barrel’s plant-based change,” the 2023 Conference on Communication and Environment (COCE), (Harrisonburg, Virginia).

- **2023 COCE Top Paper award.**

Rooney, David. (2022, November) “**No Dogs Left Behind: Negotiating Animality in the Dog-Meat Trade,**” *Critical and Cultural Studies Division*, 108th National Communication Association Convention, 2022 (New Orleans, Louisiana).

Rooney, David. (2022, November) “**He died like a dog:” Trump, Conan the Dog and animal metaphor,**” *Public Address Division*, 108th National Communication Association Convention, 2022 (New Orleans, Louisiana).

Rooney, David. (2022, November) “**#NoBonesDay: Multi-species engagement and Animal Rendering in Pandemic Times,**” *TikTok on the Clock: An Investigation into Subject Formation on TikTok* Panel, 108th National Communication Association Convention, 2022 (New Orleans, Louisiana).

Scott, Craig, Karen Schlag & **David Rooney.** (2022, May) “Naming the Unnamed: Technological and Other Understandings of Anonymity and Anonymous Communication,” 72nd Annual International Communication Association Conference, 2022 (Paris, France).

Rooney, David. (2020) “Pet Rhetoric: Yulin Dog Meat Festival and the Racial Economy of Animal Hospitality,” Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference, 2020 (Portland, Oregon) *Conference subsequently canceled due to COVID–19 pandemic.

Rooney, David. (2020) “‘Remember Your Humanity and Forget the Rest:’ Animal Metaphor in Nuclear War Discourse,” *Public Address Division*, 106th National Communication Association Convention, 2020 (Indianapolis, Indiana).

Rooney, David. (2020) “‘Killer-Animals:’ Understanding Trump’s Animalization of Immigrants,” *International and Intercultural Communication Division* 106th National Communication Association Convention, 2020 (Indianapolis, Indiana).

Rooney, David. (2020) “Animal Vanishing: Animetaphor and Climate Change in *Racing Extinction*,” *Visual Communication Division*, 106th National Communication Association Convention, 2020 (Indianapolis, Indiana). *did not present due to technological difficulties with the virtual conference.

Rooney, David. (2020) “Anthropoluosis in Nuclear Warfare: The Comfortable Vocabulary of Savagery and Animality,” Southern States Communication Association Convention, 2020 (Frisco, TX) *Conference subsequently canceled due to COVID–19 pandemic.

Rooney, David. (2020). “Disrupting Whiteness in Animal Rights Discourse: Tilikum v. SeaWorld and the Slavery Metaphor,” Southern States Communication Association Convention, 2020 (Frisco, TX) *Conference subsequently canceled due to COVID–19 pandemic.

Other

Rooney, David. (February 2020). Criminal Animals: Trump, MS-13 and & ‘Bad immigrants,’ Camp Rhetoric 2020: Rhetorics of Citizenship hosted by Arnold-Ebbitt Interdisciplinary Rhetoricians at Pennsylvania State University, February 29-29, 2020 (State College, PA).

Rooney, David. (December 2017) “Animal Death as First Death: Multiplicity and Finitude in Derrida,” Derrida and Literature Conference by graduate students within English, Comparative Literature or French programs at Cornell University, December 2017. Sponsored by the Class of 1916 Chair.

Teaching Experience

CMS 306M: Professional Communication (University of Texas-Austin)

Fall 2022—Present

Assistant Instructor

- Acted as sole instructor. Responsible for generating lectures, lecturing, assignment generation, exam writing, textbook generation, grading, etc. Normal student enrollment ~25 per section. 2 sections taught per semester. Course has an Ethics Flag, mostly consists of presentations and short essays.

CMS 342K: Political Communication (University of Texas-Austin)

Fall 2021 and Spring 2022

Assistant Instructor

- Responsible for 100% of course grading and student correspondence, including weekly office hours. Managed Canvas page and the gradebook. Normal student enrollment >50. Course has a Writing Flag, mostly consists of lectures and long-form essays.

CMS 359T: How People Talk (University of Texas-Austin)

Spring 2021

Graduate TA

- Grading short-form and long-form essays and held office hours/student correspondence. Responsible for grading 75% of class assignments and attendance. Course had a Writing Flag.

CMS 338: Leadership Stories (University of Texas-Austin)

Fall 2020

Graduate TA

- Grading and correspondence with students for an asynchronous course with an Ethics flag. Grading 10-20 short essays a week and 50 long-form essays.

CMS CSS 1301/1302: Public Speaking (Baylor University)

September 2018-May 2020

Graduate TA

Waco, Tx

- Teaching 5 sections to ~12 students a section (~60 total). Responsible for administering and grading all class assignments/exams, attendance for those students. Included instruction to many ESL students (from 2018-2020, roughly 1/5 of students every semester).

- Experience with online teaching/grading (Spring 2020) with Canvas/PitchVantage as well as several lectures (to hundreds of students) in Spring of 2019 when instructor was ill.

Glenn R. Capp Debate Forum (Baylor University)

July

2018-May 2020

Graduate Coach

Waco, Tx

- Coaching college debaters, multiple teams in the top 25 in the country and younger/novice debaters to regional championships. Frequent traveling and individual instruction.

Invited/Guest Lectures

"Navigating the Publication Process as a Doctoral Student." In *Rhetoric of Expertise* (graduate seminar), Department of Communication Studies, University of Texas at Austin, February 2023.

Other Activities

Reviewer

Southern States Communication Association, 2021

National Communication Association Conference, Environmental Communication Division, 2023.

Rhetoric & Public Affairs Journal (Michigan State University Press) September

2018-May 2020

Editorial Intern

Waco, TX

- Copy-editing for works to be published in the journal. Included making edits on grammar/wording, research and format/citation corrections.

Cornell Forensics Society (Speech & Debate) Policy Debate Captain '14-'18

2013-2018

- **Varsity:** Quarter-finalist NDT 2018, Semi-finalist CEDA Nationals 2017/18, multiple late elim appearances at national tournaments.
- **Novice/JV:** began at Cornell without prior debate experience, several Novice and Junior Varsity championships.
- **Other:** judging hundreds of parliamentary style debates at the Cornell tournament as well as participating for intra-organization competition.

Cornell Forensics Society (Speech & Debate) Outreach

2014-2018

- **Public Debates:** Several public debates: 1) with a representative from PETA on banning animal testing, 2) on the efficacy of the War on Terror with West Point cadets at Cornell and at the Cornell Club in NYC, 3) at the Gonzaga Debate Institute on education reform.
- **Community Service:** instructor in the MacCormick Secure Center Debate and Discussion Club, a weekly debate instruction to juvenile prisoners sentenced in adult criminal court. We would give lectures on topics the students were interested in (for example, lectures from faculty on Malcolm X's legacy, instructor lectures on Aristotle etc.) and facilitate student debates on topics of

their choosing, bringing literature to help them prepare (the facility lacked adequate educational supplies).

Cornell Disability Studies Journal *Senior Editor*
2016-2018

- Editing papers submitted for publication, helped organize the publication of Journal issues surrounding disability studies, legal discrimination and literary analysis.

Cornell Students for Animal Rights *organizer*
2014-2018

- Helped organize events on campus. Notable: Bringing activist Christopher Sebastian to speak on race and queer violence as it connects to animal liberation (Spring 2018). Canada Goose protest and pamphlet work in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018.

Splash! At Cornell *Organizer & Teacher*
2013-2018

- Helped organize hundreds of low-income high school students to travel to Cornell to take classes on various subjects from Cornell professors and students
- Taught classes on a variety of topics, ranging from speciesism to the history of the American prison industrial complex to both students and parents.