Zoltan P. Majdik

North Dakota State University Department of Communication Fargo, N.D. 58102 U.S.A.

EMAIL: zoltan dot majdik at ndsu dot edu ORCID: https://orcid.org/oooo-ooo2-3851-4694

OSF: https://osf.io/5q8ya/

RG: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Zoltan-Majdik

Current Position

2023-present Professor, Department of Communication, North Dakota State University

Past Positions

Associate Professor, North Dakota State University
 Assistant Professor, North Dakota State University
 Graduate Teaching/Research Assistant, University of Southern California

Areas of specialization

Computational Rhetoric • Language Modeling • Deep Learning & AI

Education

2003

2024

2024

Ph.D. in Communication, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, University of Southern California

DISSERTATION: The Gene is out of the Bottle: The Communication of Genetic Complexity in Direct-to-Consumer Genetics

M.A. in Communication, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, University of Southern California

B.A. in Communication and in English, University of Southern California

Publications & Talks

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Yang, M. H., & Majdik, Z. P. (2024). Pathological liars: Algorithmic knowing in the rhetorical ecosystem of Wallstreetbets. *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, 54(3). https://doi.org/10.1080/02773945.

Majdik, Z. P., Graham, S. S., Shiva Edward, J. C., Rodriguez, S. N., Karnes, M. S., Jensen, J. T., Barbour, J. B., & Rousseau, J. F. (2024). Sample size considerations for fine-tuning large language models for named entity recognition tasks: Methodological study. JMIR AI, 3, e52095. https://doi.org/10.2196/52095

Graham, S. S., Shiva, J., Sharma, N., Barbour, J. B., Majdik, Z. P., & Rousseau, J. F. (2024). Conflicts

- of interest publication disclosures: Descriptive study. *JMIR Data*, *5*(1), e57779. https://doi.org/10.2196/57779
- Graham, S. S., Harrison, K. R., Edward, J. C. S., Majdik, Z. P., Barbour, J. B., & Rousseau, J. F. (2024). Beyond bias: Aggregate approaches to conflicts of interest research and policy in biomedical research. World Medical & Health Policy, wmh3.608. https://doi.org/10.1002/wmh3.608
- Majdik, Z. P., & Wynn, J. (2023). Building better machine learning models for rhetorical analyses: The use of rhetorical feature sets for training artificial neural network models. *Technical Communication Quarterly*, 32(1), 63–78. https://doi.org/10.1080/10572252.2022.2077452
- Graham, S. S., Sharma, N., Karnes, M. S., Majdik, Z. P., Barbour, J. B., & Rousseau, J. F. (2023). A content analysis of self-reported financial relationships in biomedical research. *AJOB Empirical Bioethics*, 14(2), 91–98. https://doi.org/10.1080/23294515.2022.2160509
- Graham, S. S., Majdik, Z. P., Barbour, J. B., & Rousseau, J. F. (2022). Associations between aggregate NLP-extracted conflicts of interest and adverse events by drug product. Studies in Health Technology and Informatics, 290, 405–409. https://doi.org/10.3233/SHTI220106
- Graham, S. S., Karnes, M. S., Jensen, J. T., Sharma, N., Barbour, J. B., Majdik, Z. P., & Rousseau, J. F. (2022). Evidence for stratified conflicts of interest in research contexts: A methodological review. BMJ Open, 12, e063501. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2022-063501
- Graham, S. S., Majdik, Z. P., Barbour, J. B., & Rousseau, J. F. (2021). A dashboard for exploring clinical trials sponsorship and potential virtual monopolies. JAMIA Open, 4(4), ooabo89. https://doi.org/10.1093/jamiaopen/ooabo89
- Majdik, Z. P. (2021). Five considerations for engaging with big data from a rhetorical-humanistic perspective. *Poroi*, *16*(1)
- Duchsherer, A., Jason, M., Platt, C. A., & Majdik, Z. P. (2020). Immunized against science: Narrative community building among vaccine refusing/hesitant parents. *Public Understanding of Science*, 29(4), 419–435. https://doi.org/10.1177/0963662520921537
- Graham, S. S., Majdik, Z. P., Clark, D., Kessler, M. M., & Hooker, T. B. (2020). Relationships Among Commercial Practices and Author Conflicts of Interest in Biomedical Publishing. *PLoS ONE*, 15(7). https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0236166
- Graham, S. S., Majdik, Z. P., & Clark, D. (2020). Methods for Extracting Relational Data from Unstructured Texts Prior to Network Visualization in Humanities Research. Journal of Open Humanities Data, 6(8). https://doi.org/10.5334/johd.21
- Majdik, Z. P. (2019). A Computational Approach to Assessing Rhetorical Effectiveness: Agentic Framing of Climate Change in the Congressional Record, 1994–2016. *Technical Communication Quarterly*, 28(3), 207–222. https://doi.org/10.1080/10572252.2019.1601774
- Platt, C. A., & Majdik, Z. P. (2012). The Place of Religion in Habermas's Transformed Public Sphere. Argumentation and Advocacy, 49(2), 138–141
- Majdik, Z. P., & Platt, C. A. (2012). Selling Certainty: Genetic Complexity and Moral Urgency in Myriad Genetics' BRAC Analysis Campaign. *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, 42(2), 120–143
- Majdik, Z. P., & Keith, W. M. (2011). Expertise as argument: Authority, democracy, and problem-solving. Argumentation, 25(3), 371–384
- Majdik, Z. P., & Keith, W. M. (2011). The problem of pluralistic expertise: A Wittgensteinian approach to the rhetorical basis of expertise. *Social Epistemology*, 25(3), 275–290
- Majdik, Z. P., Platt, C. A., & Meister, M. (2011). Calculating the weather: Deductive reasoning and disciplinary telos in cleveland abbe's rhetorical transformation of meteorology. *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 97(1), 74–99
- Majdik, Z. P. (2011). On delimiting rhetorical invention in biopolitics: A rejoinder to lynch. *Rhetoric* & Public Affairs, 14(2), 379–389
- Majdik, Z. P. (2009). Judging direct-to-consumer genetics: Negotiating expertise and agency in public biotechnological practice. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, 12(4), 571–605
- Majdik, Z. P., Kephart III, J. M., & Goodnight, G. T. (2008). The Presidential Debates of 2004: Contested Moments in the Democratic Experiment. *Controversia*, 6(1)

PEER-REVIEWED CHAPTERS, ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES, & PROCEEDINGS

- Majdik, Z. P. (2019). When expertises clash: (Topic) modeling stasis about complex issues across large discursive corpora. In *The Routledge Handbook of Language and Science* (1st ed., pp. 308–318). Routledge
- Majdik, Z. P. (2014). Biological citizenship. *Encyclopedia of Health Communication* (pp. 105–106). Sage
- Majdik, Z. P. (2009). Between morality and ethics: Risk and argument in direct-to-consumer genetics. S. Jacobs & M. Zarefsky (Eds.), Concerning argument: Selected papers from the 15th Biennial Conference on Argumentation (pp. 495–505). National Communication Association
- Majdik, Z. P. (2006). Quo vadis, political debate? Truth-telling through comedy in Jon Stewart's Crossfire appearance. P. Riley & M. Zarefsky (Eds.), Engaging Argument: Proceedings of the NCA/AFA Conference on Argumentation (pp. 394–401). National Communication Association

OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATION GENRES

- Majdik, Z. P., & Graham, S. S. (2024). Rhetoric of/with AI: An introduction. Rhetoric Society Quarterly, 54. https://doi.org/10.1080/02773945.2024.2343264
- Majdik, Z. (2016). Expertise as practice: A response to DeVasto. Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective, 5(11), 1–6
- Majdik, Z. P. (2016). On rhetoric between science and society [lead review essay]. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, 19(1), 91–108
- Majdik, Z. (2012). Reply to Derek Ross' "Ambiguous Weighting and Nonsensical Sense". Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective, 1–5
- Majdik, Z. P. (2005). Power Without Persuasion: The Politics of Direct Presidential Action [book Review]. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, 8(3), 532–534

PRESENTATIONS

- Colombini, C. L., & Majdik, Z. P. (2025). Linguistic invention and the commonplaces of 'nature' in environmental advocacy [Presentation]. @ Western Communication Association, Albuquerque, NM
- Majdik, Z. P. (2024). Rhetorical alignment of AI systems [Featured talk]. @ Max Planck Institute/University of Tübingen/Rhet AI Center's Persuasive Algorithms: The Rhetorics of Generative AI, Tübingen, Germany
- Dadzie, E. M., & Majdik, Z. P. (2024). Fact-check or play? Rhetorical strategies for intervening in medical conspiracy theories. @ National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA
- Majdik, Z. P., & Dadzie, E. M. (2024). Inverting language models as method for rhetorical analysis [Panel presentation]. @ ARSTM Pre-Conference at National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA
- Majdik, Z. P. (2024). Distant reading through the looking glass: Language modeling as a mode of rhetorical analysis. @ Rhetoric Society of America, Denver, CO
- Majdik, Z. P., & Dadzie, E. (2023). The meteoric (but maybe not metaphoric) rise of ChatGPT: An experimental approach to testing RLHF-based llms' ability to persuade with metaphors [Panel presentation]. @ National Communication Association, National Harbor, MD
- Majdik, Z. P. (2023). *Adaptability in rhetorical ecologies*. @ Rhetoric Society of Europe, Tübingen, Germany
- Yang, M., & Majdik, Z. P. (2022). Pathological buyers: Algorithmic knowing and sense-making in the rhetorical ecology of wallstreetbets. @ National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA
- Majdik, Z. P. (2022). Panel: Re-parsing public address: Computational objects, methods, and ethics in rhetorical studies [Panel discussion]. @ National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA
- Majdik, Z. P. (2022). Rhetorical patterns of global health crises. @ ARSTM Pre-Conference at National Communication Association, Baltimore, MD

- Majdik, Z. P. (2021). *Metaphor progression in public discourses about COVID-19*. @ National Communication Association, Seattle, WA
- Majdik, Z. P., & Wynn, J. (2020). Machine/deep learning of complex rhetorical structures in scientific discourses: Is it doable? @ National Communication Association, Baltimore, MD
- Majdik, Z. P. (2019). *Replication in the humanities. (More why than how.)* [Panel presentation]. @ Central States Communication Association, Omaha, NE
- Graham, S. S., Clark, D., & Majdik, Z. P. (2019). Transparency to visibility (T2V): Digital resistance and the medical-industrial complex [Non-presenting author]. @ Digital Frontiers, Austin, TX
- Majdik, Z. P. (2019). Computing the grotesque. @ Rhetoric Society of Europe, Gent, Belgium
- Majdik, Z. P. (2019). Computational approaches to rhetoric: What are they good for? @ National Communication Association, Baltimore, MD
- Majdik, Z. P. (2017). Summary remarks: On trust in science. @ ARSTM Pre-Conference at National Communication Association, Dallas, TX
- Majdik, Z. P. (2015). Rhetorical dynamics of framing agency and choice in climate change policy discourse. @ National Communication Association, Las Vegas, NV
- Majdik, Z. P. (2015). Distributed agency and disembedded expertise in an age of applied genetics [Competitive paper]. @ ARSTM Pre-Conference at National Communication Association, Las Vegas, NV
- Majdik, Z. P. (2014). How to make rhetorical analyses salient to practicing scientists: A few suggestions. @ National Communication Association, Chicago, IL
- Platt, C. A., & Majdik, Z. P. (2013). Digital voices in an age of artificial intelligence: IBM's Watson and the disturbance of traditional apodictic/phronetic sources of argument [Competitive paper]. @ NCA/AFA Alta Conference on Argumentation, Alta, UT
- Majdik, Z. P., & Platt, C. A. (2011). Fight or flight: X-ray backscatter scanning and the question of expertise [Competitive paper]. @ ARSTM Pre-Conference at National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA
- Majdik, Z. P., & Waisanen, D. (2011). The challenge of institutional incoherence to the idea of reasoned argument: Argumentation as and in institutional contexts [Competitive paper]. NCA/AFA Alta Conference on Argumentation, Alta, UT
- Majdik, Z. P., & Platt, C. A. (2010). Selling certainty: Genetic complexity, moral urgency, and the gendered body in Myriad Genetics' BRACAnalysis campaign [Competitive paper]. @ National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA
- Majdik, Z. P., & Platt, C. A. (2010). Rhizomic rhetoric in the key of Aristotle and Vico: Moral argument in the institutional domains of science and technology [Panel presentation]. @ National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA
- Majdik, Z. P. (2010). 'Broken heart' models and Gaussian copulas: Implications of Vico's view of mathematics for rhetorical criticism [Competitive paper]. @ Rhetoric Society of America, Minneapolis, MN
- Platt, C. A., Majdik, Z. P., & Meister, M. (2010). Spending for a rainy day: Latent polysemy and the rhetoric of consumerism in contemporary weathercasting [Competitive paper]. @ Rhetoric Society of America, Minneapolis, MN
- Majdik, Z. P. (2009). The myriad problem(s) of genetic biotechnology: Problematizing 'expertise' in commercial genetic biotechnology [Competitive paper]. @ NCA/AFA Conference on Argumentation, Alta, UT
- Majdik, Z. P. (2009). Looking for legitimacy: Deficiencies of justification in direct-to-consumer genetics [Competitive paper]. @ National Communication Association, Chicago, IL
- Majdik, Z. P. (2008). Shaking the genetic foundation: Translating complex genetic science into everyday biotechnological practice [Competitive paper]. @ National Communication Association, San Diego, CA
- Majdik, Z. P. (2007). Fortuna's threat: Machiavellian virtù vs. the recalcitrance of an external reality [Competitive paper]. @ National Communication Association, Chicago, IL

- Majdik, Z. P. (2007). *Between morality and ethics: Argument in direct-to-consumer genetics* [Competitive paper]. @ NCA/AFA Alta Conference on Argumentation, Alta, UT
- Goodnight, G. T., Majdik, Z. P., & Kephart III, J. M. (2007). *Presidential debates as public argument* [Competitive paper]. NCA/AFA Alta Conference on Argumentation, Alta, UT
- Majdik, Z. P. (2006). The virtue of argument: Discourse ethics as an axiological foundation of informed consent for genetic services [Competitive paper]. @ International Society for the Study of Argumentation (ISSA), Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Majdik, Z. P. (2006). *Mystification v. mystery: Burke's poetic rationalization as a rhetorical mode of ethical action* [Competitive paper]. @ National Communication Association, San Antonio, TX
- Majdik, Z. P. (2006). From abstraction to application: On the deliberate controlling of controversy in the human genome project [Competitive paper]. @ National Communication Association, San Antonio, TX
- Majdik, Z. P. (2005). Some serious fun: Truth-telling and comedy in jon stewart's 'crossfire' appearance [Competitive paper]. @ National Communication Association, Boston, MA
- Majdik, Z. P. (2005). Quo vadis, political debate? Truth-telling through comedy in Jon Stewart's Crossfire appearance [Competitive paper]. @ NCA/AFA Alta Conference on Argumentation, Alta, UT
- Majdik, Z. P. (2005). Powerful publics: Public discourse and direct democracy in Switzerland's 'Yes to Europe!' referendum [Competitive paper]. @ National Communication Association, Boston, MA
- Majdik, Z. P. (2004). Cross-cultural comparison of speech communication studies in Europe and the United States [Competitive paper]. @ National Communication Association, Chicago, IL

INVITED TALKS

- Guest lecture, NDSU BIOL 491
 - TITLE: "Communicating Science"
- NDSU College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Research Conversations
 - TITLE: Poster presentation of current research
- Panel presentation, NDSU Graduate Student Council event
 - TITLE: "Networking: How to Build Professional Connections
- 2011 Colloquium presentation, NDSU Communication colloquium series
- 2009, 2010 Guest lecture, NDSU POLS 115 (American Government)
 - TITLE: "Arguing and Argument in Politics"

Grants

2023 Co-PI, with Shuning Lu (PI)

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science - NDSU

Amount awarded to grant: \$10,700

Co-PI, with Shuning Lu (PI)

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science – NDSU

Funded by SICSS (with core sponsors: Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Russell Sage Foundation, Facebook, and SSRC (Social Science Research Council))

Amount awarded to grant: \$15,000

MPI (NDSU), with S. Scott Graham (Contact MPI, UT-Austin), Justin F. Rousseau (MPI, UT-Austin), & Joshua Barbour (MPI, UT-Austin)

A Network Science Approach to Conflicts of Interest: Metrics, Policies, and Communication Design Funded by National Institute of General Medical Sciences/National Institutes of Health (NIH) Award No. Ro1 GM141476

Amount awarded to grant: \$832,304

2020-2022 Senior personnel/Lead, Communication & Dissemination Group

NDSU EPSCoR Track-1 (ND-ACES)

National Science Foundation (NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure)

Amount awarded to grant: \$20,000,000

2018-2019 Consultant

Contract paid from National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Grant HAA-261070-18

Transparency to Visibility (T2V): Network Visualization in Humanities Research

PD: Scott Graham, & co-PD: Dave Clark

Primary consulting responsibility: build computational framework for automated relationship ex-

traction from unstructured text data Amount awarded to grant: \$80,649

Senior personnel/Lead, Communication & Dissemination Group

NDSU EPSCoR Track-1 (INSPIRE-ND)

National Science Foundation (NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure)

Amount awarded to grant: \$20,000,000

GRANT APPLICATIONS NOT FUNDED

Co-PI (NDSU PI), with S. Scott Graham (PI, UT-Austin) and Dave Clark (co-PI, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee)

Text to Visualization (T2V): Network Modeling with Humanities Data

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

Amount requested: \$323,184

PI, "The Problem of Citizen Decision-Making In and About Politics"

NEH grant proposal, selected by NDSU as one of two proposals to be submitted to the NEH Summer Stipend competition. [Not funded.]

Teaching

Undergraduate Courses:

- Rhetoric (various foci)
- Persuasion
- · Public Speaking
- Data Visualization Across Communication Industries
- Communication Ethics & Law
- Argumentation & Advocacy
- Rhetoric of Ideas, Ideology, & Propaganda
- Communication Criticism

GRADUATE COURSES:

- Rhetoric (various foci)
- Communication Theory

Graduate Advising

As Advisor:

i/p Wangari Githua

i/p Melissa Bartels

i/p Halah Jost-Mahunik

2023 Ian Berry 2022 Ezzat Haider

THESIS: The Use of Rhetorical Frames to Create Hope during Wars and Genocides: The case of the

Yezidi Women

Malcolm Jason, Ph.D.

THESIS: A Rhetorical Consideration of Christian Nationalism, Secular Society, and the Need for a

Civic Religious Pluralism

Lora Meredith, M.A.

THESIS: Pentadic Analysis of a Wyoming TV Show: The Rhetoric of Scene and Agency and Its

Impact on Native American Communities.

Benjamin Walton, M.A.

Gunther-Michael Jaehnl, M.A.

Keith Bistodeau, M.A.

THESIS: A Historical Perspective Framed Content Analysis Investigation of Persuasive Shifts Present

in Interstate Oratorical Association Final Round Speeches.

Jaishikha Nautiyal, M.A.

THESIS: Rhetorical Agency in the Baghavad Gita

Ramya Chandrasekaran, M.A.

THESIS: The Hindutva Movement: A Burkean Analysis of Violence as Retributive Justice

David Chaganava, M.A.

THESIS: Communication Technology and the Changing Face of Rhetorical Persuasion in Emerging

Democratic Systems: The Case of Georgia.

As committee member:

Note: may be incomplete

i/p Peter Lindmark

Erik Gustafson, Ph.D.

²⁰¹⁹ Curtis Sullivan, Ph.D.

Robert Becker, Ph.D.

Joshua Parcha, Ph.D.

Bryce Tellmann, M.A.
Megan Even, M.A. (English)

Michael Jones, M.A.

Marney Mathiasen, M.A.

Kay Beckerman, M.A.

Jessica Rick, M.S.

Michelle Kramlich, M.S.

Matthew Attansay, Ph.D.

Shelly Stowman, Ph.D.

Najla Ghazi Amundson, Ph.D.

Jennifer Reierson, Ph.D.

Administrative Responsibilities

2022-present Public Speaking Course Director,

NDSU Department of Communication

2017-2023 Director of Graduate Studies,

NDSU Department of Communication

Service to the University

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

2023-present I.T. council, member

2023-present Task force on Graduate Health Insurance, co-chair

2021-present Graduate Council, member

2018-present Institutional Review Board, vice chair and member

Provost Ad-Hoc Committee on Academic Misconduct, member

Special Grievance Committee, chair 2014-2018 Institutional Review Board, member 2013-2014 Institutional Review Board, alternate 2013-2014 Diversity Committee, member

NDSU Graduate Methods Conference, co-organizer

NDSU College of Arts and Sciences

Task force on Graduate Tuition Waivers, chair

NDSU College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

2019-2022 Promotion and Tenure Committee, member

Budget Advisory Group, member

2015-2016 Promotion and Tenure Committee, member

Search Committee (Director for International Studies), member

2012-2013 Curriculum Committee, member

NDSU DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

Search Committee, member

2017-2018 Promotion and Tenure Committee, member 2016-2017 Promotion and Tenure Committee, chair

2012-present Graduate Committee, member and chair (since 2017)

Search Committee (tenure-line), chair
Curriculum Committee, member
Scholarship and Awards Committee
Curriculum Committee, chair

2011-2012 Search Committee (tenure-line), member

Assessment Committee, co-chair DCE Committee, member

2009-2016 Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honors Society, advisor

2009-2010 Graduate Committee, member

2009-2010 Scholarship and Awards Committee, member 2008-2009 Search Committee (tenure-line), member

Service to the profession

EDITORIAL WORK

Editorial board member, CSTAND

2012-2013 Editorial consultant, Communication Studies

est. 2007 Editorial graduate assistant, Argumentation & Advocacy

REVIEWING, AD HOC

Argumentation & Advocacy Behavior Research Methods Communication Studies Communication Theory CSTAND

European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology

Informal Logic

National Science Foundation (STS program)

Social Epistemology

Rhetoric & Public Affairs

Rhetoric of Health $\mathring{\sigma}$ Medicine

Rhetoric Society Quarterly

Technical Communication Quarterly

World Medical & Health Policy

Written Communication

REVIEWING, CONFERENCES

NCA, Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology, and Medicine (ARSTM) ARSTM, Preconferences at NCA, RSA

OTHER

2018

NCA Doctoral Education Committee

President, Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology, & Medicine (ARSTM)