

## Curriculum Vitae

**Margaret Jane Pitts, PhD**

Updated 10/15/2023

### CAMPUS ADDRESS

Department of Communication  
University of Arizona  
222 Communication  
(520) 621-7080 (office)  
mjpitts@email.arizona.edu

### EDUCATION

- PhD (2005):** *Communication Arts and Sciences*, The Pennsylvania State University  
Emphases: Interpersonal Communication; Intercultural/Intergroup Communication; Qualitative Research Methods  
Dissertation: *The Role of Communication in Cross-National Adjustment and Identity Transitions among Student Sojourners*  
Committee: Jon Nussbaum (co-chair), Michelle Miller-Day (co-chair), Michael Hecht, and Ian Baptiste
- MA (2001):** *Speech Communication*, The Pennsylvania State University  
Emphases: Interpersonal and Intercultural Communication  
Thesis Title: *Cultural Identity and Patterns of Social Support among United States American Students Abroad*  
Committee: Michelle Miller-Day (chair), Walid Afifi, and Susan Strauss
- BA (1999):** *Human Communication*, magna cum laude, Arizona State University
- BA (1999):** *French*, magna cum laude, Arizona State University

### EMPLOYMENT & APPOINTMENTS

Senior Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Graduate College (July 2022 – present)  
Graduate Faculty, University of Arizona (2020 – present)  
Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Graduate College (June 2019 – June 2022)  
Associate Professor, Communication (August 2017 – present)  
Director of Graduate Studies, Communication (August 2016 – July 2019)  
Assistant Professor, Communication (July 2011 – July 2017)  
University of Arizona

Assistant Professor (July 2006 – June 2011)  
Department of Communication and Theatre Arts  
Old Dominion University

Visiting Lecturer (July 2005 – July 2006)  
Department of Communication  
The University of California at Santa Barbara

Graduate Student Research Assistant/Teaching Assistant (August 1999 – June 2005)  
Department of Communication Arts and Sciences  
The Pennsylvania State University

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

Fisher, C. L., Fowler, C., Krieger, J., **Pitts, M. J.**, Worthington, A. K., & Nussbaum, J. F. (Eds.) (forthcoming 2023). *Health communication, language, and social action across the life span*. New York, NY: Peter Lang.

**Pitts, M. J.**, & Socha, T. (Eds.) (2013). *Positive communication in health and wellness*. New York, NY: Peter Lang.

Socha, T. J., & **Pitts, M. J.** (Eds.) (2012). *The positive side of interpersonal communication*. New York, NY: Peter Lang.

### **Journal Articles**

<sup>s</sup>**Pitts, M. J.**, Fanari, A., Cooper, R. A., Jiao, J., & Kim, S. (2023). The grounded model of communication savoring: Theory development and age cohort study. *The American Journal of Qualitative Research*, 7(3), 139-159. <https://doi.org/10.29333/ajqr/13399>

<sup>s</sup>Fanari, A., Cooper, R. A., Dajches, L., Beck, G., & **Pitts, M. J.** (2023). Transferable resilience practices: Communication and resilience of U.S. military spouses during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Family Communication*, 23(1), 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15267431.2022.2149528>

<sup>s</sup>Fowler, C., Jiao, J., & **Pitts, M. J.** (online first, 2022). Frustration and ennui among Amazon MTurk workers. *Behavior Research Methods*. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-022-01955-9>

<sup>s</sup>Cooper, R. A., & **Pitts, M. J.** (2022). Caregiving spouses' experiences of relational uncertainty and partner influence in the prolonged relational transition of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 39(5), 1434-1459. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075211058084>

<sup>s</sup>Cooper, R. A., **Pitts, M. J.**, & Harwood, J. (2022). "That's when the relationship shifted": Relational and communicative turning points in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. *Personal Relationships*, 29, 217-235. DOI: 10.1111/pere.12412

<sup>s</sup>Jiao, J., Kim, S., & **Pitts, M. J.** (2021). Promoting subjective well-being through communication savoring. *Communication Quarterly*, 69 (2), 152-171. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01463373.2021.1901758>

<sup>s</sup>Aubrey, J. S., **Pitts, M. J.**, Lutovsky, B., Jiao, J., Yan, K., & Stanley, S. J. (2020). Investigating disparities by sex and LGBTQ identity: A content analysis of sexual health information on college student health center websites. *Journal of Health Communication*, 25, 584-593. DOI: 10.1080/10810730.2020.1825567

\***Pitts, M. J.** (2020). Epilogue: The language opportunities for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Invited epilogue to the Special Issue, Language challenges of the XXI century. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 39, 567-574. DOI: 10.1177/0261927X20933997

\***Pitts, M. J.** (2019). A spotlight on contemporary language and social psychology research: Selected proceedings from the 16th International Conference on Language and Social Psychology (Special Issue Introduction). *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 38, 400-408. DOI: 10.1177/0261927X19865295

**Pitts, M. J.** (2019). The language and social psychology of savoring: Advancing the communication savoring model. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 38, 237-259. DOI: 10.1177/0261927X18821404

- <sup>s</sup>Stanley, S., & **Pitts, M. J.** (2019). 'I'm scared of the disappointment': Young adult smokers' relational identity gaps and management strategies as sites of communication intervention. *Health Communication, 34*, 904-911. DOI: 10.1080/10410236.2018.1440507
- <sup>s</sup>Stanley, S. J., Yan, K., Jiao, J., Lutovsky, B. R., Aubrey, J. S., & **Pitts, M. J.** (2019). Communicating about sex when it matters: A content analytic investigation of sexual health information on college student health center websites. *Journal of Applied Communication, 47*, 591-610. DOI: 10.1080/00909882.2019.1675895
- <sup>s</sup>Smith, S. A., & Patmos, A., & **Pitts, M. J.** (2018). Communication and teleworking: A study of communication channel satisfaction, personality, and job satisfaction for teleworking employees. *International Journal of Business Communication, 55*, 44-68. DOI: 10.1177/2329488415589101  
Association for Business Communication 2022 Business Communication Impact Award – USC Marshall School of Business.
- <sup>s</sup>Stanley, S., Kim, S., & **Pitts, M. J.** (2018). Gender norms and discourses informing college men's perceptions of sexual health responsibilities and HPV prevention. *Communication Quarterly, 66*, 225-244. DOI: 10.1080/01463373.2017.1356338.
- <sup>s</sup>**Pitts, M. J.**, Kenski, K., Smith, S., & Pavlich, C. (2017). Focus group discussions as sites for public deliberation and sensemaking following shared political documentary viewing. *Journal of Public Deliberation, 13*(2), article 6. <https://www.publicdeliberation.net/jpd/vol13/iss2/art6>
- <sup>s</sup>**Pitts, M. J.**, Stanley, S., & Kim, S. (2017). College males' enduring and novel health beliefs about the HPV vaccine. *Health Communication, 32*, 995-1003. DOI: 10.1080/10410236.2016.1196421
- Pitts, M. J.**, & Brooks, C. (2016). Critical pedagogy, internationalisation, and a third space: Cultural tensions revealed in students' discourse. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development, 38*, 251-267. DOI: 10.1080/01434632.2015.1134553
- Brooks, C., & **Pitts, M. J.** (2016). Communication and identity management in a globally-connected classroom: An online international and intercultural learning experience. *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication, 9*, 52-68. DOI: 10.1080/17513057.2016.1120849
- <sup>s</sup>Castonaguay, J., Filer, C. R., & **Pitts, M. J.** (2016). Seeking help for depression: Applying the health belief model to illness narratives. *Southern Communication Journal, 81*, 289-303. DOI: 10.1080/1041794X.2016.1165729
- Pitts, M. J.** (2016). Sojourner reentry: A grounded elaboration of the integrative theory of communication and cross-cultural adaptation. *Communication Monographs, 83*, 419-445. DOI: 10.1080/03637751.2015.1128557.
- Pitts, M. J.**, & Harwood, J. (2015). Communication accommodation competence: The nature and nurture of accommodative resources across the lifespan. *Language and Communication, 41*, 89-99. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.langcom.2014.10.002>
- <sup>s</sup>**Pitts, M. J.**, Fowler, C., Fisher, C., & Smith, S. A. (2014). Politeness strategies in imagined conversation opens about eldercare. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology, 33*, 29-48. DOI:10.1177/0261927X13506708

Fowler, C., Fisher, C., & **Pitts, M. J.** (2013). Older adults' evaluations of middle-aged children's attempts to initiate discussion of care needs. *Health Communication, 29*, 717-727. DOI: 10.1080/10410236.2013.786278

**Pitts, M. J.**, & Adams-Tufts, K. (2013). Implications of the Virginia human papillomavirus vaccine school requirement for parental vaccine acceptance. *Qualitative Health Research, 23*, 605-617. DOI: 10.1177/1049732312470871

\***Pitts, M. J.**, & Watson, B. M. (2012). Epilogue: Trends and forecasts in language and social psychology scholarship. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology, 31*, 437-446.

**Pitts, M. J.** (2012). Practicing the Four Seasons of Ethnography methodology while searching for identity in Mexico. *The Qualitative Report, 17* (Art. 79), 1-21.

<sup>s</sup>Stewart, C. O., **Pitts, M. J.**, & Osborne, H. L. (2011). Mediated intergroup conflict: The discursive construction of "Illegal Immigrants" in local news media in Hampton Roads, Virginia. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology, 30*, 8-27.

St. John, B. III., **Pitts, M. J.**, & Adams-Tufts, K. (2010). Disconnects between news framing and parental discourse concerning the state-mandated HPV vaccine: Implications for dialogic health communication and health literacy. *Communication and Medicine, 7*(1), 75-84.

**Pitts, M. J.** (2009). Identity and the role of expectations, stress, and talk in short-term sojourner adjustment: An application of the integrative theory of communication and cross-cultural adaptation. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations, 33*, 450-462.

\***Pitts, M. J.**, & Harwood, J. (2009). Reflections on language and social psychology research from ICLASP11, Tucson, Arizona. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology, 28*, 337-342.

Kaplan, M., Nussbaum, J., Becker, J. C., Fowler, C., & **Pitts, M. J.** (2009). Communication barriers to family farm succession planning. *Journal of Extension, 47* (5), Article Number 5FEA8, available at [www.joe.org](http://www.joe.org).

**Pitts, M. J.**, Raup-Krieger, J. L., Kundrat, A., & Nussbaum, J. F. (2009). Mapping the processes and patterns of family organ donation discussions: Conversational styles and strategies in live discourse. *Health Communication, 24*, 413-425.

**Pitts, M. J.**, Fowler, C., Kaplan, M., Nussbaum, J., & Becker, J. (2009). Dialectical tensions underpinning family farm succession planning. *Journal of Applied Communication Research, 37*, 59-79.

**Pitts, M. J.**, & Miller-Day, M. (2007). Upward turning points and positive rapport development across time in researcher-participant relationships. *Qualitative Research, 7*, 177-201.

\***Pitts, M. J.**, & Nussbaum, J. F. (2006). Integrating the past and paving the future: An examination of language and social psychology. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology, 25*, 197-202.

Nussbaum, J. F., **Pitts, M. J.**, Huber, F., Krieger, J. L., & Ohs, J. (2005). Ageism and ageist language across the life span: Intimate relationships and non-intimate interactions. *Journal of Social Issues, 61* (2), 285-303.

<sup>s</sup> indicates collaborative project with graduate students.

\* indicates article was invited.

## Book Chapters

**Pitts, M. J.** (forthcoming, 2023). Positive communication as social action: Compassion and communication savoring. In Fisher, C. L., Fowler, C., Krieger, J., Pitts, M. J., Worthington, A. K., & Nussbaum, J. F. (Eds.), *Health communication, language, and social action across the life span*. Peter Lang.

\***Pitts, M. J.** (2019). Howie Giles, dragons, and the intergenerational making of legends. In J. Harwood, J. Gasiorek, H. Pierson, J. F. Nussbaum, & C. Gallois (Eds.), *Language, communication, and intergroup relations: A celebration of the scholarship of Howard Giles* (pp. 176-179). New York, NY: Routledge.

§**Pitts, M. J.,** Kim, S., Meyerhoffer, H., & Jiao, J. (2019). Savoring as positive communication (Chapter 11). In J. A. M. Velázquez & C. Pulido (Eds.), *The Routledge handbook of positive communication: Contributions of an emerging community of research on communication for happiness and social change* (pp. 98-107). New York, NY: Routledge.

Zhang, Y-B, & **Pitts, M. J.** (2019). Interpersonal accommodation. In J. Harwood, J. Gasiorek, H. Pierson, J. F. Nussbaum, & C. Gallois (Eds.), *Language, communication, and intergroup relations: A celebration of the scholarship of Howard Giles* (pp. 192-216). New York, NY: Routledge.

**Pitts, M. J.,** & Hummert, M. L. (2014). Life span communication methodology. In J. F. Nussbaum (Ed.), *Handbook of life span communication* (pp. 29-49). New York, NY: Peter Lang.

**Pitts, M. J.** (2013). Qualitative field methods in communication. In J. F. Nussbaum (Ed.), *Readings in communication research methods: From theory to practice* (pp. 137-148). San Diego, CA: Cognella Academic Press.

**Pitts, M. J.,** & Socha, T. J. (2013). Positive communication in creating healthy lives, healthy relationships, and healthy institutions. In M. J. Pitts & T. J. Socha (Eds.), *Positive communication in health and wellness* (pp. 1-24). New York, NY: Peter Lang.

Socha, T. J. & **Pitts, M. J.** (2013). Coda: Apples and positive messages: Towards healthy communication habits and wellness. In M. J. Pitts & T. J. Socha (Eds.), *Positive communication in health and wellness* (pp. 299-304). New York, NY: Peter Lang.

Socha, T. J., & **Pitts, M. J.** (2012). Coda: Positive interpersonal communication as child's play. In T. Socha & M. Pitts (Eds.), *The positive side of interpersonal communication* (pp. 323-324). Language as Social Action Series, Vol. 14). New York, NY: Peter Lang.

Socha, T. J., & **Pitts, M. J.** (2012). Toward a conceptual foundation for positive interpersonal communication. In T. Socha & M. Pitts (Eds.), *The positive side of interpersonal communication* (pp. 1-15). New York, NY: Peter Lang.

**Pitts, M.** (2011). Dancing with the spirit: Communicating family norms for positive end-of-life transition. In M. Miller-Day (Ed.), *Family communication, connections, and health transitions: Going through this together* (pp. 377-404). New York: Peter Lang.

**Pitts, M. J.,** & Giles, H. (2008). Social psychology and personal relationships: Accommodation and relational influence across time and contexts. In G. Antos & E. Ventola (Eds.) with T. Weber, *Handbook of applied linguistics volume 2: Interpersonal communication* (pp. 15-31). New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

Pecchioni, L., Krieger, J. C., Sparks, L., **Pitts, M. J.**, & Ota, H. (2008). Investigating cancer and ageing from a cultural perspective. In L. Sparks, H. D. O'Hair, & G. L. Kreps, (Eds.), *Cancer communication and aging* (pp. 239-257). Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press.

Jackson, R. L., Warren, J. R., **Pitts, M. J.**, & Wilson, K. B. (2007). "It is not my responsibility to teach culture!": White graduate teaching assistants negotiating identity and pedagogy. In L. Cooks (Ed.), *Whiteness, pedagogy, and performance*. New York: Routledge.

Hecht, M., Jackson, R. L., & **Pitts, M. J.** (2005). Culture: Intersections of intergroup and identity theories. In J. Harwood, & H. Giles (Eds.). *Intergroup communication: Multiple perspectives* (pp. 21-42). New York: Peter Lang.

**Pitts, M. J.**, Krieger, J. L., Nussbaum, J. F. (2005). Finding the right place: Social interaction and life transitions among the elderly. In E. Berlin-Ray (Ed.). *Health Communication in Practice: A Case Study Approach*, (pp. 233-242.) Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

**Pitts, M. J.**, & Kundrat, A. K. (2004). Exploring social support and social identity among a multigenerational community of women. In Ng, S. H., Candlin, C. N., & Chin, C. Y. (Eds.) *Language Matters: Communication, Identity, and Culture*, (pp. 267-295). Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong Press.

<sup>s</sup> indicates collaborative project with graduate students.

\* indicates article was invited.

### **Book Reviews**

**Pitts, M. J.** (2008). Review of B. Sherif Trask and R. R. Hamon's (2007) edited volume, Cultural diversity and families: Expanding perspectives. *Journal of Family Communication*, 8, 96-100.

### **Encyclopedia Contributions**

**Pitts, M. J.**, & Gallois, C. (2019). Social markers in language and speech. Invited contribution to the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Psychology* (9,500 words). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

**Pitts, M. J.** (2018). Qualitative methods. Invited contribution to the *Encyclopedia of Intergroup Communication* (10k words). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

**Pitts, M. J.** (2018). Acculturation strategies. In Y. Y. Kim (Ed.), *The International Encyclopedia of Intercultural Communication* (4k words). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons. DOI: 10.1002/9781118783665.ieicc0006

**Pitts, M. J.** (2010). Culture shock. In R. Jackson II (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of identity* (pp. 189-193). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

**Pitts, M. J.** (2010). Intercultural personhood. In R. Jackson II (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of identity* (pp. 397-401). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

## **RESEARCH AND MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS**

### **Under Review**

<sup>s</sup>Jiao, J., **Pitts, M. J.**, & Segrin, C. (under review). The co-construction of overparenting: Emerging adult children's need for autonomy and communication competence.

## **Works in Progress**

<sup>s</sup>Beck, G., **Pitts, M. J.**, Cooper, A., & Fanari, A. (in preparation for submission). Savoring as a pathway to military couple relational resilience: An application of the theory of resilience and relational load.

Gasiorek, J., Dragojevic, M., & **Pitts, M. J.** (data collection). Evaluating Spanish-English codeswitching in promotional materials for university student services.

Julien, R., Kozlowski, D., Jian, J., & **Pitts, M. J.** (in preparation for submission). Development and application of the communication savouring instrument.

<sup>s</sup>**Pitts, M. J.**, Beck, G., Fanari, A., Cooper, R. A., & Dajches, L. (data analysis). Military couple narratives: Savoring practices that facilitate and hinder relational resilience during and after deployment.

## **BLOG CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Pitts, M. J.** (July 1, 2021). Savoring in a pandemic. *International Association for Language and Social Psychology Blog*. <https://www.ialsp.org/member-news>

**Pitts, M. J.** (January 5, 2018). Savoring as a beneficial practice for later life. *International Network for Critical Gerontology*. <https://criticalgerontology.com/savoring-later-life/>

## **GRADUATE COMMITTEES AND SUPERVISION**

### PhD Advisor

University of Arizona

- Alice Fanari (Spring 2023)
- Sara Kim (with Jake Harwood; Summer 2020)
- Stephanie Smith (Spring 2015)

### Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member

University of Arizona

- Jeannette Maré (Fall 2022 – present)
- Nhung Luong (Summer 2023)
- Amanda Cooper (Summer 2023)
- Rachael Hassenflow (Summer 2023)
- Katerina Nemcova (Summer 2023)
- Yejin Shin (Summer 2021)
- Bethany Lutovsky (Winter 2021)
- Nate Woo (Spring 2022)
- Dana Dinsmore (Spring 2022)
- Victoria Ligon (Spring 2021)
- Chien-Yu Chen (Spring 2018)
- Sheila Springer (Summer 2017)
- Melissa McNelis (Summer 2017)

Old Dominion University

- Elif Guler (Spring 2012)

### PhD Comprehensive Examination Committee

University of Arizona

- Amanda Cooper (Fall 2022)

- Jeanette Maré (Spring 2022)
- Katerina Nemcova (Spring 2020)
- Yejin Shin (Spring 2020)
- Nate Woo (Spring 2020)
- Bethany Lutovsky (Spring 2019)
- Dana Dinsmore (Spring 2018)
- Chien-Yu Chen (Spring 2016)
- Melissa McNelis (Spring 2016)
- Sheila Springer (Spring 2015)
- Steven Brunner (Fall 2014)

#### PhD Communication Minor Comprehensive Examination Committee

- Diane Daley (Spring 2015)
- Gaby Shriner (expected Spring 2024)

#### MA Advisor

##### University of Arizona

- Tram Phan (expected Spring 2025)
- R. Amanda Cooper (Spring 2020)
- Jian Jiao (with Chris Segrin; Fall 2018)
- Holman Meyerhoffer (Fall 2018)
- Samantha Stanley (Spring 2016)
- Sara Kim (December 2015)

#### Accelerated MA Advisor

##### University of Arizona

- Antonio Coronado (Spring 2019)
- Alex Witt (Spring 2019)
- Samantha Kariolich (Summer 2018)

#### MA Committee

##### University of Arizona

- Alessandro Gonzalez (expected Spring 2024)
- Anjali Ashtaputre (Spring 2019)
- Candace Manriquez (Fall 2017)
- Farah Qadar (Spring 2016)
- Alyssa Patmos (Spring 2014)

#### External Reviewer (International PhD)

- Michael Meehan, PhD Veterinary Science, University of Queensland (July, 2011)

#### Undergraduate Honors Thesis Chair

- Rachel Rabenstine, University of Arizona (Spring 2020)
- Elizabeth Oien, University of Arizona (Spring 2019)
- Heloise Mazzotti, Co-Chair with Jennifer Stevens Aubrey, University of Arizona (Summer 2018)
- Samantha Stanley, University of Arizona (Spring 2014)
- Ginnie Weatherwax, Co-Chair with Miriam Metzger at University of California, Santa Barbara (Spring 2006)



**UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING:**

Old Dominion University (2006-2011)

- Faculty advisor for 35 undergraduate Communication majors per semester

**TEACHING:**

Assistant/Associate Professor (2011 – present)

University of Arizona

- COMM 496Z – 801: Advanced Theories of Intercultural Communication (Summer Abroad in Orvieto, 2013, 2017)
- COMM 117: Communication and Culture (Fall, 2011, 2012, Spring 2013, S/F 2015, S 2016, F 2017)
- COMM 696C: Culture and Intercultural Communication (Graduate Seminar; Fall 2015)
- COMM 496z – 802: Field Methods (Summer Abroad in Orvieto, 2013, 2017)
- COMM 669: Health Communication Theory (Graduate Seminar; Fall 2012)
- COMM 300: Introduction to Communication Theory (Fall, 2016)
- COMM 415: Nonverbal Communication (Spring 2012, 2013)
- COMM 640: Qualitative Research Methods in Communication (Graduate Seminar; Fall 2013, 2017, 2019; 2023)
- COMM 417/517: Relational Communication (Undergraduate Honor's Course co-convened with Graduate Course; Spring 2018)
- COMM 610: Theories of Interpersonal Communication (Graduate Seminar; Spring 2015, 2017, 2019)
- Graduate Independent Studies: Grounded Theory Methodology (2 students, Spring 2020; 1 student Fall 2021)
- HNRS 195J: Positive Communication (Spring 2023, 1 unit)

Assistant Professor (2006-2011)

Old Dominion University

- Communication Research Methods
- Family Communication
- Foundations of Group Communication
- Graduate Seminar on Language and Social Psychology (co-taught with Craig Stewart [English])
- Graduate/Undergraduate Intercultural Communication
- Graduate/Undergraduate Interpersonal Communication Theory and Research
- International Sojourning
- Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
- Graduate/Undergraduate Storytelling and Society (co-taught with Jenifer Alonzo [Theatre])
- Graduate Independent Studies (1)
- Undergraduate Independent Studies (2)

Visiting Lecturer (2005/2006)

The University of California at Santa Barbara

- Cultural Influences on Communication
- Family Communication
- Interpersonal Communication
- Language and Social Identity
- Nonverbal Communication in Human Interaction

Instructor (1999-2005)

The Pennsylvania State University Department of Communication Arts and Sciences

- Effective Speech (Public Speaking)
- Effective Speech in Small Groups
- Interpersonal Communication

The Pennsylvania State University Continuing Education

- Cross-Cultural Communication: Theory and Practice
- Leadership and Decision Making
- Shy child in the Classroom

Cooperative Instruction

The Pennsylvania State University Department of Adult Education

- Graduate Seminar on Qualitative Data Analysis co-taught with Professor Ian Baptiste

**COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS**

**Pitts, M. J.** (submitted). The misguided ethics of a deficit approach to language and social psychology research: An ontological argument for positive social science. Paper submitted for inclusion in the International Association of Language and Social Psychology panel at the Annual Conference of the International Communication Association to be held in Gold Coast, Australia, June, 2024.

**Pitts, M. J., Gasiorek, J., & Dragojevic, M.** (submitted). Effects of using “Spanglish” in university materials for Latinx and Non-Latinx students in the Southwestern United States. Competitive paper submitted for inclusion at the International Conference on Language and Social Psychology to be held in Tallinn, Estonia, June, 2024.

<sup>s</sup>**Pitts, M. J., Phan, T., & Schram, L.** (submitted). The critical need for positive communication in global human rights practice. Paper submitted for inclusion in the theme session on Global Human Rights at the Annual Conference of the International Communication Association to be held in Gold Coast, Australia, June, 2024.

<sup>s</sup>Beck, G., Fanari, A., Cooper, R. A., & **Pitts, M. J.** (accepted). Bolstering military couple relational resilience through savoring: Applying the theory of resilience and relational load. Competitive paper submitted for presentation at the Family Communication Division of the National Communication Association (NCA) to be held in National Harbor, MD, USA, November 16-29, 2023.

<sup>s</sup>Fanari, A., Cooper, R. A., Dajches, L., Beck, G.A., & Pitts, M. J. (November, 2022). *Transferable resilience practices: Communication and resilience of military spouses during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic*. Competitive paper presented at the Communication and Military Division of the National Communication Association (NCA) held in New Orleans, LA, USA, November 17-20, 2022.

<sup>s</sup>Cooper, R. A., **Pitts, M. J.**, & Harwood, J. (November, 2021) “*That’s when the relationship shifted*”: *Relational turning points in Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias*. Competitive paper presented at the Communication and Aging Division of the National Communication Association (NCA) held in Seattle, WA, USA, November 18-21, 2021. **Top Paper Award**

Kim, S., Harwood, J., & **Pitts, M. J.** (November, 2021). *SNS communication during cross-cultural adjustment: Identity gaps, SNS affordances, and psychological and sociocultural adjustment among international*

- students in the United States*. Competitive paper presented at the Intercultural Division of the National Communication Association (NCA) held in Seattle, WA, USA, November 18-21, 2021.
- <sup>s</sup>**Pitts, M. J.**, Beck, G., Fanari, A., Dajches, L., & Cooper, R. A. (May, 2021). *The language and social psychology of resilience, savoring, and gratitude within the context of COVID-19 in military families*. Paper presented as part of “the language and social psychology of COVID management” research panel presented as a Sponsored Panel at the 71st Annual Conference of the International Communication Association, held virtually May 27-31, 2021.
- <sup>s</sup>Beck, G., **Pitts, M. J.**, Cooper, R. A., & Fanari, A. (May, 2021). *Savoring as a pathway to relational satisfaction and resilience for military couples*. Competitive paper presented in the Interpersonal Communication Division at the 71st Annual Conference of the International Communication Association, held virtually May 27-31, 2021.
- <sup>s</sup>Kim, S., **Pitts, M. J.**, & Harwood, J. (May, 2021). *Does communication with US host-nationals on social network sites affect international students’ identity management and cross-cultural adjustment?* Competitive paper presented in the Intergroup Communication Division at the 71st Annual Conference of the International Communication Association, held virtually May 27-31, 2021.
- <sup>s</sup>Fanari, A., Cooper, A., Kim, S., & **Pitts, M. J.** (May, 2020). *Exploring the language of communication savoring: A comparison of emerging and mature adults*. Paper competitively selected for presentation as part of the International Association of Language and Social Psychology sponsored panel at the 70th Annual International Communication Association Conference held virtually, May 21-25, 2020.
- <sup>s</sup>Kim, S., Jiao, J., & **Pitts, M. J.** (May, 2020). *Exploring the benefits of communication savoring*. Paper competitively selected for presentation at the 70th Annual International Communication Association Conference held virtually, May 21-25, 2020.
- Pitts, M. J.**, & Beck, G. (November, 2019). *Savoring for survival: Savoring as a positive communication pathway to relational resilience for military couples with deployment history*. Competitively selected research presentation as part of the “Path to positivity: How postmodern families communicate, survive, and thrive panel” of the Family Communication Division of the National Communication Association (NCA) held in Baltimore, MD, USA, November 14-17, 2019.
- <sup>s</sup>**Pitts, M. J.**, Cooper, R. A., Fanari, A., Jiao, J., & Kim, S. (November, 2019). *Positive aging through communication savoring: A comparative thematic analysis of communication savoring between emerging and older adults*. Competitive paper presented at the Communication and Aging Division of the National Communication Association (NCA) held in Baltimore, MD, USA, November 14-17, 2019.
- <sup>s</sup>Jiao, J., **Pitts, M. J.**, & Segrin, C. (May, 2019). *Boundaries in parent-child relationships: Overparenting and emerging adult children’s need for autonomy and communication competence*. Competitive paper presented at the Interpersonal Communication Division of the International Communication Association (ICA) Conference held in Washington DC, USA, May 24-28, 2019.
- <sup>s</sup>**Pitts, M. J.**, Kim, S., Jiao, J., Fanari, A., & Cooper, A. (May, 2019). *Savoring as a language and social psychology construct: Cultural and lifespan perspectives*. Competitive paper selected as part of the sponsored panel session, “Showcasing ICLASP16 Research: Selected Projects from the International Association of Language and Social Psychology,” presented at the International Communication Association (ICA) Conference held in Washington DC, USA, May 24-28, 2019.

- <sup>s</sup>Pitts, M. J., Jiao, J., Kim, S., Cooper, A., & Fanari, A. (May, 2019). *Establishing relational and contextual boundaries for a new model of communication savoring*. Competitive paper presented at the Interpersonal Communication Division of the International Communication Association (ICA) Conference held in Washington DC, USA, May 24-28, 2019.
- Beck, G., & Pitts, M. J. (November, 2018). *Theoretical links between savoring as a communication practice and relational resilience among military couples*. Abstract competitively selected for presentation at the National Communication Association Preconference, Communication and Resilience: Multilevel Applications and Insights, held in Salt Lake City, UT, USA, November 7, 2018.
- <sup>s</sup>Stanley, S. J., & Pitts, M. J. (June, 2018). *We don't want to associate with them": Health implications for intergroup comparisons of young adult cigarette smokers to the novel outgroup electronic cigarette users*. Paper presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Language and Social Psychology (ICLASP16) held in Edmonton, Canada, June 20-23, 2018.
- <sup>s</sup>Tsetsi, E., & Pitts, M. J. (June, 2018). *Identity transformation during a time of resettlement: A case study of refugee identity reformation in the United States*. Competitively selected paper presented as part of the 2016-2018 ICLASP Task Force: Communication and Transnational Mobilities at the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Language and Social Psychology (ICLASP16) held in Edmonton, Canada, June 20-23, 2018.
- <sup>s</sup>Pitts, M. J., Kim, S., Jiao, J., & Meyerhoffer, H. (June, 2018). *The language and social psychology of savoring across cultures*. Paper presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Language and Social Psychology (ICLASP16) held in Edmonton, Canada, June 20-23, 2018.
- <sup>s</sup>Aubrey, J. S., Pitts, M. J., Jiao, J., Lutovsky, B., Stanley, S. J., & Yan, K. (May, 2018). *Communicating about sex when it matters: A content analytic investigation of sexual health on college student health center websites*. Competitive paper presented in the Health Communication Division of the International Communication Association Conference held in Prague, Czech Republic, May 24-28, 2018.
- <sup>s</sup>Pitts, M. J., Meyerhoffer, H., Jiao, J., & Kim, S. (February, 2018). *Interpersonal savoring and relational resilience as beneficial outcomes of mindfulness*. Competitive paper presented in the Interpersonal Communication Division at the Western States Communication Association annual convention held in Santa Clara, CA, USA, February 16-19, 2018.
- <sup>s</sup>Stanley, S., Kim, S., & Pitts, M. J. (June, 2017). *Gender norms and discourses informing college men's perceptions of sexual health responsibilities and HPV prevention*. Paper presented as part of a competitively selected panel symposia for the 1st International Symposium on Intergroup Communication held in Thessaloniki, Greece, June 21-23, 2017.
- <sup>s</sup>Pitts, M. J., Stanley, S., & Kim, S. (November, 2016). *Tuning it out: Consequences of missed cues to action in college male HPV prevention*. Competitive paper selected for presentation in the Health Communication Division at the National Communication Association annual convention held in Philadelphia, PA, USA, November 10-13, 2016.
- <sup>s</sup>Pitts, M. J., Kim, S., & Stanley, S. (June, 2016). *Cues to (in)action: The role of language in HPV vaccination promotion among young adult males*. Competitive paper selected for presentation at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Language and Social Psychology held in Bangkok, Thailand June 22-25, 2016.
- <sup>s</sup>Kim, S., & Pitts, M. J. (June, 2016). *International students' communication accommodation on Facebook and cross-cultural adjustment*. Competitive paper selected for presentation in the Intercultural

Communication Division of the International Communication Association annual convention held in Fukuoka, Japan June 9-13, 2016.

- <sup>s</sup>**Pitts, M. J.**, Stanley, S., & Kim, S. (June, 2016). *College males' perceptions of benefits and barriers to the HPV vaccine*. Competitive paper selected for presentation in the Health Communication Division of the International Communication Association annual convention held in Fukuoka, Japan June 9-13, 2016.
- <sup>s</sup>Stanley, S., & **Pitts, M. J.** (November, 2015). *Mothering as a life course event: A visual and textual analysis of messages targeting pregnant women*. Competitively reviewed paper presented at the Scholar to Scholar Session as part of the Communication and Aging Division of the National Communication Association annual convention held in Las Vegas, NV, USA, Nov 2015.
- Pitts, M. J.** (May, 2015). *Advancing the communication model of sojourner reentry adjustment*. Competitive paper selected for presentation at the annual convention of the International Communication Association, May 21-25, 2015, San Juan, Puerto Rico. **Top Paper Award**
- <sup>s</sup>**Pitts, M. J.**, Kenski, K., Smith, S., & Pavlich, C. (May, 2015). *Viewing political documentary and engaging in focus group discussion as acts of political engagement*. Competitive paper selected for presentation at the annual convention of the International Communication Association, May 21-25, 2015, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Brooks, C. F. & **Pitts, M. J.** (February, 2015). *Online discourse and identity (ethnic, multi-cultural, and inter/national) among learners engaging across borders*. Competitive paper selected for presentation at the annual meeting of the Western States Communication Association, February 21-24, 2015, Spokane, WA.
- <sup>s</sup>Smith, S., Patmos, A., & **Pitts, M. J.** (November, 2014). *Home is where the work is: Communication channel satisfaction, personality, and job satisfaction for teleworking employees*. Competitive paper selected for presentation at the annual convention of the National Communication Association to be held November 20-23, 2014 in Chicago, IL, USA.
- Pitts, M. J.**, & Brooks, C. F. (November, 2014). *Student communication and identity in a globally-connected classroom context*. Competitive paper selected for presentation at the annual convention of the National Communication Association to be held November 20-23, 2014 in Chicago, IL, USA.
- Brooks, C. F. & **Pitts, M. J.** (June, 2014). *Group affiliation/identity work online: Voices from a Hawaiian, Korean-American, and a British student in an internationally-connected classroom*. Competitive presented at International Conference on Language and Social Psychology, June 19-22, 2014 in Mānoa, HI, USA.
- <sup>s</sup>Smith, S. A., & **Pitts, M. J.** (June, 2013). *Confirmed: Surveillance, relational satisfaction, and social media use among romantic partners*. Competitive paper presented at the Interpersonal Communication Division of the International Communication Association, London, UK.
- Fowler, C., Fisher, C., & **Pitts, M. J.** (June, 2013). *Conversation openers about later life care between adult children and parents*. Competitive paper presented at the Interpersonal Communication Division of the International Communication Association, London, UK.
- Pitts, M. J.** (November, 2012). *Hemingway's Paris: A moveable feast for students*. Literary performance piece as part of the "Performing Literary Florida: Peninsular Community of Texts" performance held at the National Communication Association Conference November 15-18, 2012, Orlando, FL, USA.

- Pitts, M. J.** (June, 2012). *A cross-sectional and time sequential analysis of re-entry narratives from US student sojourners*. Competitive paper presented at the International Conference on Language and Social Psychology held June 20-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, in The Netherlands.
- <sup>8</sup>**Pitts, M. J.**, Smith, S. A., Fowler, C., Fisher, C. (June, 2012). *Politeness in adult children's conversation opensers with parents about later life health care*. Competitive paper presented at the International Conference on Language and Social Psychology held June 20-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, in The Netherlands.
- Pitts, M. J.**, & Adams-Tufts, K. (November, 2011). *Considering Parents' and Daughters' Voices in Decision Making about the State-Mandated HPV Vaccine: An Application of the Small Group Decisional Regret Theory*. Competitive paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference held November 17 – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in New Orleans, LA, USA.
- Pitts, M. J.** (January, 2011). *Searching for Selves in Mexico City*. Competitive paper presented at The Qualitative Report Second Annual Conference held January 7-8, 2011 at the Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA.
- Pitts, M. J.** (November, 2010). *To vaccinate or not: Family decision-making about the HPV vaccine and mandate*. Paper presented at the Communication and Decision Making Across the Lifespan: A Collaborative Summit to Advance Theory, Research, Application, and Pedagogy Preconference of the National Communication Association Conference held Saturday, November 13, 2010 in San Francisco, CA, USA.
- Pitts, M. J.** (June, 2010). *Positive communication: New directions in the practice of health communication and wellness*. Paper presented as part of the Health, Counselling, and Wellness symposium at the International Conference on Language and Social Psychology 12, Brisbane, Australia, June 16-19, 2010.
- Pitts, M. J.** (June, 2010). *Gossip and other types of everyday talk in identity development in intergroup settings*. Paper presented as part of the New Directions in Identity Studies: Roundtable Discussion Exploring Identities in Intergroup Communication, Language, Culture, and Globalization at the International Conference on Language and Social Psychology 12, Brisbane, Australia, June 16-19, 2010.
- St. John, B., & **Pitts, M. J.** (November, 2009). *Disconnects between media framing and parental discourse concerning the state-mandated HPV vaccine: Implications for a dialogic health communication*. Paper competitively selected for presentation in the Applied Communication division of the National Communication Association held in Chicago, IL, November 12-15, 2009.
- Pitts, M. J.** (May, 2009). *An intergroup perspective on keywords in intercultural communication: Culture, communication competence, and the management of multiple identities*. Paper presented as part of the theme session on Culture, communication competence, and intercultural communication held at the International Communication Association in Chicago, IL.
- Pitts, M. J.**, & Adams-Tufts, K. (April, 2009). *What parents need to know about the new Virginia HPV vaccine mandate: Implications for information seeking and parental decision-making*. Competitive paper presented at the Southern States Communication Association Conference Applied Communication Division held in Norfolk, VA, April 1- 5, 2009. **Top Paper Award.**
- Stewart, C. O., & **Pitts, M. J.** (April, 2009). *Mediated intergroup conflict: The discursive construction of "Illegal Immigrants" in local news media in Hampton Roads, Virginia*. Paper presented as part of the competitive panel, "Experiencing boundaries in a changing world: The reflection and construction of group identities

in language and discourse” in the Language and Social Interaction Division of the Southern States Communication Association Conference held in Norfolk, VA, April 1- 5, 2009.

- Pitts, M. J.** (2008). *Competently managing multiple identities in a globalized era: The case of sojourners*. Paper presented as part of a theme session on globalization and identity at the International Conference on Language and Social Psychology held in Tucson, Arizona, July, 2008.
- Pitts, M. J.,** Kaplan, M., Fowler, C., Nussbaum, J., & Becker, J. (May, 2008). *Dialectical tensions and praxis underpinning family farm succession planning*. Competitive paper presented in the Interpersonal Communication Division of the International Communication Association Conference held in Montreal, Canada.
- Pitts, M. J.,** Krieger, J. L. R., & Kundrat, A. (November, 2007). *Mapping family organ donation discussions: Topic initiation, persuasive appeals, and reasoning in live discourse*. Competitive paper presented in the Health Communication Division of the National Communication Association held in Chicago.
- Pitts, M. J.** (November, 2007). *You say good-bye and I say hello: Dancing with the spirit between life and death*. Paper presented as part of the panel “Diverse pathways to dying in later life: Making meaning of death and dying for older adults and their families” at the Communication and Ageing Division of the National Communication Association held in Chicago.
- Pitts, M. J.** (May, 2007). *Preparing US American sojourners for short term adjustment and positive intergroup relations: An application of expectancy violations theory and the intercultural theory on cross-cultural adaptation*. Competitive paper presented in the Intergroup Communication Interest Group at the International Communication Association Conference in San Francisco, CA. **Top Paper Award.**
- Pitts, M. J.** (April, 2007). *Interpersonal and Intergroup influences on well-being during life transitions: The case of US student sojourners*. Invited for roundtable discussion in the *Health as the crossroad among communication disciplines: A roundtable discussion of ecological approaches to health communication* symposium held in the Health Communication Division of the Eastern Communication Association, Providence, RI.
- Pitts, M. J.** (June, 2006). *American Friendships: Friend and Identity Shifts Across the Sojourn*. Competitive paper presented at the International Conference on Language and Social Psychology in Bonn, Germany.
- Pitts, M. J.** (June, 2006). *The role of everyday talk in sojourner adjustment: An ethnography of communication among US sojourners*. Competitive paper presented in Language and Social Interaction Division at the International Communication Association, Dresden, Germany.
- Raup-Krieger, J., & **Pitts, M. J.** (April, 2006). *Addressing ageism in intergenerational health care encounters: Transforming the way we communicate*. Competitive paper presented in the Applied Communication Division of the Eastern Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Pitts, M. J.,** & Miller-Day, M. (November, 2005). *Turning points in researcher-participant relationships*. Competitive paper presented in the Ethnography Division of the National Communication Association Conference, Boston, MA.
- Pitts, M. J.** (April, 2005). *Communicating greater expectations for the future of interdisciplinary health communication scholarship: A roundtable discussion*. Research presented as part of a round table discussion in the Health Communication Division of the Eastern Communication Association, Pittsburgh, PA.

- Pitts, M. J.** (July, 2004). *Crossing borders: Host country adjustment and student sojourner identities*. Research presented as part of a round table discussion on Identity and Communication and the Ninth International Conference on Language and Social Psychology at The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA.
- Liu Y-H., & **Pitts, M. J.** (July, 2004). *The experience and challenges of CMC and on-line learning from a phenomenological perspective*. Paper presentation at the Ninth International Conference on Language and Social Psychology at the Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA.
- Jackson II, R. L. & **Pitts, M. J.** (April, 2004). *Exploring links between communication, postcolonialism and multiple cultural identities*. Panel presentation in the Intercultural Communication Division of the Eastern Communication Association Conference, Boston, MA.
- Pitts, M. J.** (November, 2003). *A Discourse analytic perspective on narrative and experience: A case of eight young female sojourners in France*. Competitive paper presented in the Language and Social Interaction Division of the National Communication Association Conference, Miami Beach, Florida.
- Pitts, M. J.**, Krieger, J. R., & Nussbaum, J. F. (November, 2003). *A case study of life transitions and social interaction in an assisted care facility*. Competitive paper presented in the Commission on Communication and Ageing Group at the National Communication Association Conference, Miami Beach, FL.
- Pitts, M. J.** (May, 2003). *In search of selves: An ethnographic exploration into identities in Mexico*. Competitive paper presented in the Intercultural Communication Division of the International Communication Association Convention, San Diego, CA.
- Krieger, J. R., & **Pitts, M. J.** (April, 2003). *Echoes of life in Mexico*. Performance ethnography presented in the Interpretation and Performance Studies Division of the Eastern Communication Association Convention, Washington D.C.
- Krieger, J. L., Kundrat, A. L., **Pitts, M. J.**, & Gouran, D. (November, 2002). *Communication in action, connecting to the community: Service learning in the small group course*. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Pitts, M. J.** (November, 2002). *Friendship formation among U.S. students studying abroad: A communication perspective*. Competitive paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Pitts, M. J.** (November, 2002). *Virtual ethnography: Conducting ethnographic research on-line*. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Pitts, M. J.**, & Kundrat, A. L. (July, 2002). *Exploring social support and social identity within a multigenerational community of women II*. Competitive paper presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual International Conference on Language and Social Psychology, Hong Kong, China.
- Pitts, M. J.**, & Kundrat, A. L. (July, 2001). *Exploring social support and social identity within a multigenerational community of women I*. Poster presented at the Conference on Communication, Ageing, and Health, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.



**Pitts, M. J.** (November, 2001). *Ethnography on-line: An analysis of US American students forming social support bonds while studying abroad*. Competitive paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference, Atlanta, GA.

**Pitts, M. J.** (April, 2001) *Independence emerging: An ethnographic analysis of the negotiation of independence within a family culture*. Paper presented at the Eastern Communication Association Conference, Portland, ME.

Miller-Day, M., & **Pitts, M. J.** (November, 2000). *Cultural transmission of norms: A case study of the Green family*. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference, Seattle, WA.

### **INVITED TALKS**

Invited Speaker (June 22, 2023). Invited by the International Farm Transition Network to present at their annual professional developmental conference. Talk title: Dialectical Tensions and Opportunities: Using Positive Communication to Guide Family Farm Succession Planning

Invited Speaker (July 21, 2022). Invited by the University of Florida STEM Translational Communication Center to present at their Q&A Forum. Talk title: Navigating Careers in Academia

Convocation Address (May 11, 2022). Invited to deliver the convocation address at the Graduate Interdisciplinary Programs (Graduate College). Interdisciplinary and Biosciences GIDP Convocation. Address Title: Communicating Interdisciplinary Science with Competence and Hope.

Convocation Address (May 17, 2021). Invited by the Dean of the University of Arizona College of Social and Behavioral Sciences to deliver the convocation address at the SBS Graduate Student convocation ceremony. Address title: Savor the Spark.

Invited Speaker (March 8, 2021). Academic Networking. Department of Communication, University of Arizona, Graduate Scholars' Hour.

Invited Speaker (June 25, 2020). Webinar: Advancing Graduate Programs. Uniminuto (Corporación Universitaria Minuto de Dios), Columbia.

Invited Speaker (January 25, 2019) for the Frances McClelland Institute for Children, Youth and Families Pamela J. Turbeville Colloquium. Talk title: Savoring as Positive Communication: Implications for Relational Health and Wellbeing.

Invited Speaker (August 20, 2018) for the Global Health Program College of Nursing. Talk title: Communication Strategies for the Management of Reentry Shock.

Invited Speaker (April 5, 2018) at the Translational Ecology Short Course for the Southwest Climate Science Center. Talk title: Interpersonal Skills: Building Trust through Talk in Translational Communication.

Invited Speaker (March 9, 2018) for Roche/Ventana Medical Systems Project Leaders mini-conference. Talk title: The Role of Interpersonal Communication Competence in Workplace Effectiveness: A Micro-Workshop

Invited Public Lecture (February 8, 2017) at the Conversations on Compassion Series at the CORE in La Encantada. Talk title: Compassion through Positive Communication.

Invited Speaker (January, 2017) for the Office of Global Initiatives returning students session. Talk title: Intercultural Reentry.

Keynote Address (September, 2016) at the Lessons from Abroad Southwest Conference held at the University of Arizona, Tucson, Az, USA. Talk Title: Savoring Intercultural Reentry.

Presidential Address (June, 2016) at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Language and Social Psychology held in Bangkok, Thailand, June 22-25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Talk title: Communication Savoring.

- Invited Lecturer for the Department of Family Studies and Human Development (2012, 2013, 2014, 2016), *Qualitative Research Methods*.
- Invited speaker for the *University of Arizona Human Resources Spring Luncheon* (May 7, 2013). Talk title: Enhancing quality of life through everyday talk: The importance of positive communication in the workplace and beyond.
- Invited speaker for the *University of Arizona Parking and Transportation Department of the University of Arizona* year end banquet (May 2, 2013). Talk title: Healthy habits and positive communication: Making the most out of everyday encounters.
- Invited speaker at the *University of Arizona Cancer Prevention and Control Symposia* (September, 2012). Talk title: “We can always opt out, you know”: HPV vaccine decision-making and outcomes within the context of a state mandate.
- Invited keynote at the *Communication and Social Action: A Prescription for Healthy Communities* Conference held at Central Michigan University March 24-25, 2010. Talk title: Gardasil's "One Less" Campaign: Implications for Family Decision-Making and Community Action Regarding the HPV vaccine.
- Invited speaker for the *Humanities Junior Faculty Forum* at Old Dominion University (2008). Talk title: “Let’s do it the way we’ve always done it”: The communication dance and dialectical tensions underpinning family farm succession planning.
- Invited speaker for The University of California at Santa Barbara Department of Communication Colloquia Series (2005), *Identity and Friend’s shifts’ among US Student Sojourners*.

## **MEDIA EXPOSURE**

- Savoring is for more than food: How to savor for health benefits (nd). <https://1md.org/article/savoring-is-more-than-food> IMD Nutrition
- Savoring happiness and prolonging positive experience is key to enjoying life. (June 23, 2021). <https://bluedoormedia.co/2021/06/23/savoring-happiness-how-to-prolong-positive-experiences/> Blue Door Media.
- Learning to savour life makes you happier (April 21, 2021). <https://www.spring.org.uk/2021/04/savour-life-happier.php>. PsyBlog.
- Is savoring the new mindfulness? Beautiful places, kind people, and great food aren’t just nice things to experience – they’re key to good mental health (November 21, 2019). <https://www.outsideonline.com/2405267/savoring-new-mindfulness>. Outside Online.
- Science says 'savoring conversations' can make you happier in life—here are 7 types of interactions we crave most (May 9, 2019). [https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/science-says-apos-savoring-conversations-142452611.html?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAADSQUfdNfcRkk\\_mBot1vFR-jrOEzQf2bGGb1pP8bckE7ZsvImqvYofHenLaucj4YEbhMnP5ChkZL9KL0eGrthLX8xxhROIDBwPq08MK8Hr5F4Mg-5BU0RapYp-QCUwbZvC7RP478emf\\_BXA6C\\_tnTMwic93oySWPO7OYO0gBpdQZ](https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/science-says-apos-savoring-conversations-142452611.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAADSQUfdNfcRkk_mBot1vFR-jrOEzQf2bGGb1pP8bckE7ZsvImqvYofHenLaucj4YEbhMnP5ChkZL9KL0eGrthLX8xxhROIDBwPq08MK8Hr5F4Mg-5BU0RapYp-QCUwbZvC7RP478emf_BXA6C_tnTMwic93oySWPO7OYO0gBpdQZ) Yahoo! Entertainment.
- How to savor conversations and feel the positivity (April 11, 2019). <https://coachingfederation.org/blog/savor-conversations-for-positivity>. International Coaching Federation: Blog.
- Social savoring (March 12, 2019). <https://www.byuradio.org/44de3b58-1cd9-43f4-9046-e04e991bce32>. Constant Wonder on BYU Radio.

- The science of savoring (March 8, 2019). <https://intermarkgroup.com/the-science-of-savoring/>. Intermarkgroup.
- How savoring can be an antidote to digital angst: Stretching out positive experiences is key to well-being (March 6, 2019). <https://www.psychologytoday.com/za/blog/the-elusive-brain/201903/how-savoring-can-be-antidote-digital-angst>. Psychology Today: Blog.
- Savor it (March 4, 2019). <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=a28b8530-93e1-4e36-8056-13c3e482a765>. Lexology: Persuasive Litigator Blog.
- Not just food, savour your conversations too (March 3, 2019). <https://widgets.hindustantimes.com/sex-and-relationships/not-just-food-savour-your-conversations-too/story-O2yh6rKf5RR3Ro3Oo8JftK.html>. Hindustan Times.
- Savoring...It's not just for dinner (February 26, 2019). <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/02/190226144339.htm>. Science Daily.
- Savoring is for more than food: How to savor for health benefits (n.d.). <https://1md.org/article/savoring-is-more-than-food>. 1MD.
- Savoring happiness: How to prolong any positive experience (n.d.). <https://www.theemotionmachine.com/savoring-happiness-how-to-prolong-any-positive-experience/>. The Emotion Machine: Self Improvement in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## **PARTICIPATION AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS**

- Co-Convener (with other co-founders of Positive Communication Network) of the inaugural 2023 Positive Communication Network Conference (virtual). To be held March 17, 2023.
- Moderator for the Conversation Café: Research and Projects to Inform Real Change session of the 2023 Positive Communication Network Conference (virtual). To be held March 17, 2023.
- Roundtable Chair for the International Association of Language and Social Psychology Panel: The Role of Language in Communication Research roundtable held at the International Communication Association Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, May 24-28, 2018.
- Panelist at the Graduate Program Directors' Graduate Student Workshop at the Western States Communication Association Convention February 16, 2018
- Co-organized (with Tom Socha, Gary Beck, and Julian Mirivel) a preconference on Positive Communication for the National Communication Association Conference November, 2016 in Philadelphia.
- Developed, chaired, and moderated a spotlight panel among four University of Arizona Masters Candidates at the International Listening Association Conference entitled, *Listening locally: Narratives of cultural and identity transition in Tucson explored and explained through theories of intercultural communication*. March 11, 2016, Tucson, AZ, USA.
- Co-organizer (with Tom Socha) of the Communication and Decision Making Across the Lifespan: A Collaborative Summit to Advance Theory, Research, Application, & Pedagogy Preconference of the National Communication Association Conference November 13, 2010 in San Francisco, CA, USA.
- Discussant on the *International Association of Language and Social Psychology (IALSP) Presents Common Ground Keynotes and Keywords with ICA* (May, 2009) panel held at the International Communication Association to in Chicago, IL.
- Panel chair for *Identity as keywords in communication across and between groups: Roundtable discussion following IALSP* (May, 2009) for the Intergroup Communication Interest Group of the International Communication Association held in Chicago, IL.

- Panel chair and respondent for *Top Four Papers in Intergroup Communication* (May, 2009) for the Intergroup Communication Interest Group of the International Communication Association held in Chicago, IL.
- Respondent for the *Interpersonal communication studies I* (2009) session held in conjunction with the Undergraduate Honors Conference at the Southern States Communication Association held in Norfolk, VA.
- Respondent for the *In pursuit of positive aging: Examining identity, health, and work in later life* (2008) session for the Communication and Aging Division of the National Communication Association held in San Diego, CA.
- Panel chair for the *Diverse Contexts for Intergroup Communication: Culture, Peer Groups, Health, and Sports* (2008) session for the Intergroup Communication Interest Group of the International Communication Association Conference held in Montreal, Canada.
- Respondent for the *Competitive Papers on Communication and Aging* (2007) session for the Communication and Aging Division of the National Communication Association, Chicago.
- Panel chair for *Communicating Within and Between Groups for Maximum Understanding* (2007). Panel held at the International Communication Association Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Panel chair for *Competitive Papers in Communication and Aging: Health, Relationships, and Media Studies* (2006). Panel held at the National Communication Association Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Panel chair for *Theoretical Reconsiderations: Health, Identity, and Communication in Under-Resourced Populations* (2006). Panel held at the National Communication Association Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Panel chair for *Transforming Health Care Experiences through Communication* (2006). Panel presentation at the Eastern Communication Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Respondent for *Modeling Relational Change* (2006). Panel presentation at the Western States Communication Association Conference, Palm Springs, CA.
- Panel chair for *Communication: Styles and Identity* (2004). Panel presented at the International Conference on Language and Social Psychology 9, State College, PA.
- Respondent for Health, Communication & Aging Symposium on Cancer Communication (2002). George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
- Panel co-chair for *Relational Issues in Marriage and the Family* (2001). Panel presented at the National Communication Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Panel chair for *Socializing Gender Attitudes* (2001). Panel presented at the National Communication Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

### **FUNDING, GRANTS, AND AID**

- Initiative Owner *21<sup>st</sup> Century Masters' Project* (#1.5). University of Arizona Strategic Initiative project funded by the Office of Strategic Initiatives for [Pillar 1: Wildcat Journey](#) (AY 2022-2023). \$400,000
- Initiative Owner *21<sup>st</sup> Century Masters' Project* (#1.5). University of Arizona Strategic Initiative project funded by the Office of Strategic Initiatives for [Pillar 1: Wildcat Journey](#) (AY 2021-2022). \$400,000
- Recipient of competitive SBSRI (Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Institute) Small Faculty Grant (2019) for *Communication Pathways to Relational Resilience among Military Spouses* in the sum of \$3,500.
- Recipient of competitive SBSRI (Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Institute) Small Faculty Grant (2013) for *Perceived barriers to and benefits of the human papillomavirus vaccine among college-aged males* in the sum of \$1,800.

Co-Principal Investigator (with Kimberly Adams-Tufts, Nursing, Old Dominion University). SEECR Summer Experience Enhancing Collaborative Research Grant (2008). Competitive award in the sum of \$3,379 to study *Barriers to and facilitators of effective family discussions and decision-making about the state mandated HPV Vaccine*.

Recipient Grant-in-Aid Funding (\$725) awarded by the Office of Education Abroad to study and conduct research abroad in Paris, France (2004).

Recipient Research and Graduate Studies Office (RGSO) Course Release (\$4,000) to conduct dissertation research in France (2004).

Recipient Research and Graduate Studies Office (RGSO) Travel Award (2002) \$200.

## **CONSULTING**

- Outside Auditor and Qualitative Data Analyst  
“Secrets”: An educational theatre approach to HIV prevention in adolescents  
Kaiser Permanente Grant (PI – Kimberly Adams-Tufts)  
School of Nursing  
Old Dominion University  
February, 2009 – August, 2009
- Outside Auditor and Qualitative Data Analyst  
Continuing Grant Project on Education and HIV/AIDS in South Africa  
Department of Biobehavioral Health  
The Pennsylvania State University  
March, 2004 – September 2005
- Qualitative Data Analysis Software  
Two-day seminar: Using N-Vivo in qualitative analysis  
Department of Educational Psychology  
The Pennsylvania State University  
April, July, 2004

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Top Paper Award from the Communication and Aging Division of the National Communication Association (2021)

Top Paper Award from the Intercultural Division of the International Communication Association (2015)

Top Paper Award from the Applied Communication Division of the Southern States Communication Association (2009).

Top Paper Award from the Intergroup Communication Interest Group of the International Communication Association (2007).

Carroll Arnold Award for Excellence in Research by a Graduate Student (2005).

Kathryn DeBoer Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Assistant (2004).

Outstanding Thesis Award from the International and Intercultural Division of the National Communication Association (2002).

## **MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

International Academy for Intercultural Research (2011-present)

International Association for Relationship Research (2005 – present)

International Association of Language and Social Psychology (2002 – present)

- Immediate Past President (2018 – 2022, extended term)
- President (June, 2016 – June 2018)
- President elect (2014 - 2016)
- Regional representative (2012 – 2014)
- Scientific review committee for the 2012 conference
- Treasurer 2006 – 2012
- Officer of Records 2005-2006
- Local Conference Planner (State College, PA) 2004

International Communication Association (2000 – present)

- Co-Chair of the Intergroup Communication Interest Group 2009-2010
- Chair of the Intergroup Communication Interest Group 2008 – 2009
- Co-Chair of the Intergroup Communication Interest Group 2006-2008

National Communication Association (1999 – present)

- Immediate Past Chair Communication and Aging Division (2014)
- Chair Communication and Aging Division (2013)
- Vice-Chair Communication and Aging Division (2012)
- Vice-Chair Elect Communication and Aging Division (2011)

Positive Communication Network (2022-present)

- Co-founder

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

### University of Arizona

#### University Committees

2023	University of Arizona-University of Arizona Global Campus (UAGC) Student Success Collaboration Team for Graduate Student Success
2022	Search Committee Member for Vice President of Graduate Enrollment
2022 – present	University Wellness Initiative committee member
2021 – present	Graduate Academic Administrators Council (G-CAAC)
2021 – present	Undergraduate Academic Administrators Council (U-CAAC)
2021 – present	Advancing Diversity in Research Committee (ADRC) (Associate Deans of Research and Affiliates in conjunction with Research Innovation & Impact Office faculty foresight committee)
2020 – 2022	Pandemic Academic Coordination (PAC) committee (Covid-19 academic response team)
2020 – 2022	PAC liaison to the Public Health Advisory COVID Team (PHACT)
2019 – 2021	College Academic Administrators Council (CAAC)
2019 – present	Graduate Council

#### Faculty Advisor

2019 – 2022 Faculty Advisor to the Graduate and Professional Student Council

#### College Committees - Graduate College

2023 – Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Fellowship Review Committee

2019 – present Graduate Programs Executive Review Committee (GPERC)

#### Departmental Committees (Communication)

2016- 2019 Director of Graduate Studies  
 2012-2016 Graduate Committee

#### Old Dominion University

##### College Committees

2010/2011 Long-Range Planning  
 2009/2010 Scholarship Committee  
 2008/2009 Research and Publications Committee

##### Departmental Committees

2010/2011 Search committee member for full time lecturer appointment  
 2009/2010 MA in Lifespan Communication and Digital Media  
 2009/2010 Curriculum Revision Committee  
 2008/2009 Works in Progress Series Coordinator  
 2007/2008 Chair of search committee for Human Communication and Digital Media position  
 2007 Search committee member for one-year lecturer appointment  
 2007 Departmental re-location coordinator  
 2006/07 Departmental Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign Coordinator

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:**

#### **Editorial Board**

*Communication Monographs* (2019-present)

*Western Journal of Communication* (September 2016-present)

*Journal of Language and Social Psychology* (2014-present)

Guest editorial board member of the *Science Communication special issue* of the *Journal of Language and Social Psychology* (2016)

*International encyclopedia of intercultural communication* (2014-2018): Wiley Blackwell.

Guest editorial board member of the *Health communication special issue* of the *Journal of Language and Social Psychology* (2008).

#### **Special Issue Editor**

**Pitts, M. J.** (2019). International Conference on Language and Social Psychology (ICLASP16) Spotlight Issue. Special issue of the *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 38 (4).

Watson, B. M., **Pitts, M. J.**, Giles, H. (Eds.) (2012). *Special 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue of the Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 31 (4).

Harwood, J., & **Pitts, M. J** (Eds.) (2009). Special Issue of the *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 28 (4).

**Pitts, M. J.**, & Nussbaum, J. F. (Eds.) (2006). Extending the Boundaries of Language and Social Psychology Research. Special issue of the *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 25 (3).

#### **Ad Hoc Review Work for Professional Journals**

1. *Communication Quarterly*
2. *Communication Research Reports*
3. *Communication, Culture, & Critique*
4. *Culture and Education*

5. *Health Education*
6. *Health Psychology*
7. *Human Communication Research*
8. *International and Intercultural Communication*
9. *International Journal of Communication*
10. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*
11. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*
12. *Journal of Asian Pacific Communication*
13. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*
14. *Journal of Communication*
15. *Journal of Family Communication*
16. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*
17. *Personal Relationships*
18. *Public Health Nursing*
19. *Qualitative Research*
20. *Qualitative Health Research*
21. *Research on Aging*

**TRAININGS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

- 2023 Adult Mental Health First Aid Certificate  
7.5 hours contact hours. Awarded by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing
- 2022 QPR Gatekeeper Certificate  
1 contact hour for QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Program (NBCC Provider # 5889)

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Council of Graduate Schools Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, December 7-10, 2022
- Council of Graduate Schools Summer Workshop, Minneapolis, MN, July 10-13, 2022
- Council of Graduate Schools New Deans Institute, Minneapolis, MN, July 9, 2022
- Western Association of Graduate Schools Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, March 8-11, 2020
- Council of Graduate Schools Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN, December 4-7, 2019
- Council of Graduate Schools Summer Workshop, San Diego, CA, July 13, 2019
- Council of Graduate Schools New Deans Institute, San Diego, CA, July 14-17, 2019

**COMMUNITY SERVICE/ENGAGEMENT**

- 2020 Created materials for the Compassion Tool Kit developed for the Compassion into Action series hosted by the Student Success & Retention Innovation. *Communication is an Act of Compassion*. <https://arizona.app.box.com/s/jw2iupbuy8sari4drobvajrz75dca1pq/file/741304715969>
- 2016 Directed a “Listening Locally” project among four University of Arizona Master’s Candidates. The Listening Locally community project asked students to uncover the untold stories of their community and give them voice in a community forum. Students interviewed people living in Tucson who represent borders, boundaries, and intersections of cultural identities. Students re-told their stories at the International Listening Association Conference held in Tucson in February, 2016 and invited community members to participate on the panel. Goals of this outreach were to encourage graduate students to consider their local populations in research, to enhance community-student relationships, and to provide an opportunity and direct training in the collection, analysis, and presentation of sensitive data.
- 2009 Co-developed a community based learning course with Jenifer Alonzo (theatre) entitled *Storytelling and Society*. Students conducted narrative interviews with members of the Tidewater community of Virginia, analyzed and interpreted narratives, and (re)presented narratives to the community.
- 2002-2010 Community-based learning in the small group communication class. Teams of students in my small group communication class identify and solve a community problem through service to the community.



- 2008 Collaborated (with Janice Krieger and the family of Amanda Kundrat) on the development of a memorial award in honor of Amanda Kundrat for best Master's Thesis in Health Communication in the health communication division of the International Communication Association and the National Communication Association.
- 2003-2008 Assisted Penn State graduate forum in development of the Communication Arts and Sciences annual blood drive in memory of health communication scholar Amanda Kundrat.
- 2002-2003 Collaborated (with J. Krieger and A. Kundrat) in developing new curriculum for community based learning at Penn State in the Effective Speaking in Small Groups course.