About the Contributors

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**Richard Fiordo** earned his PhD at the University of Illinois at Urbana after completing his dissertation on the American philosopher Charles Morris. He is a Professor of Communication at the University of North Dakota, has served in administration at several universities, and has taught and performed research at universities in the USA and Canada—including the University of Calgary, Athabasca University, and Royal Roads University. His current research includes computer-mediated communication, semantic and communication theory, and dialectical theory. His publications are diverse with a concentration in *Semiotica, Recherches Semiotiques/Semiotic Inquiry*, and *ETC: A Review of General Semantics*. Dr. Fiordo teaches traditional and online courses in communication at the University of North Dakota.

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**Joshua Azriel**, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Communication at Kennesaw State University, Georgia where he teaches news reporting and media law. He earned his PhD in Journalism and Communications from the University of Florida. His current research focuses on the First Amendment’s impact on the Internet including social media. He has published chapters and articles in *Communication Law and Policy*, *Hastings Communications and Entertainment Law Journal*, and the *Handbook of Research on Social Interaction Technologies and Collaboration Software: Concepts and Trends*.

**Sitthivorada Boupha** received his MA in Communications from the University of Arkansas and BA from the Lao-American College in Laos. Apart from his current work as a Human Resource Executive for Recruitment at Millicom Lao Co., Ltd, a telecommunication services company in Vientiane, the capital city of Laos, he continues to research cross-cultural communication, particularly in relational and organizational contexts, as an independent scholar.
Jenny Bronstein, PhD, is a Lecturer in the Department of Information Studies at Bar-Ilan University, Israel. She teaches courses in theories of information behavior, information retrieval techniques, business information, information literacy, and information skills. Among her research interests are blogs as information systems, children’s information seeking behavior, tagging, and current trends in library and information science education.

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Thomas F. Corrigan is a Doctoral Candidate in Pennsylvania State University’s College of Communications. He is a research assistant for the John Curley Center for Sports Journalism, and instructor for the College’s Sports, Media & Society course. Corrigan received his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Florida State University’s College of Communication and Information. His research interests are within critical/cultural studies of the media, with specific focus on media and sports, and the political economy of sports. His dissertation centers on the routine practices of bloggers in a major sports blog network. He has published in the Journal of Sports Media and International Journal of Sport Communication, with a forthcoming publication in Journalism: Theory, Practice, & Criticism.

Jocelyn M. DeGroot, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech Communication at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Communication Studies and Theatre and Master’s degree in Communication Studies and Journalism from South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, and her Doctorate in Interpersonal Communication from Ohio University. Her dissertation examined how people utilize Facebook memorial groups as a means of grieving and mourning. Her teaching interests include interpersonal communication, computer-mediated communication, and small group communication. Her current research focuses on computer-mediated communicative issues of death and dying. She has published in communication journals such as Communication Research and Communication Teacher:

Sherine El-Toukhy is a Doctoral Candidate in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received her BA in Broadcast Journalism and MA in Mass Communication from Cairo University. Her research interests include international and political communication, public opinion, news coverage, political dissent in countries of limited or non-existent press freedom, and the potential of new media for political participation. She has taught.
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**Tiffany E. Fields** obtained her MA from the University of Arkansas and BA from the University of Central Arkansas. She is currently pursuing a Juris Doctor and a Master of Education degree at the University of Arkansas. Among her research interests are sports and social media, sport law, and alternative dispute resolution.

**Naomi Gold** received a PhD from St. Michael’s College, University of Toronto and an MA in Religious Studies from Washington University in St. Louis. She is currently a reference, research, and outreach librarian at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies. Her research interests include depth psychological perspectives on religious belief, varieties of Jewish fundamentalism, and new religious movements. In 2006, she was the recipient of an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) fellowship.

**Marie Hardin** (PhD, University of Georgia) is Associate Professor of Journalism and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research in the College of Communications at Pennsylvania State University. She is also Director of the Arthur W. Page Center for Integrity in Public Communication and Associate Director of the John Curley Center for Sports Journalism. She teaches classes in reporting, editing, ethics and sports media. Her research concentrates on diversity, ethics, and professional practices in mediated sports. Her work has been published in *Mass Communication & Society, Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly, Sociology of Sport Journal, Sex Roles, Newspaper Research Journal, Journal of Sports Management* and *The Howard Journal of Communications*, among others.

**Thomas J. Johnson** (PhD, University of Washington, 1989) is the Amon G. Carter Jr. Centennial Professor in the School of Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin. Johnson’s work has focused on the credibility of the Internet and its components, uses and gratifications of the Internet and its components, selective exposure and the Internet, the degree to which the Internet has served as a substitute for traditional media, the agenda-building role of the media, and how factors influence journalistic frames. His studies have also concentrated on the political effects of the Internet. Johnson has authored or co-edited three books. His most recent co-edited book, *International Media Communication in a Global Age* (Routledge), examined key issues regarding global communication, focusing primarily on international news as well as strategic communication. Johnson has 50 refereed journal articles published or in press, 19 book chapters, and more than 100 papers at academic conferences.

**Barbara K. Kaye** (PhD, Florida State University) is a Professor in the School of Journalism & Electronic Media, University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Her research interests include media effects, consumer uses of new communication technologies, and the influence of the Web, blogs, and social media on political attitudes and media use. She has co-authored three textbooks: *Electronic Media: Then, Now, and Later, Just A Click Away: Advertising on the Internet*, and *The World Wide Web: A Mass Communication Perspective*. She has published over 30 articles in such journals as *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly, Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*, and *Harvard Interna-
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*Journal of Press/Politics.* Additionally, she has contributed chapters to 11 scholarly books. She has taught abroad in Italy and Austria, and was named a NATPE (National Association of Television Program Executives) fellow in 2000.

**Treepon Kirdnark** earned an MA in Mass Communication from California State University, Northridge. He is currently an Instructor at Bangkok University where he teaches journalism and investigates media representations of minority groups in Thailand. He has presented his research at the International Communication Association and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conventions. At California State University Northridge, he was part of a graduate student team awarded a grant to produce content about topics such as globalization and homelessness in Los Angeles for “Indy Media On Air,” a radio show on KPFK Pacifica Radio aired in Southern California.

**Anastacia Kurylo** has a PhD in Communication from Rutgers University and is an Assistant Professor in the Communication Arts Department at Marymount Manhattan College, New York City. Kurylo is a multi-method, cross-disciplinary social scientist who uses content, conversation, and thematic analyses, as well as experimental and survey methods in her research. She studies the variety of social interactions in which stereotypes are communicated interpersonally and their implications for interpersonal, intercultural, and organizational communication. Her recent publications have appeared in *Communication Teacher* and *Qualitative Research in Psychology.* Kurylo’s current projects include editing an inter-cultural communication textbook with SAGE and writing a book on communicated stereotypes, which is also the topic of her blog at TheCommunicatedStereotype.com.

**Michael Kurylo** is an independent American sportswriter and blogger. He is the founder of a popular sports blog, KnickerBlogger.Net, which is a charter member of ESPN’s True Hoop blog network. He has a BS in Mathematics from Stony Brook University, New York, and uses a combination of advanced statistical outlook and visual observation to provide expert analysis of the National Basketball Association. In addition to KnickerBlogger.Net, he has written for *Sports Illustrated* and *Dime* magazines, participated in ESPN Daily Dime online chats, and was interviewed by the national sports media.

**Justin D. Martin** is the CLAS-Honors Preceptor of Journalism at the University of Maine and a columnist for Columbia Journalism Review. His research and writing focus on international journalism, particularly free speech in developing countries. Martin, a Fulbright scholar who speaks several dialects of Arabic, spent 2005-2006 in Jordan. Over the last seven years he has written for nearly forty news publications on four continents, including *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Jerusalem Post*, and others. His Ph.D. is in journalism and mass communication from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

**Carol McGinnis** is an Instructor in the Department of Journalism at Central Michigan University where she teaches courses in online journalism, media writing, and advertising. She has written numerous articles for newspapers and magazines as well as three reference books about genealogy.

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University. Professor Muhlberger designed and directed research on Carnegie Mellon University’s Virtual Agora Project, a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded grant project investigating the political, social, and psychological effects of computer-mediated deliberative democracy. He was also principal investigator on the Deliberative E-Rulemaking Project, an NSF-funded project to apply natural language processing and multi-level deliberation to federal agency online rulemaking. He has authored multiple academic papers on the political psychology and communication aspects of online political engagement.

Gwen L. Shaffer, PhD, is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences at the University of California, Irvine. Her current research focuses on how to incorporate telecommunications policy and economics into the Internet architecture—particularly as these issues relate to traffic management and adhering to net neutrality principles. Shaffer earned her PhD from Temple University in Philadelphia. Her doctoral dissertation, supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, examined the potential of peer-to-peer networking for bridging the digital divide. She has previously examined the sustainability of municipal wireless networks; the need for a national broadband policy in the United States; and how urban planners are addressing the use of mobile devices in public spaces, as “ubiquitous connectivity” blurs the line between our physical and virtual spheres.

Matthew N. Stell (MA, University of Arkansas) received his Bachelor of Applied Health from Drury University, in Springfield, Missouri. He continues to delve into social science studies as an independent researcher exploring how classical and Neo-Aristotelian rhetoric pertains to popular culture.

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Melissa Wall (PhD, University of Washington), is an Associate Professor at California State University, Northridge and a former reporter and newspaper columnist whose alternative media experience includes reporting for Seattle’s homeless newspaper and serving as a videographer for the Los Angeles-based online literary magazine, Guerrilla Reads, among others. She organized a student radio project that produced content for KPFK Pacifica Radio, taught journalism in Ethiopia, studied township publications in Zimbabwe, and reported and produced a radio documentary about Taiwan’s media reform movement. Her research, focusing on international news and social media, has been published in journals such as Media, Culture & Society, Journalism, New Media & Society, International Communication Gazette, Journal of Middle East Media, Journal of Communication Inquiry, Journal of Development Communications, and Journalism Studies. She was a Research Fellow at the Berglund Center for Internet Studies at Pacific University, Oregon.
Lynne M. Webb (PhD, University of Oregon) is a Professor of Communication at the University of Arkansas. She previously served as a tenured faculty member at the University of Florida and University of Memphis. Dr. Webb is the author of over 50 essays published in scholarly journals and edited volumes as well as over 100 conference papers. Her recent research examines both blogging and computer-mediated communication in personal relationships. Her work has appeared in *Computers in Human Behavior, Communication Education, Health Communication, the Journal of Applied Communication Research,* and the *Journal of Family Communication.* Dr. Webb has received five teaching awards during her 30+ years as a college professor. She is a Past President of the Southern States Communication Association and has held numerous offices in the National Communication Association.

Bu Zhong (PhD, University of Maryland) is an Assistant Professor and Senior Research Fellow of the John Curley Center for Sports Journalism at the College of Communications, Pennsylvania State University. His research concentrates on decision-making in media use, media ethics, and psychological effects of information consumption, including news, sports, and social media. Special attention has been paid to analyzing the interactions between consumption of news and sports information and people’s political, ethical views and psychological well-being. Before joining the Pennsylvania State University faculty, he had worked as a journalist for over a decade at China Daily in Beijing, CNN Bureau in Washington, DC, and CNN World Center in Atlanta.