

## **Elizabeth Sink**

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### **Academic Positions**

(2021-Present) Master Teaching Instructor, Communication Studies, Colorado State University  
(2019-2021) Senior Teaching Instructor, Communication Studies, Colorado State University  
(1/2020-5/2020) Global Teaching Scholar, Semester at Sea and Colorado State University.  
(2012-2019) Senior Teaching Special Instructor, Communication Studies, Colorado State University  
(2006-2012) Instructor, Communication Studies, Colorado State University  
(2004-2006) Graduate Teaching Assistant, Communication Studies, Colorado State University

### **Outreach/Service/Engagement**

#### **Committees**

##### *University*

Faith, Belief and Religious Inclusion Committee for VP for Diversity,  
Chair: May 2019-Present; Member: 2017-present

President's Commission on Diversity & Inclusion, 2017-Present

Danforth Chapel Re-visioning Board, 2015-16

CSU's Multi-faith Partners Committee, Leadership Team, 2015-Present

Faith and Belief Fair at Ram Welcome Student Orientation Committee, 2014-Present

##### *Communication Studies Department Committees*

Awards Committee Member, 2020-2022

Senior Teaching Faculty Representative, 2018-19

Departmental NTT Promotion Criteria Committee, 2018-19  
Six-year Review subcommittee, 2018-9

#### **University Service/Outreach Events**

[CSU's "Interfaith Thanksgiving](#) / "Meal of Gratitude," Program Coordinator, Annual November event,

2014-present. In cooperation with Key Communities, CSU's Hillel, Intervarsity Christian, Lutheran Campus Ministries, Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministries, and Center for Spiritual Development (The Geller Center).

CSU ["Better Together" Day](#) Coordinator, 2016-present. This nation-wide event, happening on hundreds of college campuses, is aimed at increasing interfaith literacy and creating healthy conversation between those who orient around religion differently.

"Story of God" with Morgan Freeman Film & Discussion event, Program Coordinator, August - December 5, 2016

["Rise Up, Take Action," CSU Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community March and observance.](#)

January 21, 2017-19. Small group (25 people) discussion facilitator on the intersection between race & ethnicity identity and faith/spirituality.

ACT Film Festival, Discussion Moderator, 2016

CSU [Multi-Faith & Belief Student Council](#), Faculty Advisor, 2015-Present

Faculty Member, CSU's Multi-faith Partners, 2015-Present

"Interfaith work: Dissolving battle lines between religious extremism and pluralism," Presented at CSU Diversity Symposium, Tuesday, September 16, 2014

"CSU's Interfaith Dialogues," Facilitator. Spring and Fall semesters (8 sessions each), 2014. In cooperation CSU's Center for Spiritual Development (The Geller Center).

Dialogue & Deliberation Moderator for Center for Public Deliberation (Spring 2007-present).

Coordinated a "Dialogue Zone," representing State University's Center for Public Deliberation, at the Sustainable Living Fair, Fort Collins, CO, Fall 2007.

### **Community Engagement & Service / Events**

"Town Hall #3: The Roots of White Privilege: Understanding Our History, Facing Our Future," Collaboration between the Fort Collins Interfaith Council and World Wisdoms Project, Co-coordinator, Zoom Meeting, July 19, 2020

"Town Hall #2: An Intentional Conversation about Whiteness, White Supremacy and White Privilege," Collaboration between the Fort Collins Interfaith Council and World Wisdoms Project, Co-coordinator, Zoom Meeting, July 2, 2020

"Town Hall #1: virtual Listening Session Highlighting the Experiences of People of Color in Northern Colorado," Collaboration between the Fort Collins Interfaith Council and World Wisdoms Project, Co-coordinator, Zoom Meeting, June 14, 2020

Organization Team for the [Interfaith Vigil in honor of the victims of the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting.](#) Held in Old Town Square on October 29, 2018.

Colorado Interfaith Alliance, Regional Coordinator for the "Force for Good" Campaign.

August 2015-May 2016.

[Fort Collins Interfaith Vigil](#), in support of our Islamic Community after vandalism, December 13, 2015.  
Co-coordinator.

Fort Collins Interfaith Council, Public Dialogue Workshop Organizer, Fort Collins, Colorado,  
2015-Present

Forrest Service Extension in Communications, RMRS (paid staff), Fort Collins, Colorado, 2004-7

### **Leadership in Community Service Organizations**

Program Coordinator and Member, [Fort Collins Interfaith Council](#) (January 2013-Present)

## **Teaching**

Courses taught:

### *Interfaith and Inclusive Communication* – (SPCMA1381)

This course engages communication theory and research methods to understand and assess communication across lines of religious and belief-based identities. In addition to a solid theoretical background, students will develop practical interpersonal and group communication competencies to encourage pro-social engagement. More specifically, this course will advance students' appreciative knowledge about various belief-systems, promote the application of concepts through classroom engagement practice, and enable them to apply that inclusive communication in their communities.

### *Intercultural Communication* (SPCM434)

The course provides a survey of intercultural communication theory and practice, and encourage the cultivation of communicative competence with people from different cultural backgrounds both in domestic and international settings, as well as across a variety of contexts. The course balances attention to concepts and principles with experientially-based study designed to apply theoretical understandings in concrete, international locations in order to transform students into intellectually skilled and culturally sensitive world citizens, able to embrace global diversity as a valuable asset of communication in the 21st century.

### *Mindful Communication* (KEY272)

This course offers practical methods for improving communication skills that combines the study of communication theory and skills with training in mindfulness. This powerful combination reveals how people often communicate habitually and unconsciously and often unproductively. By learning to recognize our habitual and often unproductive patterns of communication, as well as learning to objectively examine our external and internal influences present in our everyday experiences, we can increase our ability to communicate effectively.

### *Practicing Civic Engagement Across Difficult Issues* (KEY192-B)

This seminar will focus on investigations and discussions around the civic issues impacting students' lives today. Students will gain practical civic engagement experience through involvement with several debated community issue. Students will work together with peers in selecting a topic, gathering stakeholder perspectives, engaging in several group dialogues, and creating a final project. Throughout this timeframe, students will receive small group deliberation

training from the Center for Public Deliberation, in order to enhance their civic knowledge and competencies.

*Multi-Faith & Belief Engagement (KEY192)*

This course is the thematic seminar of the Multi-Faith & Belief Key Civic living learning community.

The goal of the course is to utilize a rich history of both interreligious division and cooperation to understand the importance of knowledgeable, respectful, and effective civic communication among young adults who differ in spiritual/philosophical/religious values. This course will: Explore the current field of religious pluralism and the importance of respectful interchange between people of various spiritual and religious traditions, as well as non-faith based spiritualities such as Humanists, Agnostics, and Atheists; Encourage connections between students' own values/practices and others through interfaith dialogue; Explore interpersonal and small group communication dialogue and deliberative practices; Participate in cooperative service activity emphasizing shared values. Students need not identify with a religious/spiritual tradition to enroll or participate.

*Professional Communication (SPCM333)*

This course focuses on the technological, interpersonal, and ethical dimensions of professional communication. Specifically, in this course you will wrestle with what it means to be a professional and how communication constitutes and signifies professionalism. Throughout this course you will participate in interviews, team activities, and make presentations. These exercises are designed to help you hone critical work skills while encouraging you to articulate what it means to be a professional. At the end of this course you should be able to: Articulate and make arguments about what it means to communicate professionally, demonstrate appropriate personal communication, Prepare for and conduct an interview, Contribute to and lead team meetings, and develop, organize, and deliver effective individual and team presentations.

*Communication & Popular Culture (On-campus and Online) (SPCM100)*

This course presents an introduction to U.S. popular culture, with an emphasis on its forms and functions in our society. First, we engage with four key domains that construct popular culture's meanings in order to empower students with the critical skills to understand cultural texts. Second, we consider how popular culture has both shaped and reflected broader social power dynamics in the United States. Finally, we analyze popular culture in detailed written arguments and cogent oral presentations. Because this is an All-University Core Curriculum course, we have specific objectives: to place the history of popular culture within a broader context of U.S. history; to analyze a variety of texts that loosely fall into the category of "arts and humanities," and to suggest particular methods of critical thinking.

*Evaluating Contemporary Film – Online (SPCM 350)*

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the elements of film style and communication. It will focus exclusively on narrative film (that is, fiction films with a story at their center). In the process, we will discuss the major building blocks of film expression, such as shot composition, editing and sound, along with the elements of screen storytelling and acting. Finally, we will consider some of the major critical & theoretical approaches to cinema.

*Your Mom was Right: What Makes a Communicator Successful? (IU193)*

Fall 2009: Students completing this seminar test common beliefs about successful communication against a survey of academic and pop culture evidence concerning both verbal and nonverbal communication in group, interpersonal, and professional contexts.

### *Nonverbal Communication (SPCM331)*

Generally, 65% of the communication process is nonverbal in nature. Regardless of discipline or career path, governments, employers and communities need citizens who can understand and accurately send and receive nonverbal communication in both face-to-face situations and through technological media. A vast amount of nonverbal communication is universal, however with a more complexified knowledge base, students will be able to understand intercultural differences and inclusive strategies for successful communication. Specifically, this course focus on: cross-cultural case studies, gender, implicit bias, contextual and environmental factors, power and status, deception, bodily appearance and touch. This course is a complimentary mix of communication theory and practical application which students can use immediately to enhance and manage their interpersonal relationships and virtual communication across the globe.

### *Public Speaking/Service-learning (SPCM200)*

I developed this version of the basic Public Speaking course in order to foster student engagement within the Fort Collins community. Students complete 15-20 hours of community-based service-learning during the semester and incorporate their service experience into their in-class speeches. Students also engage in various types of reflections, which connect communication theory and skill practice with the real-world experience they gain.

## **Awards and Honors**

Loren W. Crabtree Global Teaching Scholar with the Semester at Sea program for the Spring 2020 voyage, November, 2018.

Interfaith Youth Core “Curriculum Grant funding award” (\$1000) for the development of new experimental course, “Interfaith and Inclusive Communication SPCMA1381,” April, 2019.

Avi Schaefer Fund, “Seek Peace and Pursue It” Award, 2018.

College of Liberal Arts, Ann Gill Excellence in Teaching Award, Spring 2016

Communication Studies Senior Capstone Class, Instructor Application Award, Spring 2016

Institute of Learning and Teaching, Instructional Innovation in Service-Learning Award, Spring 2016

Water Pik, and Colorado State University Athletic Department, Excellence in Teaching Award, Fall 2015.

College of Liberal Arts, Curricular Innovation Award, Spring 2014

College of Liberal Arts, Excellence in Teaching Award, Fall 2011.

School of Education at Colorado State University, CORE (Contribution to Research in Education) Award, 2005

## **Professional Presentations**

Sink, Elizabeth, "The Importance of Interworldview Relationships in College," MV World Odyssey, Semester at Sea, 2020.

Sink, Elizabeth, "[Community Voices.](#)" *World Wisdoms Project*. July 15, 2019

Sink, Elizabeth, [“Making a Place for the ‘Nones’ Around the Multi-Faith and Belief Table,”](#) blogpost, *Religica*, May 4, 2019.

Sink, Elizabeth, [“Allies”](#) podcast, *Religica*, April, 2019

Sink, Elizabeth; John Henderson, Viviane Ephraimson-Abt, “CSU’s new Faith, Belief and Religious Observances Calendar: How to integrate it into your semester planning, ” Professional Development Institute, TILT, Colorado State University, 2019

“Colorado State University’s Interfaith Celebration.” Radio interview on [“Faith In Progress,” KRFC FM](#), on October 22, 2018.

CSU Inspire Presentation, “Why Multi-Faith & Belief Engagement Matters at a PUBLIC University,” CSU Diversity Symposium, Tuesday, October 2, 2018.

“Colorado State University’s Multipronged Multifaith and Belief Inclusiveness Efforts” presented at the IDEALS Symposium: Bridging Research and Practice. September 14-16, 2018.

“Colorado State University’s ‘Better Together’ Multi-faith Celebration.” (In collaboration with two students in my “Multi-Faith & Belief” seminar). Radio interview on [“Faith In Progress,” KRFC FM](#), on March 25, 2018.

World Wisdom Project, "Improving the Dialogue Across Lines of Faith and Belief," September 12, 2017. [Video footage](#)

CSU Ethics Colloquium, The Center for Public Deliberation, and CSU’s Multi-Faith & Belief Student Council “Bridging Interfaith Tensions through Dialogue” Colloquium. March 23, 2017. LSC, CSU. Emcee and planning committee. [Coverage](#)

TEDxCSU, ["Interfaith Cooperation: An Invitation for All Beliefs,"](#) March 5, 2016.

CSU's Professional Development Institute, " How a Public University Educator Can Better Support Spiritual Diversity in the Classroom?" January 11, 2016.

Eracism Film Series. Presentation and facilitation of discussion of *American Denial*. Fort Collins Old Town Library. October 4, 2015

Key Community "Lunch and Learns" showcasing *Interfaith Leadership* KEY272 seminar. February 9, 2015.

CSU Apartment Life Staff Training, "Incorporating Interfaith knowledge and programming into your residence life programs." July 20, 2015.

"Interfaith work: Dissolving battle lines between religious extremism and pluralism," Presented at CSU Diversity Symposium, Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Short Course: Incorporating RamCT Rubrics and Inline Grading into your teaching practice. Sponsored by Colorado State University’s RamCT Training & Support Team. (April 2, 2014).

Printed interview: "Making the grade together: Group projects." *The Rocky Mountain Collegian*. (October, 16, 2013)

"Professional and Invitation Communication in the Classroom" for the Masters in Teaching students at Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA. (March 18, 2010).

Invited presentation (with five of my selected students) on KRFC 88.9 FM, on the topic of service-learning at CSU. (October 13, 2009).

Presented to Service Learning Scholars Learning Group, TILT, CSU (March 5, 2009).

Presented on the topic of Critical Reflection in Experiential Learning, at the Professional Development Series, TILT, CSU. (January 9, 2009).

*Models of Teaching* (ED628): Lectured on the topic of communication in the classroom, utilizing the concepts of debate, dialogue, and deliberation. (November 2, 2007).

*Supervised College Teaching* (SP684): Presented practical organizational tips to the department's first-year graduate students concerning how to balance the requirements of graduate reading, writing, teaching, and personal health. (August 24, 2005)

## **Education**

**M.A.** Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, 2006.

Major: Communication Studies,

Thesis Title: *Developing Civic Competencies within the Basic Communication Course*.

**B.A.** Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1999.

Major: Interdisciplinary Communication. Minors: Religious Studies and Political Science. GPA: 3.82

## **Scholarship**

### **Program of Research**

My scholarship, teaching, program and curriculum development considers our current cultural/socio/political landscape and advances progressive means of communication between differing religious/non-religious people. I am interested in the ways civically-based higher education effects students' motivation for involvement in their communities, perceptions regarding their own biased and/or polarized views, understanding self-efficacy, and critical thinking processes.

### **Ongoing Research**

"Examining the Impact of Multi-faith and Belief Literacy, Dialogue, and Engagement on First-Year College Students."

Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Sink, Communication Studies

Co-Principal Investigator: Olivia Kail, SAHE Grad student

- CSU IRB Approved: 6/18/18
- 1<sup>st</sup> of 4 surveys completed by 1<sup>st</sup> year students: 9/12/18
- 2<sup>nd</sup> of 4 surveys completed 4/19
- 3<sup>rd</sup> of 4 surveys to be completed in 9/20
- 4<sup>th</sup> of 4 surveys to be completed in 4/21

The Interfaith Diversity Experiences & Attitudes Longitudinal Survey (IDEALS) is currently being administered at approximately 122 campuses, comprising a diverse and representative sample of colleges and universities. This longitudinal study seeks to better understand student encounters with religious, spiritual, and worldview diversity across the spectrum of American higher education. As colleges and universities increasingly seek to engage religiously diverse students, actionable data and empirically-driven decision making are more important than ever before.  
(Fall 2015-Spring 2019)

### Published Work

Goodman, Kathleen, 2019, "Chapter 8: *Educational Activities for Student Affairs Practitioners*,"\* in Goodman, Kathleen, Geiss, Mary Ellen, and Patel, Eboo. *Educating about Religious Diversity and Interfaith Engagement: A Handbook for Student Affairs*. Stylus Publishing.

\*A 3-page write-up of the multi-faith and belief dialogue programming that I have run at CSU is offered in this book chapter.

Anderson, Karrin Vasby, Elizabeth Sink, Jennifer Emerling Bone, and Thomas R. Dunn. *Speech Coursebook for Service-learning*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Mason, OH: Cengage, 2013.

Sink, Elizabeth. "Public Speaking and Service-Learning: Engaging Community" (mini-articles in all 16 chapters), In Cindy L. Griffin, *Invitation to Public Speaking*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Boston, Wadsworth, 2011.

Martín Carcasson, Laura W. Black, and Elizabeth S. Sink. "Communication Studies and Deliberative Democracy: Current Contributions and Future Possibilities," *Journal of Public Deliberation*: Vol. 6: No. 1, Article 8, 2010. Available at: <http://services.bepress.com/jpd/vol6/iss1/art8>

Sink, Elizabeth. "Democratic deliberation as a first step toward establishing more sustainable water policy." In William M. Timpson, Norberto Valdez, and David Giffey, eds. *From Battleground to Common Ground: Stories of Conflict, Reconciliation and Civic Renewal*. Madison, Wisconsin: Atwood, 2009.

Sink, Elizabeth. "Sustainable communication in the collegiate classroom." In William M. Timpson and Sue Doe, *Concepts and choices for teaching: Meeting the challenges of higher education*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Madison, WI: Atwood Publishing, 2009.

Sink, Elizabeth. "Exploring multiple approaches to powerful ideas." In William M. Timpson, Brian Dunbar, Gailmarie Kimmel, Brett Bruyere, Peter Newman, and Hillary Mizia, eds. *147 Tips for Teaching Sustainability<sup>3</sup>Integrating Environmental, Economic and Social Dimensions*. Madison, Wisconsin: Atwood, 2006.

Completed an extensive literature review of communication scholarship with focus on public deliberation. Paid research project commissioned by the Kettering Foundation, November 2006-April 2007.

### Short Courses Taught

"Civic Engagement as Transformative Education: Public Speaking, Service-Learning, Public Discourse, and Invitational Rhetoric as Bridges to Citizenship." Presented at the National Communication Conference, San Francisco, 2010.



## **Competitive Papers**

- Sink, Elizabeth. "Marcuse's Theory of Evolution: Retraining Human Instincts and Interactions." Western States Communication Association, Anchorage, AK, March 5-9, 2010.
- Sink, Elizabeth. "PetSmart's 'Perfect Toy:' Naturalized Portrayals from Pet to Child to Consumer." Presented at the National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, IL, November 16- 20, 2007.
- Sink, Elizabeth. "Playing our part: Teaching and Modeling Sustainability in the Communication Classroom." Presented at the National Communication Association Convention, San Antonio, Texas, November 15-19, 2006.
- Carcasson, Martin and Elizabeth Sink. "Pedagogy of the Privileged: Confronting Cynicism, Apathy, and Polarization through Rhetorical Education." Presented at the Rhetorical Society of America's Conference, Memphis, Tennessee, May 26-29, 2006.
- Sink, Elizabeth. "The Voices in our Heads: The Rhetorical Obsession of Preparing our Homes for Guests." Presented at the Western States Communication Association Convention, Palm Springs, California, February 18-21, 2006.

## **Competitive Panels**

- Sink, Elizabeth. "Reflections on Developing Interfaith Living-Learning Communities at Public Institutions of Higher Ed." Presented at the Interfaith Studies: Curricular Programs and Core Competencies, California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA, March 13-15, 2016.
- Sink, Elizabeth. "Utilizing a group charter in the classroom." Presented at the Western Communication Convention, Reno, Nevada, February 19, 2013.
- Sink, Elizabeth. "Strengthening the Sites of Civic Connection and Action in the Basic Course." Presented at the National Communication Association Convention, San Antonio, Texas, November 2006.
- Sink, Elizabeth. "Communicating Women's Domestic Identities, Both Stale and Dynamic." Presented at the Rocky Mountain Communication Association, Greeley, CO, April 8, 2006.
- Sink, Elizabeth. "Cherishing our Teaching Time Together: Five Powerful Social Justice Activities for the Classroom." Presented at the Western States Communication Association Convention, Palm Springs, California, February 18-21, 2006.

## **Professional Memberships**

- Member, National Communication Association
- Member, Western States Communication Association
- Member at Large, Rocky Mountain Communication Association.

## **Continued Education**

2020

May 26 Equity in Online Teaching webinar, hosted by the Reinvention Collaborative and the RISE Center at CSU

June 3 Tips for Teaching Interfaith Courses Online - a Conversation with Faculty webinar, hosted by the Interfaith Youth Core

June 10 Flip the switch: How to transition FYE from the classroom to online delivery Human eSources Webinar Host

June 12 Raising the Bar: Communication Studies with Dr. Ellie Light webinar, Reinvention Collaborative

June 15 Social Identities in Online Classroom Engagement webinar, “Keep Teaching” – Summer Faculty Webinars

June 16 What we know about CSU Students’ Needs during Virtual Instruction, “Keep Teaching” – Summer Faculty Webinars

June 17 The Student Experience Project @ CSU II: Effectively communicating student performance feedback to increase engagement. “Keep Teaching” – Summer Faculty Webinars

June 22 Fostering Well Being in Academic Environments: Easy to Implement Practices and University Resources “Keep Teaching” – Summer Faculty Webinars

June 23 Best practices for facilitation and engagement in online courses “Keep Teaching” – Summer Faculty Webinars

July 22 Fostering Well Being in Academic Environments: Easy to Implement Practices and University Resources, “Keep Teaching” – Summer Faculty Webinars

July 23 Best practices for facilitation and engagement in online courses, “Keep Teaching” – Summer Faculty Webinars

Digital Learning Initiative Canvas Outcomes Project, TILT AY19-20.

Participated with cohort of SPCM100 instructors to integrate science of learning (SoL) approaches to course learning objectives and monitor student learning outcomes through Canvas rubrics.

“Mindful Leadership in Higher Education” 2019 Summer Institute at New York University, June 18-21, 2019

“Inclusive Pedagogy in the classroom and creating inclusive classroom environments,”

Sponsored by TILT and The Key Communities. November 6 and October 21, 2019

“Trans Inclusive Pedagogy Workshop,” Sponsored by President's Commission on Women and Gender Equity and CSU Pride Center. April 23, 2019

Interfaith Youth Core Webinar, “Building the BRIDGE: A New Toolkit to Equip Campus Faculty/Staff to Be Interfaith Leaders.” Completed on October 3, 2018

[Faculty Institute for Inclusive Excellence](#), 2016 Cohort, Fellowship Status Earned, January, 2017

TILT: Online course creation collaboration (SP100), Spring 2013.

“Engaging Your Students in an Online Environment,” TILT, Spring 2011.

“Service-Learning Scholars” course, TILT, Spring 2008.

Research Assistantship, Colorado State University’s Center for Public Deliberation, Fall 2006.

## References

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