

Sarah E. Wilder

Associate Professor of Communication Studies

Luther College
Communication Studies
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ACADEMIC EDUCATION AND APPOINTMENTS

Academic Record

Ph.D., Communication Studies; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, May 2012

Primary Emphasis: Interpersonal and Family Communication

Secondary Emphasis: Instructional Communication

Dissertation Title: *Risks and Benefits of Seeking and Receiving Emotional Support During the Divorce Process: An Examination of Divorcee Individual Adjustment, Closeness, and Relational Satisfaction with Multiple Partners from a Social Network*

M.S., Communication; Illinois State University, May 2008

Emphasis: Interpersonal Communication

Thesis Title: *An Investigation of the Support Process: Decision Phase, Support Efficacy Phase, and Outcome Phase*

B.A., Communication, Performance Studies; Buena Vista University, May 2005

Academic Appointments

Associate Professor, August 2018 to present

Department of Communication Studies, Luther College

Assistant Professor, August 2012 to July 2018

Department of Communication Studies, Luther College

Adjunct Instructor, August 2011 to July 2012

Speech Communication Department, Des Moines Area Community College

Lecturer, August 2011 to May 2012

Department of Communication Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Graduate Teaching Instructor, August 2008 to July 2011

Department of Communication Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Associate Director of Communication Basic Course, August 2009 to August 2010

Department of Communication Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

General Education Assistant Director, June 2007 to May 2008
School of Communication, Illinois State University

Graduate Teaching Assistant, August 2006 to May 2008
School of Communication, Illinois State University

Academic Assistant, January 2003 to May 2005
School of Communication and Arts, Buena Vista University

SCHOLARSHIP

Research Interests

My research revolves around the role of communication occurring within interpersonal and family relationships during and following times of transition or distress including expected, unplanned, and/or non-normative life events. I am interested in how individuals manage and navigate their lives during these times and how relationships are integrated and affected during this process.

Refereed Journal and Chapter Publications

Mehltretter, S. A., Rush, R. A., Wilder, S. E., & Wysocki, L. M. (2019). Encouraging bridges: Connecting science students to public problem solving through science communication. In A. Koenig & R. Singiser (pp. 263- 280) *Communication in Chemistry*. (ebook).

Mikucki-Enyart, S. L., Petite, S., & Wilder, S. E. (2018). Relational uncertainty management in adult children of divorce. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, 46, 469-490. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00909882.2018.1500025>

Wilder, S. E. (2018). Case Study of Personal Group Work Interaction. In J. S. Seiter, J. Peeples, & M. L. Sanders (Eds.). *Great Ideas for Teaching Students (G.I.F.T.S.) in Communication*, Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martins.

Wilder, S. E. (2016). Predicting adjustment to divorce from social support and relational quality in multiple relationships. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 57, 553-572. doi: [10.1080/10502556.2016.1233844](https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2016.1233844)

Carr, K. & Wilder, S. E. (2016). Attachment style and the risks of seeking social support: Variations between friends and siblings. *Southern Communication Journal*, 81, 316-329. doi: [10.1080/1041794X.2016.1208266](https://doi.org/10.1080/1041794X.2016.1208266)

- Wilder, S. E. (2016). Communication practices and advice in later-life widowhood: "We just talked about what it is like to not have your buddy." *Communication Studies*, 67, 111-126, doi: 10.1080/10510974.2015.1119171
- Mikucki-Enyart, S. L., Wilder, S. E., & Barber, H. (2016). "Was it all smoke and mirrors?": Applying the relational turbulence model to adult children's experience of late-life parental divorce. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*. doi: 10.1177/0265407516629226
- Braithwaite, D. O., Bach, B. W., Wilder, S. E., Kranstuber, H., & Sato Mumm, S. (2014). The discourses of voluntary kin. In D. O. Braithwaite & J. T. Wood (Eds.). *Casing Interpersonal Communication: Case Studies in Personal and Social Relationships* (2nd ed.). (pp. 51-58), Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company.
- Wilder, S. E. (2012). A dialectical examination of remarriage dyadic communication and communication with social networks. *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*, 13, 63-70. doi: 10.1080/17459435.2012.722163
- Wilder, S. E. (2012). A comparative examination of reasons for and uses of uncertainty and topic avoidance in first and remarriage relationships. *The Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 53, 292-310. doi: 10.1080/10502556.2012.671660
- Dirks, S. E. & Metts, S. (2010). An investigation of the support process: Decision, enactment, and outcome. *Communication Studies*, 61, 391-411. doi: 10.1080/10510974.2010.491344
- Braithwaite, D. O., Bach, B. W., Dirks, S. E., Kranstuber, H., & Sato Mumm, S. (2010). The discourses of voluntary kin. In D. O. Braithwaite & J. T. Wood (Eds.). *Casing Interpersonal Communication: Case Studies in Personal and Social Relationships* (pp. 51-58), Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company.

Competitively Selected Manuscript Conference Presentations

- Wilder, S. E., Baumeister, C., Ross, J., & Radtke, E. (2017, March). *Exploring memorable messages and affective responses in the context of divorce disclosure*. Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Minneapolis, MN.
- Mikucki-Enyart, S. L., Petite, S., & Wilder, S. E. (2016, November). *Adult children's relational uncertainty management following late-life parental divorce*. Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Mikucki-Enyart, S. L., Wilder, S. E., & Barber, H. (2015, November). "Was It All Smoke and Mirrors?": *Applying the Relational Turbulence Model to Adult Children's Experience of Late-Life Parental Divorce*. Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, Las Vegas, NV.

- Wilder, S. E. (2014, November). *Communicative, individual, and relational outcomes in a social network model of adjustment to divorce*. Manuscript presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.
- Carr, K., & Wilder, S. E. (2014, April). *Attachment style, communication apprehension, and the risks of seeking social support: Variations between friends and siblings*. Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Minneapolis, MN.
- Wilder, S. E. (2013, November). *Communication practices surrounding later-life widowhood*. Project presented at the inaugural Luther College Faculty Research Symposium, Decorah, IA.
- Wilder, S. E. (2011, November). *Examining uses, reasons, and differences in uncertainty and topic avoidance in remarriages and first marriages*. Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Braithwaite, D. O., Bach, B. W., Dirks, S. E., Kranstuber, H., & Sato Mumm, S. (2010, November). *"She is like a sister to me": Discourses of voluntary kin as family*. Manuscript presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Dirks, S. E. (2010, April). *An examination of interaction and dialectical tensions in the remarried dyad*. Manuscript presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Cincinnati, OH. [Top Student Manuscript, Interpersonal and Small Group Interest Group of the Central States Communication Association].
- Dirks, S. E. (2009, November). *A dialectical analysis of remarriage and communication with social networks*. Manuscript presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.
- Dirks, S. E., & Metts, S. (2009, April). *An investigation of the support process: Decision phase, enactment and efficacy phase, and outcome phase*. Manuscript presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, St. Louis, MO. [Top Four Manuscript, Interpersonal and Small Group Interest Group of the Central States Communication Association].
- Dirks, S. E. (2008, November). *Solidarity during the launching stage: An examination of siblings' and friends' solidarity during the transition to college*. Manuscript presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, San Diego, CA.
- Dirks, S. E. (2008, April). *Communication and transitioning to widowhood: "We just talked about what it is like to not have your buddy."* Manuscript presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Madison, WI.

Altieri, M. S., & Dirks, S. E. (2007, November). *Examining the relationship between touch attitudes and relationship satisfaction in romantic partners and platonic dyads*. Manuscript presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL. [A top two student manuscript award recipient, Interpersonal Division of the National Communication Association].

Dirks, S. E. (2004, April). *Examining how gender and relationship type influence mate selection*. Manuscript presented at the Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Competitively Selected Research Discussion Panels

Wilder, S. E. (2018, April). *Making a Difference: Traveling with and Mentoring Student Conference Presenters and Participants*. Presenter, roundtable discussion at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Milwaukee, WI.

Wilder, S. E. (2016, November). *Lactivism: Communication's civic calling to promote and support breastfeeding in Philadelphia and beyond*. Presenter at a roundtable discussion for the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Wilder, S. E. (2015, April). *Managing the Convergence Points of Work and Life: Discussions of Work-Life Balance with Pre-Tenure Female Faculty*. Presenter and chair, roundtable discussion for the Women's Caucus of the Central States Communication Association, Madison, WI.

Wilder, S. E. (2012, November). *Life-span perspectives on families communicating during times of crises or stress*. Presenter and chair, roundtable discussion for the Interpersonal Communication Division of the National Communication Association, Orlando, FL.

Dirks, S. E. (2011, April). *When "home" isn't homey: A systems analysis of the functional ambivalence of "dark" family experiences and messages*. Presenter and chair, roundtable discussion for the Interpersonal and Small Group Interest Group of the Central States Communication Association, Milwaukee, WI.

Dirks, S. E. (2010, November). *Building bridges to discourse dependent families: Unique discourse of "nontraditional families."* Presenter, roundtable discussion for the Interpersonal Communication Division of the National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA.

Dirks, S. E. (2010, April). *The positivity bias in interpersonal communication research: A critique of common practice and encouragement of a dark side approach*. Presenter, roundtable discussion for the Interpersonal and Small Group Interest Group of the Central States Communication Association, Cincinnati, OH.

Consultations or Community Presentations

The Impact of Breastfeeding Support. Invited presentation to the GO Chapter of PEO Sisterhood, Philanthropic Educational Organization. Decorah, IA. January, 2021.

Communicating in Relationships while Navigating Breastfeeding Decisions. Four-part series presented to the Decorah Breastfeeding Support Group. Decorah, IA. February, March, April, May 2020.

Communication and Methodological Consultant. NSF Research Grant funded project investigating science communication and pedagogy. Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN. Spring, 2017.

Perceptions, Teamwork, and Compassion in Workplace Communication. Staff training following consultation with center directors presented to staff of Sunflower Child Development Center. Decorah, IA. September, 2016.

Communication, Aging, and Widowhood. Invited presentation to the GO Chapter of PEO Sisterhood, Philanthropic Educational Organization. Decorah, IA. May, 2015.

Supportive Communication. Invited presentation to the GO Chapter of PEO Sisterhood, Philanthropic Educational Organization. Decorah, IA. January, 2014.

TEACHING

Teaching Interests

My teaching involves a deep understanding of self in relation to systematic study of complex societal and cultural factors that affect interpersonal and family communication to better understand agency and efficacy in relationships.

Courses

Luther College

COMS 130: Interpersonal Communication

COMS 185: Supportive Communication

COMS 239: Cultivating Quality Communication

COMS 236: Small Group Communication

COMS 330: Family Communication

COMS 362: Communication Theories

COMS 370: The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication

COMS 375: Communication Studies Directed Readings

COMS 380: Communication Studies Internship

COMS 490: Communication Studies Senior Project

Des Moines Area Community College

SPC 101: Fundamentals of Oral Communication
SPC 126: Interpersonal and Small Group Communication
COM 703: Communication Skills

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

COMM 109X: Fundamentals of Human Communication: Online
COMM 109: Fundamentals of Human Communication
COMM 109PSI: Fundamentals of Human Communication: Personalized System of Instruction
COMM 201: Introduction to Research Methods in Communication Studies
COMM 283: Interpersonal Communication
COMM 325: Interviewing

Illinois State University

COM 110: Communication as Critical Inquiry
COM 123: Interpersonal Communication
COM 325: Theory and Research in Interpersonal Communication (co-instructor)
COM 331: Communication and Aging (co-instructor)

Competitively Selected Teaching Presentations and Discussion Panels

Wilder, S. E. (2016, September). *Mentoring as teamwork*. Presenter and chair, roundtable discussion at the annual meeting of the Iowa Communication Association, Pella, IA.

Wilder, S. E. (2015, November). *How I Met Your Mother + Research Turning-Point Analysis*. Teaching presentation for the Great Ideas for Teaching session at the National Communication Association convention, Las Vegas, NV.

Wilder, S. E. (2015, April). *Converging Research and Teaching: Engaging Students with Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Research in the Classroom*. Presenter, roundtable discussion for the Interpersonal and Small Group Interest Group of the Central States Communication Association, Madison, WI.

Wilder, S. E. (2015, April). Looking Back, Looking Forward: Exploring the Changes in Teaching Interpersonal Communication. Presenter and chair, roundtable discussion for the State Showcase at the Central States Communication Association, Madison, WI.

Wilder, S. E. (2014, November). *Teachers on teaching series: Honoring the pedagogy of Larry Frey, Tracy Russo, and Jordan Soliz*. Presenter at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.

Wilder, S. E. (2014, September). *Looking back, looking forward: Exploring the changes in teaching interpersonal communication*. Presenter and chair, roundtable discussion at the annual meeting of the Iowa Communication Association, Ankeny, IA. [Top Three Panel for State Showcase, Iowa Communication Association].

Wilder, S. E. (2013, April). *New media and popular culture pedagogy panel*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Kansas City, KS.

Wilder, S. E. (2013, April). *Case study of personal group interaction*. Assignment presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Kansas City, KS.

Wilder, S. E. (2012, September). *New media and popular culture pedagogy panel*. Presenter at the annual meeting of the Iowa Communication Association, Ankeny, IA. [Top Three Panel for State Showcase, Iowa Communication Association].

Dirks, S. E. (2011, April). *Best practices for training and utilizing undergraduate teaching assistants (UTAs): Helping UTAs feel at home in the basic course classrooms*. Presenter in a roundtable discussion at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Milwaukee, WI.

Dirks, S. E. (2010, November). *Content experts' recommendations for communication training and development: A sourcebook for curriculum developers*. Manuscript presented at the annual meeting of National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA. [Top Panel, Training and Development Division of the National Communication Association].

Dirks, S. E. & Asbury, B. E. (2009, April). *Interpersonal concept guidebook assignment*. Assignment presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, St. Louis, MO. [Top Manuscript, Great Ideas For Teaching section of the Central States Communication Association].

Thompson, E. M. & Dirks, S. E. (2008, April). *Student motivation and practices with reading preparation for college classes*. Manuscript presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association, Madison, WI.

Teaching Lectures and Discussion Facilitations or Participation

Here's My Story: On Friendship. Faculty panelist. Luther College (February, 2020).

TRIO Achievement Program BBQ&A, Faculty facilitator for TRIO students. Luther College (October, 2019).

Sophomore on the Commons, Faculty Table Host. Luther College (September, 2019).

TRIO Achievement Program Q&A, Panelist for incoming TRIO students. Luther College (October, 2017).

Introduction to Quantitative Methods. Presented to Research Methods, Communication Studies. Luther College (Spring, 2013; 2015; 2016; Fall, 2016)

Communication Theme: Connected, but Alone. Facilitation led for SAC Leadership event. Luther College (September, 2012).

Unpredictable stressors, communication, and coping. Presented to the Family Communication course. University of Nebraska-Lincoln (April, 2011).

Like a sister to me. Presented at the Communication Studies Research Colloquium, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (November, 2010).

Dialectical tensions in the remarried dyad. Presented at the Communication Studies Research Colloquium, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (April, 2010).

Life-span stressors, family coping, and social support. Presented to Family Communication course. University of Nebraska-Lincoln (March, 2010).

Research, theory, and methods: An investigation of their intersections. Presented to the Communication Capstone Course and faculty at Buena Vista University (January, 2010).

A dialectical analysis of remarriage and communication with social networks. Presented to the Communication Capstone Course and faculty at Buena Vista University (November, 2009).

An investigation of the support process. Presented at the Communication Studies Research Colloquium, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (March, 2009).

Teaching Professional Development Attendance

Strategies for Inclusive Teaching and Learning workshop by Kevin Gannon from Grand View University. Luther College. Fall, 2019.

Teaching Partnership Program. Luther College. Fall, 2017.

J2 Requirement Workshop/Discussion. Luther College. Summer, 2017.

HB/HBSSM Requirement Workshop/Discussion. Luther College. Summer, 2017.

Strengths Mentoring Session. Luther College. Spring, 2017.

Sophomore Holistic Advising Workshop. Luther College. Summer, 2016.

Teaching Partnership Program. Luther College. Spring, 2015.

Advising Workshop. Luther College. Summer, 2013.

Information and Literacy Technology Workshop. Luther College. Summer, 2013.

Prezi and Visual Literacy Workshop. Luther College. Summer, 2013.

Faith and Learning Workshop. Luther College. Summer, 2013.

Summer Institute for Online Teaching. University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Summer, 2011.

Annual Workshops for Graduate Teaching Assistants. University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Fall, 2010.

Annual Workshops for Graduate Teaching Assistants. University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Fall, 2009.

Annual Workshops for Graduate Teaching Assistants. University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Fall, 2008.

SERVICE

Departmental and Institutional Service

Luther College Ideas and Creations Blogs Contributor, February 25, 2020
“Researching with the Community”

ROAD Advising, Summers 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019

Visit/Scholar Days Presentations: 2017, 2018, 2019

Luther College Ideas and Creations Blogs Contributor, February 26, 2019
“Challenging myself to learn actively alongside my students”

Human Subjects Review Board Chair, Fall 2017 – Summer 2019
Luther College Committee, Luther College

Communication Studies Social Media Co-Coordinator, Fall 2017 – present
Communication Studies Departmental Team, Luther College

Digication ePortfolio Pilot Workshop, Fall, 2017
Organizer and presenter, Luther College

Digication ePortfolio Administration Team, Summer 2017 – February 2018
Luther College Committee, Luther College

Sophomore Next Steps Continuation, Steering Committee, Spring 2017 – Fall 2017
Luther College Committee, Luther College

Human Subjects Review Board member, Fall 2015 – Summer 2018
Luther College Committee, Luther College

Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity, Fall 2013 – Fall 2019
Luther College Chapter Advisor, Luther College

CIC-NetVUE Sophomore Next Steps, Learning Community #1 Co-Leader, Fall 2016-Spring 2017
Luther College Committee, Luther College

Sophomore Project Launch Meetings and Facilitation, Fall, 2016
Luther College

Wabash Institutional Learning Assessment Consultation Attendee, Fall, 2014
Presented to Luther College

So you want to do a survey: Doing online survey projects with Qualtrics, Fall, 2013
Organizer and presenter of the Faculty Workshop. Luther College

Contributor and meeting participant to the SSS and Trio Services first year course proposal revisions, Fall 2013 to Spring 2014, Luther College

Whirlwinds Ad Hoc Committee, Fall 2013
Luther College Committee, Luther College

Departmental Curriculum Development, Fall 2012 – present
Communication Studies, Luther College

Awards and Nominations Committee Member, Fall 2010 to Spring 2011
Department of Communication Studies, University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Departmental Governing Board Elected Student Representative, Fall 2009 to Spring 2010
Department of Communication Studies, University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Graduate Student Recruitment Committee Member, Fall 2008 to Fall 2010
Department of Communication Studies, University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Graduate Teaching Peer Mentor, Summer 2007 to May 2008
School of Communication, Illinois State University

Discipline Service

Ad-Hoc Journal Reviewer

Discourse: The Journal for the Speech Communication Association of South Dakota
Communication Quarterly
Iowa Journal of Communication
Journal of Family Communication
Western Journal of Communication
Communication Studies

Conference Reviewer

NCA Interpersonal Division (2017)
NCA Family Communication Division (2013, 2016)

CSCA Interpersonal and Small Group Interest Group (2011, 2013)
NCA Student Section (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010)

Conference Panel Chair or Respondent

NCA Interpersonal Division Chair (2011, 2013)
CSCA Interpersonal and Small Group Chair (2012, 2013)

National, Regional, and State Committee Service

Editorial Board Discourse: The Journal for the Speech Communication Association of South Dakota, Spring 2017 - present

Elected At-Large Member of the ICA Governing Board, Iowa Communication Association, Fall 2013- Spring 2015

Elected At-Large Member of the Nominating Committee, National Communication Association, Fall 2013 - Spring 2014

Community Service

Communications Task-Force, First Lutheran Church, Decorah, IA
July 2019 – January 2020

Board of Directors President, Sunflower Child Development Center, Decorah, IA
April 2017 – March 2018

Board of Directors Secretary, Sunflower Child Development Center, Decorah, IA
April 2016 – March 2017

Communication Liaison and Publicity, P.E.O, Decorah, IA
April 2015- Present

HONORS AND AWARDS

Anderson Faculty Sabbatical Award, Luther College, 2019-2020

Centennial Fellowship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2008-2009

Graduate Student Leadership Award, Illinois State University, 2008

University Graduate Teaching Award Nominee, Illinois State University, 2007

School of Communication Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, Illinois State University, 2007

Summa Cum Laude graduate of Buena Vista University, 2005

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

National Communication Association member since 2007

Central States Communication Association member since 2007