**Dr. Charles Athanasopoulos**

Assistant Professor of African American and African Studies & English   
The Ohio State University  
University Hall, 486, 230 N Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210   
[charlesathanaso.com](http://charlesathanaso.com/)

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

Assistant Professor. African American and African Studies & English. The Ohio State University. 2024-Present.

Assistant Professor. Communication Studies. Gonzaga University. 2022-2024.

Affiliate Faculty. Critical Race & Ethnic Studies. 2023-2024

**RESEARCH INTERESTS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  
Black Radical Tradition Black Rhetorical Theory

Cultural Studies & Media Studies Activism (U.S. New Left & Post/Ferguson U.S.)

Street Art (Graffiti & Muralism) Caribbean & Afro/Latine Identity (Puerto Rico)

Theories of Black Feminism Critical Romani Studies (Greece)

**EDUCATION \_\_\_\_**

Ph.D., Rhetoric & Communication, University of Pittsburgh

Dissertation: *Rhetorics of Complete Disorder in Post-Ferguson America* (Defended 04/06/2022).

Committee: Dr. Brent J. Malin (Chair; University of Pittsburgh), Dr. Louis M. Maraj (University of British Columbia), Dr. Caitlin F. Bruce (University of Pittsburgh), Dr. Shanara Reid-Brinkley (California State University – Fullerton), Dr. Paul E. Johnson (University of Pittsburgh)

M.A., Rhetoric & Communication, University of Pittsburgh, 2020.

Specialization: Black Studies, Cultural Studies, Media Studies, Visual Rhetoric, & Rhetoric of Social Movements

B.A., Study of Religions, Wake Forest University, 2018

Major: The Study of Religions  
 Minor: Interdisciplinary Writing Studies & Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

**PUBLICATIONS**

***MONOGRAPHS***

Athanasopoulos, Charles. *Black Iconoclasm: Public Symbols, Racial Progress, and Post/Ferguson America* Advanced Contract, *Palgrave Macmillan* (ed. Robin James). Forthcoming Nov/Dec 2024.

***SINGLE-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS***

Athanasopoulos, Charles. “A Global Idea of Race: Greek Gypsies, Blackness” in *The Routledge Handbook of Ethnicity and Race in Communication* edited by Bernadette Marie Calafell and Shinsuke Eguchi. Routledge Press. October 3rdth, 2023.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. “Fanonian Slips: The Rhetorical Function & Field of the White Mask.” *Western Journal of Communicatio*n, October 12, 2022.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. ““A Program of Complete Disorder:” The Black Iconoclasm within

Fanonian Thought”. *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, 10.1 Spring 2021.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. “Black Radical Thought as Pathology in *Black Panther*” in *The Why Wakanda Matters: What Black Panther Reveals About Psychology, Identity, and Communication* edited by Sheena Howard. *BenBella Books*, February 2021.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. “Smashing the Icon of Black Lives Matter: Afropessimism &

Religious Iconolatry.” *Prose Studies*, Vol. 40, Issue 1-2: #BlackLivesMatter: Pasts, Presents, Futures, 2019.

***CO/AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS***

Sugino, Corinne Mitsuye & Athanasopoulos, Charles. “The Cause is the Consequence: Biden’s Nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson & The Right to Include” in *Rhetorical Economies of Whiteness: Power, Privilege, & Neoliberalism* edited by Robert Asen & Casey Ryan

Kelly. Forthcoming (Fall 2024), Ohio State University Press.

Athanasopoulos, Charles & Sugino, Corinne Mitsuye. “Clash of the Uncivilized: Alternative

Approaches to Policy Debate.” *Contemporary Argumentation & Debate Journal*, July 2023.

***CATALOGUE ESSAYS***

Athanasopoulos, Charles. Invited Submission. “Fractures & Fragments: Dismantling the Icon of American Liberty”. Catalogue Essay, “In Pursuit: Artists' Perspectives on a Nation” Exhibit. *National Liberty Museum* (Philadelphia, PA).

***PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP***

Williamson, Marisa & Athanasopoulos, Charles. Invited Submission. “A Contemplative Dialogue on [*Unsettling Grounds*](https://unsettlinggrounds.com/).” *Monument Lab*. Inaugural print journal issue. Forthcoming July 2024.

Ramadhani, Amisa. “Black Consciousness & the White Mask: An Interview with Charles Athanasopoulos.” *Charter*. Spring 2024.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. “Iconography in the Age of Black Lives Matter”. *Monument Lab*, 2020.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. “On White Rioters & Black Liberals”. *The Lacan Salon*, “Listening with Black Lives Matter” series, 2020.

***BOOK REVIEWS***

Athanasopoulos, Charles. “Black or Right: Anti/Racist Campus Rhetorics by Louis M. Maraj”.

*Quarterly Journal of Speech*, Published ahead of print September 28th, 2021.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. “Review of *Iconoclasm: The Breaking and Making of Images* edited by Rachel F. Stapleton and Antonio Viselli”. *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, Issue 9.2, Fall 2020.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. “Narration as Argument edited by Paula Olmos”. *Argumentation and Advocacy*, Vol. 56 (3), June 2020.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. “Critique of Black by Achille Mbembe Reason.” *Prose Studies*, Vol. 40, Issue 1-2: #BlackLivesMatter: Pasts, Presents, Futures, 2019.

***MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS***

Athanasopoulos, Charles. “Lose Your *Abuela*: Afro/Nuyorican Identity, *Puertorriqueñidad* & Caribbean Discourse.”

Sugino, Corinne Mitsuye & Athanasopoulos, Charles. “White Rhetorical Appropriation: Multicultural Co-option of Civil Rights Discourses in the Age of COVID-19”.

Athanasopoulos, Charles. “Where Caribbean Mestizaje & White Nationalism Meet: The Rhetoric of Afro/Cuban *Proud Boys* Chairman Enrique Tarrio”

Athanasopoulos, Charles. “The First Black Presidency Did Not Take Place: Black Radical Disruption & Obama as Simulacra”

**AWARDS & HONORS \_\_\_\_**

2024 Carroll Vision Funds. Gonzaga University.

Awarded competitive grant funds based on proposal to support undergraduate student research. Specifically, these funds were used to waive student conference registration fees for the 2024 Northwest Communication Association Conference.

2023 Critical and Cultural Studies Division Outstanding Article Award. National Communication Association.

Awarded for my essay “Fanonian Slips: The Rhetorical Function & Field of the White Mask” featured in *Western Journal of Communication*. Awarded plaque & small monetary gift.

Invitation & Honorarium. Black and Indigenous Futures Convening. Sponsored by ArtsEmerson & HowlRound Theatre Commons ($1000 USD honorarium & related expenses). Emerson College. September 20-21, 2023.

1 of 35 invited speakers/participates chosen by ArtsEmerson and HowlRound Theatre Commons to participate in workshopping and a recorded roundtable about among 27 Black and Indigenous leaders to participate in “a convening of artists, scholars, educators, and practitioners to join us in unearthing history, examining fault lines, and imagining new and different futures.”

Faculty Honor for Positive Impact on Graduating Seniors. Office of the Vice Provost for Student Affairs at Gonzaga University. AY 2022-2023.

Listed by two graduating seniors at Gonzaga University as a faculty member who made a “positive influence or impact on their college experience” by showing “care” and “investment” in their well-being and success.

2023-2024 Global Engagement Grant Recipient. Awarded by Gonzaga University’s International Education Council for the summer of 2024 ($3500 award).

The grant was awarded to aid a research project abroad studying Greek/Roma music culture(s).

2022-2023 Global Engagement Grant Recipient. Awarded by Gonzaga University’s International Education Council for the summer of 2023 ($3500 award).

The grant was awarded to aid a research project abroad studying the legacy of slavery in Puerto Rico and Afro/Puerto Rican identity.

Competitive Fund Recipient. Dean’s Faculty Development Fund. Gonzaga University. Spring 2023. ($1000USD award).

Awarded funds to begin cultivating language skills in Puerto Rican Spanish to aid research projects.

Dietrich School Arts & Sciences Fellow. Awarded for AY 2021-2022 (Full Tuition + $23,688 stipend).

Includes stipendiary support and a year-long sabbatical from teaching to aid the completion of the student’s dissertation.

Recipient of A.W. Mellon Foundation-funded *Humanities Engage* Grant. Awarded for Summer 2020 ($3500/c. 200 hours). Immersive Fellowship at The Stuart Weitzman School of Design’s Center for Public Art and Space & Monument Lab of Philadelphia, PA.

2020 Greek Nationality Room Scholarship Recipient ($4,000/5 weeks abroad). Delayed until Summer of 2022. Awarded for auto-ethnographic research project “From Ferguson to Athens: Race, Romani Greeks, & #BlackLivesMatter.

Top Student Paper Award for Essay titled “A Stranger in Wakanda: Erik Killmonger & Black Natal Alienation”. “Theater, Film, and New Multi-Media Division” at the National Communication Association Conference. Baltimore, Maryland, November 13-17, 2019.

**INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS**

Invited Speaker. “Iconoclastic Black Feminism(s): Unsettling Plantation Logics of Reproduction and Justice.” *Appetite for Autonomy Lunch Lecture Series.* Gonzaga University. April 10th, 2024.

In this talk, Dr. Charles Athanasopoulos explores the ways Black feminisms fracture the white feminist notion of sisterhood. Engaging Black feminists such as Dorothy Roberts, Hortense Spillers, and Sylvia Wynter, this talk explores alternative conceptions of reproductive justice unmoored from the history of eugenics and the discursive centering of the white nuclear family.

“Blackness Beyond the Nation-State.” *Black & Latinx Heritage Lecture Series by Dr. Charles Athanasopoulos.* Sponsored by the Gonzaga University College of Arts & Sciences, Gonzaga’s Unity Multicultural Education Center, Department of Communication Studies, & the Puerto Rican Independence Party. February 16, 2024.

This roundtable explored the way that American and Anglo-centric narratives have constrained discussions of Black solidarity across Anglo-, Hispano-, Luso-, and Franco-phone nations in the diaspora. In particular, the roundtable engaged Lorgia García Peña’s *Translating Blackness* to consider how prominent African American thinkers like Frederick Douglass have supported U.S. colonialism in the Caribbean and their complicity with narratives of Latin inferiority. The roundtable concluded by exploring an alternative approach to radical diasporic Black subjectivity which refuses to silo Black liberation according to colonial cultures.

“Locating Blackness & Indigeneity in Hispanic Heritage.” *Black & Latinx Heritage Lecture Series by Dr. Charles Athanasopoulos.* Sponsored by the Gonzaga University College of Arts & Sciences, Gonzaga’s Unity Multicultural Education Center, Department of Communication Studies, & the Puerto Rican Independence Party. October 9th, 2023 (FKA “Columbus Day”).

This lecture explores the origins of the terms "Hispanic" and "Latinx" and critically interrogate the privileging of *Mestizaje* (racial-mixing) and *Blanqueamiento* (racial whitening) in popular and scholarly discourse. Finally, the lecture explores an alternative approach to "Hispanic heritage" through an engagement with critical Black, Indigenous, Latinx, & Caribbean scholarship.

“Decolonizing Puerto Rico: Past, Present, Future.” Sponsored by the Gonzaga University College of Arts & Sciences & the Puerto Rican Independence Party. May 5th, 2023.

Secured funding, coordinated guest speaker visit for NASA Scientist & Puerto Rican independence activist Edil Sepúlveda Carlo, coordinating local catering, and participated in roundtable along Sepúlveda and another independence activist Dr. Jenaro Abraham.

Invited Speaker/Participant. Black and Indigenous Futures Convening. Sponsored by ArtsEmerson & HowlRound. Emerson College. September 20-21, 2023.

Author Interview, ““A Program of Complete Disorder:” The Black Iconoclasm Within Fanonian Thought.” *Black Agenda Report Article Forum,* ed. Roberto Sirvent. Published March 23, 2022.

“Puerto Rico: (Un) Natural Disasters.” Public Panel held at Gonzaga University. September 2022.

This panel was born out of an open letter composed by various Puerto Rican faculty members concerning the need to offer aid to the most marginalized citizens of Puerto Rico after the disaster of Hurricane Fiona. The panel was created in collaboration with the President’s Office, the College of Arts & Sciences Dean’s Office, and Fundación de Mujeres en Puerto Rico.

Invited Guest Speaker, “Black Radical Thought as Pathology in *Black Panther*.” *Why Wakanda Matters* Podcast hosted by Sheena C. Howard, December 29, 2020.

Moderator, “A Discussion with Louis M. Maraj on Black or Right: Anti/Racist Campus Rhetorics” hosted by DBLAC (Digital Black Life and Culture Network), December 8th, 2020.

Job Seeker’s Workshop Participant. Cultural Studies Association Conference (Virtual), June 2021.

*Lateral* Journal Workshop Participant. Cultural Studies Association Conference. New Orleans, LA, May 2019.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Co-Panelist. American Studies Association. Sugino, Corinne Mitsuye & Athanasopoulos, Charles. “Racial Myth & Transnational Empire: Constructing National Essence through Nihonjinron (日本人論) & *Puertorriqueñidad.* November 2024.

Co-Panelist. National Communication Association. “Lose Your *Abuela*: Afro/Nuyorican Identity, *Puertorriqueñidad* & Caribbean Discourse.” November 2023.

Co-Panelist. National Communication Association. “Where Caribbean Mestizaje & White Nationalism Meet: The Rhetoric of Afro/Cuban *Proud Boys* Chairman Enrique Tarrio” November 2023.

Co-Panelist. National Communication Association. “The First Black Presidency Did Not Take Place.” Panel: “Out of Breath: The Communicative Politics of Racialized Breathing”. National Communication Association Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana. November 2022.

Co-panelist. Sugino, Corinne Mitsuye & Athanasopoulos, Charles. “White Rhetorical Appropriation: Multicultural Co-option of Civil Rights Discourses in the Age of COVID- 19”. Panel: “Post-Civil Rights Movement Racial Discourses: Untangling Colorblindness, Multiculturalism, and Post-racialism”. National Communication Association Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana. November 2022.

Individual Presenter. “Embracing *Le Chaos-Monde* of Black Lives Matter Street Art”. National Communication Association Conference. Seattle, Washington. November 2021.

Individual Presenter. “Shedding the Coping Persona: *Antebellum* (2020)& Rituals of Racial Catharsis”. Black & Race Working Group. Cultural Studies Association Conference (Virtual). June 2021.Individual Presenter (Cancelled due to COVID-19). 19th Biennial Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America. Portland, OR May 21-May 24, 2020.

Individual Presenter. National Communication Association Conference. Baltimore, Maryland, November 13-17, 2019.

Co-Panelist for Discussion for Forthcoming Special Issue of *Contemporary Argumentation &*

*Debate Journal*. National Communication Association Conference. Baltimore, Maryland, November 13-17, 2019.

Individual Paper Presentation. Rhetoric & Religion in the 21st Century. Knoxville, TN, October 4- 7, 2018.

Individual Paper Workshop. Cultural Studies Association Conference. New Orleans, LA, May 30- June 1, 2019.

**Courses Taught**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY***

AAAS 8350: Transnational History of the African World (Graduate Seminar) (Fall 2024)

ENG 3011.01: Digital Activism (Fall 2024)

***GONGZAGA UNIVERSITY***

COMM 100: “Communication and Speech” (x6)

COMM 210: “Understanding Meaning-Making (x2)

COMM 350: “The Politics of Social Memory” (x1)

COMM 420: “Critical/Cultural Communication” (x1)

***UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH***

COMMRC 0500: “Argument & The Rhetoric of Social Movements” (x2)

(hybrid/online due to COVID-19)

COMMRC 0500: “Argument & The 2020 U.S. Presidential Election” (x3)

(Two sections were online/hybrid due to COVID-19)

COMMRC 0520: “Public Speaking & Grassroots Organizing” (x3)

**GUEST INSTRUCTION\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

“Re/Claiming History & Iconography in the Age of *Black Lives Matter,*” for “Core Integrated Seminar: All Art is Propaganda.” Instructor: Laura Brunell at Gonzaga University. Fall 2022

“Embracing *Le Chaos-Monde of Black Lives Matter Street Art: A Lecture on Visual Argumentation*,*”* for “Argument: Exploring Diversity & Social Difference.” Instructor: Corinne Mitsuye Sugino at University of Pittsburgh. Summer 2021.

**OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY***

Peer-Tutor at the University Writing Center*.* 2017-2018.

**PROFESSIONALIZATION\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Global Engagement Grant Funded Summer Research Project in Greece. June 2024.

Sum: $3500

Global Engagement Grant Funded Summer Research Project in Puerto Rico. June 2023.

Sum: $3500

Workshop Participant. “Advising Academy”. Gonzaga University Center for Teaching & Advising. AY 2023-2024.

Certification. Title IX “Report= Support!: Identifying & Responding to Sexual Misconduct” Training. Catharsis Online Training & Gonzaga University. Awarded Certificate on February 2023.

Certification. “The Influence of Unconscious Bias”. Vector Solutions & Gonzaga University. January 2023.

Certification. “Personal Skills for a Diverse Campus”. Vector Solutions & Gonzaga University. January 2023.

Certification. “Engagement with Diversity”. Vector Solutions & Gonzaga University. January 2023.

Certification. “Communication for Inclusion”. Vector Solutions & Gonzaga University. January 2023.

Mentee Participant. “College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Mentoring Program”. Gonzaga University. AY 2022-2023.

Greek Nationality Grant Funded Summer Research Project in Greece. June-July 2022.

Sum: $4000

Mellon-Funded Fellow at Monument Lab (Independent Public Art and History Studio). 2020.

Sum: $3500

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The Puerto Rican Independence Party.

African American Culture Division. National Communication Association.

Black Caucus. National Communication Association.

Caribbean Caucus. National Communication Association.

Critical and Cultural Studies Division. National Communication Association.

Black & Race Studies Working Group. Cultural Studies Association

Theories of Cultural Studies Working Group. Cultural Studies Association.

**SERVICE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

President of the Puerto Rican Independence Party – Washington. Fall 2022-Present.

Involves recruiting members, coordinating with the Party’s national leadership, organizing University-sponsored panels, securing funding for guest speakers, collaborating with other pro/independence groups, producing popular and academic essays, and coordinating with local Puerto Rican organizations regarding emergency Hurricane Response.

Chair. Communication Studies Re-appointment, Promotion & Tenure (RPT) Assessment Committee. AY 2023-2024.

The committee involves producing governing documents for the assessment and potential revision of department RPT in accordance with the Dean and Provost’s Office respectively.

Co/Chair of the Media and Cultural Studies Division of Northwest Communication Association. 2023-2024.

Involves contact for submissions to the division, working with the 1st VP and Conference Coordinator during selection, soliciting presenter information for the program and website, facilitating reviewers, and soliciting submissions.

Co/Chair of the Rhetorical Theory & Criticism Division of Northwest Communication Association. 2022-2023.

Involves contact for submissions to the division, working with the 1st VP and Conference Coordinator during selection, soliciting presenter information for the program and website, facilitating reviewers, and soliciting submissions.

Participant. BRIDGE Meals. Gonzaga University. August 21st, 2023.

BRIDGE (Building Relationships in Diverse Gonzaga Environment) is a Social Justice and Leadership Institute designed for underrepresented students to help facilitate a smoother transition to student life. BRIDGE Meals specifically allows students to get to know faculty members and to discuss any questions or concerns they may have over a shared meal.

Co/Organizer. Fr. C. Patrick Carroll, S.J. Communications Studies Senior Showcase. April 27, 2023.

Coordinated event planning, attended multiple committee meetings, oversaw the pairing of faculty and students into mentoring pods to aid students’ preparation for the showcase, & publicized the event.

Faculty Mentor. Fr. C. Patrick Carroll, S.J. Communications Studies Senior Showcase. April 2023.

Served as the faculty mentor for two Communication Studies seniors in preparation for their showcase presentations. Helped students hone their own original arguments concerning communication & representations of Blackness both at Gonzaga and the broader American popular culture.

Ad-hoc Reviewer for *Journal of International & Intercultural Communication*. Fall 2022.

Involves anonymously peer reviewing newly submitted manuscripts and agreeing to look at potential revisions to help the journal editors come to a decision about whether to publish an article.

Communication Studies Program Assessment Review Committee Member. AY 2022-2023.

The committee involves producing governing documents for the assessment and potential revision of: (1) department learning objectives (2) methods of assigning & assessing student work used by faculty and (3) the design of the department’s curricular program.

Carroll Speaker Showcase Committee Member. 2022-Present.

The Carroll Showcase will be held in Spring 2023 and centers the work of students conducting research within Communication Studies.

Ad-hoc Reviewer for *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research*. Summer 2022.

Involves anonymously peer reviewing newly submitted manuscripts and agreeing to look at potential revisions to help the journal editors come to a decision about whether to publish an article.

University of Pittsburgh Graduate Student Organization*Secretary* (2020-2021*).*

Involves assisting the Vice President when needed, facilitating inter-organizational communication, and recording, reporting, and circulating the minutes of the organization’s regular business meetings.

Conference Reviewer for American Studies Division of the National Communication Association Conference (2021).

Involves reading and critically assessing various individual paper submissions and group panels for acceptance into the conference.

University of Pittsburgh Department of Communication Agora Series Graduate Student Representative (2021-2022).

The Agora is a speaker series within the Department that invites scholars to share work of relevance to the many aspects of communication scholarship. Graduate student representatives assist faculty in choosing a schedule of speakers during the academic year. Helped facilitate pedagogical workshops on virtual/hybrid instruction during COVID-19.

**LANGUAGES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

English. Fluent.

Modern Greek. Fluent.

Ancient (Biblical) Greek. Proficient.

Puerto Rican Spanish. Novice.