About the Contributors

**Jung-ran Park** is currently an assistant professor at the College of Information Science and Technology at Drexel University. Her research areas are computer-mediated communication/online discourse and knowledge organization and representation, concentrating on metadata. She has published widely in these areas. Dr. Park is the principal investigator of a four-year (2006-2010) research project entitled Metadata Creation and Metadata Quality Control across Digital Collections: Evaluation of Current Practices from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). As principal investigator, she has also been awarded an IMLS grant (2008-2010) for the research project entitled Modeling Interpersonal Discourse for Digital Information Service: Evaluation of the Question-Answering Service of the Internet Public Library. She is currently serving as editor-in-chief of the Journal of Library Metadata published by the Taylor & Francis Group. In addition to this edited book, Dr. Park has recently published Marking Discourse Coherence and Social-Interpersonal Meaning: Semantic Shifts and Functional Development of Discourse-Pragmatic Markers in Korean (LAP Lambert Academic Publishing AG & Co. KG ISBN 978-3-8383-0888-3). She is also working on a book entitled Metadata Applications in Digital Repositories and Libraries: Tools, Systems, and Architecture. This book is scheduled to be published by Chandos Publishing (Oxford) Limited in fall/winter 2011.

**Eileen Abels** is Masters' Program Director and Professor in the College of Information Science and Technology at Drexel University. Prior to joining the faculty at Drexel in January 2007, Dr. Abels spent more than 15 years at the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland. She teaches courses in the areas of digital reference, information access, access in electronic environments, and business information. Her research focuses on digital reference education, remote reference services, and automated question answering services. She is involved in overseeing the Internet Public Library, a digital reference service and learning environment.

**Mike Allen** (Michigan State University) is Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Communication at the University Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His work has appeared in Health Education and Behavior, Human Communication Research, Journal of Personal and Social Relationships, Law and Human Behavior, and Communication Education. He is co-author of Persuasion: Advances through Meta-analysis, Interpersonal Communication Research: Advances through Meta-analysis, and Classroom Communication and Instructional Processes: Advances through Meta-analysis.
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**Susanna Annese** is a researcher in Social Psychology at University of Bari since 2001. She graduated in Psychology of Mass Communication in 1993 at University of Bari; she was research student at the Department of Social Psychology – Area Media and Communications – London School of Economics and Political Science in 1996; she obtained PhD in Psychology of Communication in 1998 at University of Bari and she had a research contract in Psychology of Computer Mediated Communication since 1999 to 2001 at University of Bari. Her current teaching in Group Psychology and Social Communication Psychology courses at University of Bari matches with her research interests: participation and identity dynamics in real, virtual and blended communities and the innovative methodological approaches to study them. Even her involvement in various interdisciplinary research projects aims at deepen these research interests.

**Paula M. Bach** is a PhD graduate of the College of Information Sciences and Technology at the Pennsylvania State University. Her areas of research include CSCW and HCI and she investigates how user-centered design happens in open source contexts. Generally she is interested in the social interactions surrounding software design and development. Other relevant research areas include community informatics and collaborative learning. She obtained her Bachelor’s degree in English and Psychology from the University of British Columbia and Master’s degree in Rhetoric and Technical Communication from Michigan Technological University. She has industry experience working at Microsoft, IBM, and startups.

**Nancy A. Burrell** (Michigan State University) is Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Professor’s Burrell’s Research centers on managing conflict in family, workplace, and educational contexts. She is co-author of Interpersonal Communication Research: Advances through Meta-analysis, and Classroom Communication and Instructional Processes: Advances through Meta-analysis. She has published in Human Communication Research, Communication Monographs, and Management Communication Quarterly.

**John M. Carroll** is Edward Frymoyer Chair Professor of Information Sciences and Technology at the Pennsylvania State University. His research interests include methods and theory in human–computer interaction, particularly as applied to networking tools for collaborative learning and problem solving, and the design of interactive information systems. He has written or edited 14 books, including Making Use (MIT Press, 2000), HCI in the New Millennium (Addison-Wesley, 2001), Usability Engineering (Morgan-Kaufmann, 2002, with M.B. Rosson) and HCI Models, Theories, and Frameworks (Morgan-Kaufmann, 2003). He serves on 9 editorial boards for journals, handbooks, and series; he is a member of the US National Research Council’s Committee on Human Factors and Editor-in-Chief of the ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interactions. He received the Rigo Award and the CHI Lifetime Achievement Award from ACM, the Silver Core Award from IFIP, the Alfred N. Goldsmith Award from IEEE, and is an ACM Fellow.

**Kate Magsamen-Conrad** (MA, Illinois State University, 2005) is a doctoral candidate at Rutgers University. Her research focuses on disclosure and privacy, especially in relational and health contexts. She is specifically interested in the role of the partner in the process of disclosure, as well as in the experience of health and illness. Her publications and conference papers explore interpersonal communication, and she has received several top paper awards at conferences.
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Brittany B. Cottrill is a Ph.D. candidate in Rhetoric and Writing. She has taught a variety of writing courses including introductory and intermediate writing at both two and four year institutions. In addition to this chapter, Brittany has published in the College English Association Forum and Computers & Composition Online. She currently holds the position of Virtual Classroom Section Editor for the journal Computers & Composition Online, is a facilitator for the Digital Mirror Camp at Bowling Green State University, and has presented at a number of national conferences.

Elizabeth A. Craig (Ph.D., University of Oklahoma, 2008) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at North Carolina State University. Her research interests include interpersonal communication, face-to-face and computer-mediated relational maintenance, stepfamily communication, and social aggression within friendship cliques. Her work appears in Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, Personal Relationships, Communication Quarterly, and Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication.

John Dowd is a PhD student in Communication at Purdue University. His research seeks to problematize overly instrumental, linear, and mechanistic conceptions of communication. To this end he is interested in unpacking the implications of various strands of educational discourse. Rather than conceiving of higher education in terms of specialized training, he hopes to reinvigorate notions of learning as a means of cultivating capacities for life-long growth and responsibility. In short, he seeks to articulate an ethics of education.

Wengao Gong obtained his Master’s degree from National University of Singapore, and has recently completed his doctoral studies there. He is also an Associate Professor at the School of Foreign Studies of Yangtze University, Hubei, China. His research interests include internet-mediated communication, corpus linguistics, lexicography, English-Chinese biliteracy studies, and other SLA-related topics.

Kathryn Greene (Ph.D., University of Georgia, 1992) is an Associate Professor of Communication at Rutgers University. Her research and teaching focus on health communication, specifically on health decision-making. This health decision-making research has explored two paths: 1) she explores disclosure decision-making, with an emphasis on modeling information and relational influences on health disclosure and 2) she examines messages targeting adolescent risk-taking decision-making, focusing on involving adolescents in message processing. Dr. Greene also consults with HIV service organizations, school districts, and Health Departments regarding disclosure issues related to HIV and risk taking programs. Dr. Greene has published more than 60 chapters and articles, including one book. Her research has received numerous awards including national and international conference top paper awards.

Kayla Hales is a PhD candidate at the Pennsylvania State University’s College of Information Sciences and Technology. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Information Technology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Ms. Hales’ current research focuses on Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC) as it relates to interpersonal relationship maintenance. She examines interpersonal communication through the use of Information and Communication Technologies, such as instant messaging, text messaging, telephones, and other electronic media. She will explore the interaction among CMC and race, gender, class, relational stability, relational satisfaction, and other relationship features. More specifically, Ms. Hales’ dissertation topic focuses on the use of CMC in pre-established, monogamous,
non-platonic relationships. Her intention is to uncover the factors that influence whether the use of CMC has a positive or negative impact on particular types of interpersonal relationships.

Hao Jiang is a Ph.D student working in the human-computer interaction center at Pennsylvania State University, USA. His research targets design science, computer-supported collaborative work (CSCW), computer-supported collaborative learning (CSCL), and community informatics. He graduated from Beijing University in China, 2001, with a bachelor degree majoring in Library Science. He joined the computer-supported collaboration and learning (CSCL) lab in 2005, participating in several research and system development projects. He has a strong interest in exploring interactions between social factors (social capital, social networks, social identity, etc) and information technology in various levels of social interactions, and developing knowledge to enhance designing in society.

Carolyn Kristjánsson is an Associate Professor of Linguistics at Trinity Western University in British Columbia, Canada where she teaches in both face to face and online contexts. Her interest in diversity stems from living outside of North America for extended periods of time as well as learning other languages and teaching English to people from many locations around the globe. Her scholarly activities are broadly guided by an interest in 1) ecological perspectives of learning that encompass the interconnected nature of language, identity, and education in any given location, 2) interpersonal dimensions of learning communities (face to face and online) evidenced in discourse, and 3) the influence of teachers’ and students’ spiritual beliefs and values in the construction of teaching and learning.

Lynette Kvasny is an Associate Professor of Information Sciences and Technology at the Pennsylvania State University. Her research focuses on how and why historically underserved groups appropriate information and communication technologies (ICT). Her current research examines the performance of racial and ethnic identities in virtual communities, ICT education and workforce participation in the African Diaspora, and the influence of racial, class and gender identities on health information seeking and content creation. Her research has been published in The Information Society, Information Systems Journal, The DataBase for Advances in Information Systems, Journal of Computer Mediated Communication, and Information, Communication and Society.

Derek Lackaff is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Communication at the State University of New York at Buffalo. His research explores the impacts of technological mediation on communication processes and social structure. His present research focus is the effects of communication technology use on social support structures during a life transition.

Deborah Leiter is an Andrews Fellow and a doctoral student in Communication at Purdue University. In 2008 she was named a DeKruyter Graduate Scholar in Communication by the Gainey Center in Faith & Communication. Her research interprets the cultural, genre-related and rhetorical aspects of communication in and through a variety of environments, both face-to-face and mediated. Her fascinations with stories and narrative theories often leads her to focus on author and audience interactions with genres that are enacted through and across a variety of media, particularly the mystery genre. This allows her to unpack aspects of transmedial storytelling along with the affordances of media, culture, and genre.
About the Contributors

**Lynnette G. Leonard** is an Assistant Professor whose research interests include human communication and new technology with a focus on collaboration and online identity. She has been active in Second Life since 2006 and has integrated Second Life into her communication research and classes since the spring of 2007. She developed the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) School of Communication's Second Life campus. Dr. Leonard has presented on Second Life in Higher Education to the faculty at UNO, the Omaha (NE) Public School District, the Lincoln (NE) Public School district, and at regional and national conferences.

**Rowena Li** a school media specialist at Bayside High School in New York, received her doctoral degree in information science from the University of North Texas in 2008. Her Master Degree of Library and Information Science came from Queens College, CUNY, in 1997. She has worked in her current position as a school librarian for eight years. Prior to that, she worked as a senior reference librarian at Queens Borough Public Library in New York, a prospect researcher at Queens College Foundation, and a lecturer at Nankai University in China. Her research interests focus upon cross-lingual information retrieval, cultural dimensions of documentations and website designs.

**Edward A. Mabry** (Bowling Green State University) is Associate Professor, in the Department of Communication, at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His research and teaching focuses on: mediated communication in groups and organizations, implications of communication in distance education, and social interaction structure in group decision making. His work has appeared in Communication Monographs, Human Communication Research, Journal of Communication, and The Handbook of Group Communication Theory & Research.

**Katheryn C. Maguire** (Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, 2001) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at Wayne State University where she teaches courses in communication theory, nonverbal communication, and family communication, among others. Her research centers on how individuals use communication to maintain relationships and cope with stressful situations in both mediated and face-to-face contexts. She has also studied the role of computer-mediated interactions in long-distance relationships, with a particular interest in how perceptions of social presence facilitate the accomplishment of both individual and relational goals. She has presented her work at national and international conferences and has published in a number of academic journals, including Communication Monographs and Communication Quarterly.

**Yuping Mao** is the Academic Developer of the Master of Arts in Communications and Technology program at University of Alberta in Canada. She teaches graduate courses on both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies and health communication. Yuping is expected to get her Ph.D. in organizing and relating from Ohio University in 2010. Yuping’s research focuses on organizational communication and health communication. With her multi-cultural background, Yuping takes intercultural communication perspectives into some of her research. Yuping has presented her research in national and international conferences in both Canada and the U.S., and has published her work in Review of Communication, Teaching Ideas for the Basic Communication Course, Howard Journal of Communications, and Feminist Media Studies. Yuping also does consultation work for the City of Edmonton on public deliberation.
Kris M. Markman (Ph.D., 2006, The University of Texas at Austin) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Memphis. She teaches classes in computer-mediated communication, new media, and broadcasting, and conducts research on people’s everyday uses of new communication technologies. She is particularly interested in examining language and social interaction in online groups and communities. A former public radio professional, she is also interested in how the internet is changing the way media content is produced and distributed, particularly by amateurs and fans, and has recently begun studying independent podcatsers.

John A. McArthur is an Assistant Professor and the Director of Undergraduate Programs in the School of Communication at Queens University of Charlotte (NC). He earned a Ph.D. in Rhetorics, Communication, and Information Design at Clemson University (SC) and a M.Ed. at the University of South Carolina. His academic interests involve user-experience design, proxemics, and the role of technology and media design in society. Dr. McArthur’s current research includes studies of user-experience design as it relates to the creation and use of documents in various media forms, mass media, and physical and virtual spaces.

Jessica L. Moore holds a Ph.D. in Communication Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at North Carolina State University. Dr. Moore’s research explores the intersection of relational development, social influence, and new technology. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on interpersonal communication, persuasion, and computer-mediated communication.

Francesc Núñez Ph. D. in Sociology is a lecturer at the Arts and Humanities Department (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain) where he coordinates the area of philosophy. Hi also holds a BA in Philosophy. He belongs to the Institute of Sociological Research (ISOR) of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and he has carried out several research projects like “The meaning of love among young people”, or the PhD thesis Secularized Priests. He is a member of the research group GRECS (Research Group in Cultural and Social Studies, IN3/UOC) and he has carried out several research projects on on-line sociability in everyday life. His current research is focused on the relation between emotions and subjective experience in consumer society. He is also co-editor of Digithum e-zine (http://digithum.uoc.edu/ojs/index.php/digithum/english).

Fay Cobb Payton Associate Professor of Information Systems at North Carolina State University, was recently named an American Council on Education Fellow for 2009-2010. She works extensively with The PhD Project and was recently featured in the June/July 2009 issue of Diversity/ Careers in Engineering and Information Technology. Her research focuses on healthcare informatics, data management and social exclusion. She has published in European Journal of Information Systems, Journal of the AIS, IEEE Transactions, Communications of the ACM, The Information Society, Health Care Management Review, Computer Personnel, and Information and Management. She is the co-editor of Adaptive Health Information Systems which was released in May 2009.

Yuxia Qian is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies at Albion College. She teaches small group and organizational communication, intercultural communication, inter-
personal communication, and introduction to human communication. Her primary research interest lies in organizational communication in the multicultural work environment. Her past work focused on social information processing and employee attitude toward organizational change. She is currently exploring online social support groups of patients in the field of health communication. She holds a doctorate from Ohio University. She has presented her research in both national and international communication conferences, and published her work in the Emerald journal Corporate Communications: An International Journal.

John C. Sherblom Ph.D., is a Professor at the University of Maine with research interests in organizational communication technology, work groups, and computer-mediated communication. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in communication and technology, research methods, and organizational communication, and has published more than 30 research articles and a text on Small Group and Team Communication. His current research interests focus on identity, presentation of self, and participation in group decision making in Second Life.

Michael A. Stefanone is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication at the State University of New York at Buffalo. His research focuses on the intersection of people, organizations, and technology. His current research explores how personality differences influence the ways people position themselves within social and task networks, how people's social context influence technology adoption and use, and the relationship between traditional mass media and new media use.

Devan Rosen (Ph.D., Cornell University) is an Assistant Professor of Speech at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and has published on topics including social network analysis, self-organizing systems, and computer-mediated communication. His research focuses on decentralized communication networks, communication technology, and culture. He has also developed network analytic methods for the structural and content analysis of online communities and virtual worlds.

Paola Francesca Spadaro is research assistant at University of Bari from 2007. She collaborates at Educational Psychology and E-Learning Psychology courses at University of Bari (IT). In 2003 she graduated in Psychology at University Sapienza and in 2007 she obtained a PhD in Psychology: cognitive, emotional, and communicational processes at University of Bari with a titled "Intersubjectivity and Digital Activity Systems". In 2005 she obtained a "Marie Curie Research Training Grants" at School of Education - University of Leeds (UK). She collaborated to project and realize several local and national research projects regarding to the study of psychological processes involved in technological innovation in various contexts: SME, professional and university learning. She is editor in chief of scientific journal "Qwerty. Journal of education, culture, and technology".

William J. Starosta (Ph.D., Indiana U., 1973) is Graduate Director of the Department of Communication and Culture, Howard University, Washington, D.C. He is Founding Editor of The Howard Journal of Communications, and has published or edited over 100 works across several disciplines concerning culture and communication, rhetoric, or gender.

Sharon Stoerger is a doctoral candidate in the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University, Bloomington. Her research interests include computer-mediated communication in learning
environments and communities of practice. More specifically, she has been investigating virtual worlds, their use in formal and informal educational settings, and the ways in which visitors to these Web 2.0 spaces communicate with each other. Her current work examines continuing education courses in Second Life (SL) through an ethnographic approach, including participant observation and informal interviews. In addition, she has been using discourse analysis methods to better understand the interactions between students and instructors in virtual environments, as well as the learning potential of these worlds.

Rotimi Taiwo attended the University of Benin, Benin-City and Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. He holds PhD in English and he has been teaching in the Department of English, Obafemi Awolowo University since 1997, where he is currently a senior lecturer. His main research focus over the last decade has been the application of (critical) discourse analytic theories to a wide range of discourse contexts, such as media, religion, popular culture, computer-mediated discourse and students’ composition. He has co-edited two books: Perspectives on media Discourse and Towards the Understanding of Discourse Strategies. He is a member of the editorial boards of Ife Studies in English (Nigeria), Linguistik Online (Switzerland) International Journal of Language, Culture and Society (Australia). Rotimi Taiwo was a fellow of Alexander von Humboldt at the Englisches Seminar, Albert-Ludwigs University, Freiburg, Germany (September, 2008 – August 2009).

Marta Traetta is PhD student in Psychology: cognitive, emotional, and communicational processes at University of Bari (IT) since 2007. She is interested in psychosocial processes in communities of practices, especially of blended learning communities. She collaborates at Group Psychology and Social Communication Psychology at University of Bari, where she graduated in Psychology in 2006. She collaborates to plan and realize several local and national research projects about psychological processes involved in technological innovation in contexts such as professional and university learning ones. She is member of Collaborative Knowledge Building Group Association (CKBG) and of Association of Internet Researcher (AOIR). Furthermore she is qualified to psychology profession since 2008.

Stephanie Troutman is a Dual PhD Candidate in the departments of Curriculum & Instruction (Education) and Women’s Studies (Liberal Arts) at The Pennsylvania State University. She earned her Master of Education degree from Stetson University in 2005. Over the past seven years, Ms. Troutman has taught in traditional, hybrid, and virtual/online environments at the middle school, high school, and college level. Her research interests include feminist theory, feminist pedagogy, learning through media, film analysis, media literacy curriculum, and cultural studies. She is currently writing her dissertation using Discourse analysis to explore how a particular media literacy curriculum as it relates to constructs and represents identity in accordance with stable (political) notions of race, class, and gender.

Agnès Vayreda is Lecturer at the Humanities Department of the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), where she coordinates the Social Psychology area. Her research interests concern computer-mediated communication, the emergence and construction of virtual communities, online identity and Internet utopias.

Lesley A. Withers is an Associate Professor with research interests in collaboration in virtual worlds and the “dark side” of communication. Her personal interest in new technologies led her to try Second
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Life; she has been active in this virtual world since April 2006 and has taught and conducted research in Second Life since Spring 2008. She has presented demonstrations and short courses on teaching in Second Life at the local, regional, and national levels. With Leonard and Sherblom, Withers has co-authored book chapters on communication in Second Life that explore issues of identity, collaboration, and pedagogical potential in Second Life.