**Christian Reed Seiter**

Assistant Professor

Human Communication Studies

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Improvisation Instructor

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**Research Profile**

My scholarly work focuses on the domain of end-of-life health communication. Specifically, my research uses a mixed-methods approach to better understand communication processes underlying advance care planning, social support in the end-of-life context, and death positivity. I also conduct research examining theatre and improvisation-based communication competence training interventions for healthcare providers and scientists.

**Academic Appointments**

**Assistant Professor of Human Communication Studies,** California State University, Fullerton, 2021–present

**Education**

**PhD** Communication, George Mason University, 2021

Areas of Emphasis: Health Communication, Interpersonal Communication, Persuasion

Dissertation Committee: Xiaoquan Zhao (chair), Gary Kreps, Kevin Wright

Dissertation: *The Death Message Processing Model: A Mixed Methods Evaluation of a Humor-Based Approach to Motivate Advance Care Planning*

**MS** Medical Humanities, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, 2016

Capstone Project Chair: Stephanie Brown Clark

Capstone Project: *Teaching clinical empathy with theatre-based experiential learning techniques*

**BFA** Theatre, Actor Training Program Emphasis, University of Utah, cum laude, 2014

***Additional Relevant Education***

**Improvisation Instructor Training Completion**, Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, 2019- This qualifies me to lead all-day improvisation workshops for clients of the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science

**“Medical Improv” Five-Day Seminar Completion**, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, 2016- Completion of this seminar qualifies me to conduct workshops based the “Medical Improv” curriculum

Grant Writing 101: Boot Camp with National Institutes of Health(all-day workshop), 2019

**Research Activity**

**Publications**

***Refereed Journal Articles***

**Seiter, C. R.,** & Brophy, N. S. (2021). Social Support and Aggressive Communication on Social Network Sites during the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Health Communication*, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2021.1886399>

**Seiter, C. R.** (2020). Benefit, barrier, and self-efficacy messages in advance care planning education materials. *Health Communication*. Advance online publication. [https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2020.1754601](https://doi-org.mutex.gmu.edu/10.1080/10410236.2020.1754601)

**Seiter, C. R.** & Brophy, N. S. (2020). Worry as a mechanism to motivate information seeking about protective end-of-life communication behaviors*. Journal of Health Communication*. *25*(5), 353-360 [https://doi.org/10.1080/10810730.2020.1765222](https://doi-org.mutex.gmu.edu/10.1080/10810730.2020.1765222)

Meyara, S. B., Phillips, K. E., Seiter, J. S., & **Seiter, C. R.** (2020). Outplay, outwit, outlast, outlearn: Communicating to survive in small groups. *Carolinas Communication Annual.*

Seiter, J. S., & **Seiter, C. R.** (2019). “Are you a good witch or a bad witch?” An exercise in suspending judgment when interacting with “difficult” people. *Communication Teacher*, *34*(1), 35–39. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17404622.2019.1603393>

Seiter, J. S., Gass, R. H., & **Seiter, C. R**. (2018). Persuasion GO: An activity for increasing students’ awareness of approaches to social influence. *Communication Teacher, 32*(4)*,* 179-185. https://doi.org/[10.1080/17404622.2017.1372606](https://doi.org/10.1080/17404622.2017.1372606)

***Currently Submitted for Peer Review***

COVID-19 risk perceptions and intentions to engage in familial advance care planning: The mediating role of death anxiety (*Journal of Health Communication*, revise and resubmit)

***Book Chapters***

**Seiter, C. R.** & Seiter, J. S. (2018) *Adapting the “A-B-Scene” to communication classrooms: An exercise for understanding the role of context, empathy, perceptions, and message dimensions.* In J. S. Seiter, J. Peeples, J., & M. L. Sanders (Eds.), *Communication in the Classroom: A Collection of G.I.F.T.S.* Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin’s.

**Conference Presentations (blind peer-reviewed)**

Brophy, N. S., **Seiter, C. R.**, & Zhao, X. (2021, May). *Relationship between COVID-19 risk perceptions and intentions to engage in familial advance care planning: The mediating role of death anxiety.* Presented at the 71st Annual meeting of the International Communication Association.

**Seiter, C. R.** (2021, April). *Developing a Theoretical Framework for Understanding Death Positive Approaches to Advance Care Planning Motivation*. Presented to the D.C. Health Communication Conference.

Brophy, N. S., **Seiter, C. R**., & Zhao, X. (2021, April). *The Advance Care Planning Benefits and Barriers Scales: Measuring HBM Constructs in the Context of End-of-Life Communication*. Presented to the D.C. Health Communication Conference.

**Seiter, C. R.** (2020, November). *Baptized by tears: How healthcare chaplains communicate with patients from diverse faith backgrounds during end-of-life encounters*. Presented to the Spiritual Communication division at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Indianapolis, IN. **(TOP STUDENT PAPER AWARD)**

**Seiter, C. R.** (2020, November). *Benefit, barrier, and self-efficacy messages in advance care planning education materials*. Paper presented to the Health Communication division at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Indianapolis, IN.

**Seiter, C. R.** (2020, November). *How healthcare chaplains provide social support during end-of-life encounters*. Paper presented to the Interpersonal Communication division at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Indianapolis, IN.

**Seiter, C. R.** (2020, November). *Online social support and antisocial communication during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Paper presented to the Human Communication and Technology division at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Indianapolis, IN.

**Seiter, C. R.**, & Brophy, N. S. (2020, April). *Worry as a mechanism to motivate information seeking about protective end-of-life communication behaviors*. Poster presented at the Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, Lexington, KY.

Meyara, S. B., Phillips, K. E., Seiter, J. S., & **Seiter, C. R.** (2019, November). *Outplay, outwit, outlast, outlearn: Communicating to survive in small groups*. Paper presented to the G.I.F.T.S. (Great Ideas for Teaching Students) division at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Baltimore, MD.

**Seiter, C. R.** (2019, May). *The statue game: An embodied experiential approach to Communication Accommodation Theory.* Paper presented to the G.I.F.T.S. (Great Ideas for Teaching Students) division at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Washington, D.C.

Seiter, J. S., & **Seiter, C. R.** (2019, May). *The Wicked treatment: An exercise in suspending judgment when interacting with “difficult” people.* Paper presented to the G.I.F.T.S. (Great Ideas for Teaching Students) division at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Washington, D.C.

Seiter, J. S., Gass, R. H., & **Seiter, C. R.** (2017, November). *Persuasion GO: An activity for increasing students’ awareness of approaches to social influence.* Paper presented to the G.I.F.T.S. (Great Ideas for Teaching Students) division at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Dallas, TX.

**Seiter, C. R.** (2017, May). *Teaching clinical empathy with theatre-based experiential learning techniques.* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association of America Medical College’s Northeast Group on Educational Affairs, Rochester, NY.

**Seiter, C. R.,** & Seiter, J. S. (2016, October). *Adapting the “A-B Scene” to communication classrooms: An exercise for understanding the role of context, empathy, perceptions, and message dimensions*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the New York State Communication Association, Callicoon, NY.

**Professional Teaching Experience**

***California State University, Fullerton – Fullerton, CA***

HCOM 535: Graduate Seminar in Persuasion and Argumentation

HCOM 100: Introduction to Human Communication

***George Mason University – Fairfax, VA***

COMM 304: Foundations of Health Communication

COMM 101: Fundamentals of Communication, Basic Course– Public Speaking/Interpersonal Communication/Group Communication

***Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science ­– Stony Brook, NY***

Science Communication Workshop, Stony Brook University, 2019

Science Communication Workshop, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, 2019

Science Communication Workshop, University of Vermont, 2020

**Professional Research Experience**

***George Mason University***

**Full-Time Graduate Research Assistant,** May 2020- August 2020

PI: Matthew Rossheim & Xiaoquan Zhao

Project Description: Training undergraduates to assist in developing, refining, and evaluating e-cigarette counter-marketing message strategies using a community-based participatory approach.

Responsibilities: Developing and leading a fully realized research project, training and assisting undergraduate RAs in developing and realizing their own research projects.

**Full-Time Graduate Research Assistant**, August 2019- August 2020

PI: Chris Clarke

Project Description: External evaluation of Alan Alda Center all-day improvisation science communication workshop.

Responsibilities:Facilitating improvisation workshops, facilitating control (all-day, non-improv) workshop, designing control condition (all-day, non-improv workshop), survey design, recruitment, managing participant incentives/survey completion/administrative tasks.

**Part-Time Graduate Research Assistant,** June 2019- August 2019

PI: Sojung Kim

Project Description: Examining efficacy of FDA anti-smoking campaigns on current smoker

using eye-tracking software in the Communication, Health, and Relational Media (CHARM) Lab

Responsibilities: Facilitating experiment procedure, managing/calibrating eye-tracking equipment, designing recruitment materials/media, managing participant incentives/administrative tasks.

***Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science***

**Part-Time Research Assistant,** September 2018- August 2019

PI: Brenda MacArthur

Project Description: Internal evaluation of workshop efficacy.

Responsibilities: Survey dissemination, post-test video proctoring, codebook development, coding and analysis of post-test videos, managing participant incentives/administrative tasks.

***University of Utah School of Medicine***

**Part-Time Research Assistant**, May 2015- May 2016

PI: Gretchen Case

Project Description: Systematic examination of theatre-based interventions in medical education

Responsibilities: Assisting in literature review and IRB processes, training and acting in instructional videos.

**Awards & Recognitions**

***Research Awards and Recognitions***

**Supplemental Research Support Award ($1,000)**, George Mason University, December 2020

**Top Student Paper, Spiritual Communication Division**, National Communication Association, November 2020

***Teaching Awards & Recognitions***

**Outstanding Core Oral Communication Course Recognition** (based on “overall rating of teaching” from student ratings of instruction), George Mason University, Summer 2019

**Outstanding Core Oral Communication Course Recognition** (based on “overall rating of teaching” from student ratings of instruction), George Mason University, Spring 2019 (recognized for two separate courses this semester)

**Outstanding Core Oral Communication Course Recognition** (based on “overall rating of teaching” from student ratings of instruction), George Mason University, Fall 2018

***Student Awards & Recognitions***

**Outstanding Doctoral Student,** George Mason University, Department of Communication, Spring 2021 – Awarded to one doctoral student each year.

**Wendy Balazik Communication and Social Change Award** ($500), George Mason University, Department of Communication, Spring 2020 – Awarded to the graduate student whose research makes an important difference in the lives of others.

**Communication Graduate Student Award** (“Commitment to the Graduate Program Award”), George Mason University, Department of Communication, Spring 2019

**Department of Theatre Scholarship**, University of Utah, Department of Theatre, Fall 2013

**Utahna B. Meilstrup Theatrical Scholarship**, University of Utah, Department of Theatre, Fall 2012

**Talks & Workshops Facilitated**

***Invited Workshops- Designed and Facilitated***

“Applied Improvisation/Public Speaking Efficacy Workshop” (George Mason University, HE 792/Hist 688, October 2019, September 2019 [delivered on two separate dates in September])

“Interdisciplinary Medical Improvisation Workshop” (University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, March 2017)

“Clinical Empathy Workshop” (University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, February 2016 [delivered on three separate dates in February])

“Faculty Diversity Applied Improvisation Workshop” (Rochester Institute of Technology, April 2016)

“Experiential Narrative Workshop for VIP Support Group” (John Moran Eye Center, University of Utah, 2017)

“Applied Medical Improvisation Workshop” (John Moran Eye Center Administrative Workers, University of Utah, September 2017 [delivered on two separate dates in September], October 2017 [delivered on two separate dates in October]; John Moran Eye Center Ophthalmology Residents, University of Utah, September 2017; Fourth Year Medical Students, University of Utah School of Medicine, April 2017)

“Applied Theatre Workshop for VIP Support Group” (John Moran Eye Center, University of Utah, February 2017)

***Invited External Talks***

“Medical Applications of Applied Improvisation” (Columbia University, P8906, February 2019)

***Invited Departmental Talks***

“Advance Care Planning and End-of-Life Values” (George Mason University, COMM 304; March 2020, September 2019)

**Service to Discipline**

Reviewer, D.C. Health Communication Conference, 2021

Poster Session Committee, D.C. Health Communication Conference, 2019

Panel Moderator, D.C. Health Communication Conference, 2019

Reviewer, D.C. Health Communication Conference, 2019

***Other Service***

Basic Course Teacher Training Mentor to Nathan Selove, George Mason University, 2019-Present

Volunteer Actor, HealthInSight Utah, End of Life Care Summit, 2017

Volunteer Model, University of Utah School of Medicine, Anatomy Course, 2017

Volunteer, John Moran Eye Center, University of Utah, Medical Outreach Trip to Navajo Nation, 2016