

Full-time Faculty Vita Rhema Zlaten, Ph.D. - Colorado Mesa University

Mass Communication LLMC

Highest Degree

Ph.D., Colorado State University, Journalism and Technical Communication – Spring 2021

Education: (List all degrees beginning with most recent-include post docs and external certificates/certifications)

Ph.D. in Public Communication & Technology

Public Communication & Technology, Colorado State University

Aug. 2014 – May 2021

Department of Journalism & Media Communication

Dissertation: Autonomy in Local Digital Journalism: A mixed-method triangulation exploration of the organizational culture and individual moral psychology factors of digital news workers

Co-chairs: Dr. Ashley Anderson, Colorado State University

Dr. Patrick Plaisance, Penn State

M.S. in Public Communication & Technology

Aug. 2009- July 2012

Colorado State University

Department of Journalism & Media Communication

Thesis: A Philosophical Collision: Media Ethics Meets Neuroscience

Chair: Dr. Patrick Plaisance, Professor

B.A. in Communication and Journalism, 2008

Oral Roberts University

- Extensive course work in editing, reporting, feature writing, layout design, and ethics
- Editor of student newspaper publication

Teaching and Research Certifications

Online Teaching Essentials – Colorado Mesa University, June 2020

Responsible Conduct of Research Training – Colorado State University, Fall 2015

- Course explored ethical research practices on every level of the research process

Online Teaching Certification – Front Range Community College, April 2014

- One-month certification course focused on online learning techniques, theories and applications for clarity and student success

Teaching With Purpose – Front Range Community College, Fall 2013

- Fall semester cohort met weekly
- Training in teaching strategies and techniques, from student management to integrating new technologies and ways to engage multiple learning styles in the classroom for student retention

Teaching:

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY

Assistant Professor, MASS 110 – Mass Media: Impact and History, Fall 2019-Present

Assistant Professor, MASS 144 – Multimedia Storytelling, Fall 2019-Present

Assistant Professor, MASS 317 – Writing Opinion for Impact, Fall 2019-Present

Assistant Professor, MASS 213 – Introduction to Media Writing and Reporting, Spring 2020-Present

Assistant Professor, MASS 415 – Advanced Media Writing and Reporting, Spring 2020-Present

Scholarship and Creative Work:
Scholarship Related to Discipline

Zlaten, R.M. (2021, August). *Autonomy in Local Digital Journalism: A mixed-method triangulation exploration of the organizational culture and individual moral psychology factors of digital news workers*. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, St. Louis, MO (Virtually).

Zlaten, R.M. (2020, August). *The Path Forward: A Thematic Analysis of Structure and Autonomy in Local Digital Journalism*. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, San Francisco, CA (Virtually).

Zlaten, R.M., Christensen, C. T., Plaisance, P.L. (2019, May). *Humility and Hubris: A Comparison of Virtue Ethics Among Public Relations and Journalism Professionals*. International Communication Association, Washington D.C.

Zlaten, R. M. (2016, February). *Beyond Journalism: Applying a Broader Virtue Ethics Framework to Media Ethics*. The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, Washington D.C.

Zlaten, R. M. (2015, April). *Automaticity and Reason: Media ethics considers the role of mental models in decision making*. Paper for the “Mental Models and the Media: Perspectives on One Approach to Effects and Cognition” Panel. Western Social Science Association, Portland, OR.

Zlaten, R. M. (2015, August). *Toward an ethic of personal technologies: Moral implications found in the fruition of man-computer symbiosis*. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, San Francisco, CA.

Zlaten, R. M. (2015, February). *Neuroethics and Media Studies: Creative keys to unraveling ethical decision making*. Colorado State University Graduate Student Showcase, Fort Collins, CO.

Zlaten, R. M. (2011, August). *Neuroethics, Moral Development and Media: An emotional war over reason*. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, St. Louis, MO.

- Received the Burnett Competition and Developing Methods for Media Ethics Research Award for this paper
- Also received the top paper award, Student Media Ethics division for this paper

Book Chapters

“Toward an Interpretive New Journalism Ethical Framework: Neuroethical Considerations for Media Ethics.” *Handbook of Communication Ethics*, De Gruyter Mouton. Fall 2018

Other

“Toward an Ethic of Personal Technologies.” Center for Digital Ethics and Policy. Loyola Chicago University. April 7, 2017.

Davis Scholar Grant – Don Davis Program in Ethical Leadership grant from the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications at The Pennsylvania State University

Professional Memberships

Association for Education in Journalism and Communication - Active involvement, such as participating in the Media Ethics Division mentoring program and conducting reviews for annual conferences

Honors and Awards:

National

I was the winner of the 2021 Penn State Davis Ethics Award for top media ethics dissertation, a national competition in conjunction with the Media Ethics Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The competition is intended to recognize the best ethics-related dissertation successfully defended each year in the fields of media and communication.

Professional Experience:

Freelance Writer, Prairie Mountain Publishing, Denver, CO - August 2010 to Present

- Creates content for entertainment sections and various special sections publications for Longmont, Boulder and Loveland, CO

- Writing assignments range in subject from entertainment previews to health, real estate, community interest and the outdoors

Assistant Editor, Journal of Media Ethics, Taylor & Francis – Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO – August 2015 – August 2017

- Edited for APA style, academic-level writing concerns, methodologies, ethical theories and philosophical theories to produce a quarterly academic journal publication with both print and online presence
- Ensured blind review appropriateness for new manuscripts

Freelance Online Content Designer, New Hope Natural Media, Boulder CO – May 2014 to May 2015

- Shaped and uploaded content for online Natural Foods Merchandiser Magazine
- Fashioned content for SEO

Special Sections Reporter, Loveland Daily Reporter-Herald, Loveland, CO - June 2008 to June 2010

- Edited, reported for, designed and produced 70+ publications each year
- Designed layout for many types of publications

- Photographed for many types of publications
- Maintained relationships with the community and PR professionals

Editor-in-Chief, The Oracle, ORU Student Newspaper, Tulsa, OK - 2007-2008

- Led the student reporting team in all aspects of newspaper production
- Created page layout in InDesign
- Wrote weekly column and articles
- Facilitated the student newspaper addition of an online format