VIRTUAL PEER REVIEW
Teaching and Learning about Writing in Online Environments
Lee-Ann Kastman Breuch

Offers a thorough look at peer review in virtual environments.

In a reassessment of peer review practices, Lee-Ann Kastman Breuch explores how computer technology changes our understanding of this activity. She defines “virtual peer review” as the use of computer technology to exchange and respond to one another’s writing in order to improve it. Arguing that peer review goes through a remediation when conducted in virtual environments, the author suggests that virtual peer review highlights a unique intersection of social theories of language and technological literacy.

“Breuch has carefully examined the state and art of virtual peer review in the computer and writing community. Her experimental design with data analysis, figures, and tables is truly refreshing. Breuch’s approach is wonderful; she balances human and empirical interest.” — Hugh Burns, coeditor of Intelligent Tutoring Systems: Evolutions in Design

“This book confirms what I have found to be true about virtual peer review in both onsite and online computer classrooms. It expands our understanding of what happens when students conduct virtual peer review and suggests how we can improve their reviewing ability and outcomes.” — Kelli Cargile Cook, Utah State University

Lee-Ann Kastman Breuch is Assistant Professor of Rhetoric at the University of Minnesota at Twin Cities.

For more information on this title please visit http://www.sunypress.edu/details.asp?id=60916

TALKING PROBLEMS
Studies of Discursive Construction
Richard Buttny

Presents a theory of discursive co-construction of problems, or how characters are portrayed in the telling of events.

Using discursive constructionism and conversation analysis, Talking Problems examines how participants orient to, communicate about, and act toward events as problems. The book examines a series of problems, including teenage parenthood in high school, interpersonal and family relationships during therapy, and racism and interracial relations on a university campus. These problems are taken as joint constructions and the interest is in how participants’ versions of events get heard, what unfolds as a consequence of this, how participants position themselves, and what social realities are thereby created.

“The author presents transcripts of utterances and explains how these excerpts support the claims he develops. This is an essential aspect of such qualitative analysis and the author should be commended for his insights.” — William Benoit, author of Accounts, Excuses, and Apologies: A Theory of Image Restoration Discourse

Richard Buttny is Professor of Communication and Rhetorical Studies at Syracuse University and the author of Social Accountability in Communication.

For more information on this title please visit http://www.sunypress.edu/details.asp?id=60831
COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION MAKING

Stephen P. Depoe, John W. Delicath, and Marie-France Aepli Elsenbeer, editors

Looks at the critical role of community members and other interested parties in environmental policy decision making.

The contributors to this volume explore the communication practices of various stakeholders—interested citizens, grassroots and public interest groups, industry representatives, scientists and technical experts, government agencies, federal regulators—engaged in a variety of environmental decision-making contexts in the U.S. and elsewhere. Included are case studies that analyze individuals and organizations participating both within institutional mechanisms and through alternative forms of environmental advocacy. These studies reveal that public participation in environmental decision making is both shaped by and, in many cases, constrained by the ways in which environmental issues, problems, and solutions are defined or framed through the strategic communication practices of the participants.

"These essays address issues that are vital to environmentalism and public policy, as well as contribute to communication studies and political science. The overwhelming strength of the book is the plethora of case studies. In relating these cases, the authors contribute not only to general knowledge, but also to social theory and environmental communication."

— Kevin Michael DeLuca, author of Image Politics: The New Rhetoric of Environmental Activism

Stephen P. Depoe is Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Cincinnati. John W. Delicath is Communications Analyst with the Natural Resources and Environment Group at the U.S. General Accounting Office in Washington, DC. At the Center for Environmental Communication Studies, Depoe is Director and Marie-France Aepli Elsenbeer is Research Associate.

For a list of contributors, see page 67.

PEACEFUL PERSUASION

The Geopolitics of Nonviolent Rhetoric

Ellen W. Gorsevski

Foreword by Tom H. Hastings

Offers a conceptual foundation for nonviolent rhetoric.

This remarkable book asserts that nonviolent rhetoric, largely overlooked until now, supports conflict transformation when applied to contemporary political communication. Ellen W. Gorsevski explores the pragmatic nonviolence of Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov, the visual rhetoric of Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, and an anti-racist campaign in Billings, Montana. In so doing, she establishes a foundation for theorizing how conflicts can be understood, prevented, managed, or reduced by employing peace-minded rhetorical means. Peaceful Persuasion highlights the great possibilities, as well as deep responsibilities, of rhetorical choices made on the geopolitical scene and uncovers the transformative potential of recognizing the social, cultural, and political value of nonviolence in fostering democracy.

“This is clearly the most comprehensive treatment of the relationship between rhetoric and nonviolence yet offered in the field of communication. Gorsevski has done an excellent job of integrating materials from a number of diverse disciplines to make an original and thoughtful contribution to the analysis of human conflict and its remedies.” — Mark Lawrence McPhail, author of Zen in the Art of Rhetoric: An Inquiry into Coherence

Ellen W. Gorsevski teaches English at Washington State University.

For more information on this title please visit http://www.sunypress.edu/details.asp?id=60905

For more information on this title please visit http://www.sunypress.edu/details.asp?id=60900
RHETORIC BEFORE AND BEYOND THE GREEKS
Carol S. Lipson and Roberta A. Binkley, editors

Examines rhetorical practices in cultures and time periods that have received little attention to date.

Focusing on ancient rhetoric outside of the dominant Western tradition, this collection examines rhetorical practices in Egypt, Mesopotamia, Israel, and China. The book uncovers alternate ways of understanding human behavior and explores how these rhetorical practices both reflected and influenced their cultures. The essays address issues of historiography and raise questions about the application of Western rhetorical concepts to these very different ancient cultures. A chapter on suggestions for teaching each of these ancient rhetorics is included.

“These essays forcefully and engagingly challenge the academic commonplace that Athenian rhetoric is foundational. Scholars teaching ‘the classical’ will need to pay close attention to the expanded corpus, and they will use this book as a central text in histories of rhetoric courses and as a supplement to more mainstream texts.” — Susan Romano, coauthor of Writing in an Electronic World: A Rhetoric with Readings

Carol S. Lipson is Associate Professor of Writing and Rhetoric at Syracuse University. Roberta A. Binkley is Lecturer in English at Arizona State University.

For a list of contributors, see page 67.

For more information on this title please visit http://www.sunypress.edu/details.asp?id=60937

BEING MADE STRANGE
Rhetoric beyond Representation
Bradford Vivian

Offers a revised understanding of human subjectivity that avoids the extremes of both traditional humanism and cultural relativism.

By elaborating upon pivotal twentieth-century studies in language, representation, and subjectivity, Being Made Strange reorients the study of rhetoric according to the discursive formation of subjectivity. The author develops theory of how rhetorical practices establish social, political, and ethical relations between self and other, individual and collectivity, good and evil, and past and present. He produces a novel methodology that analyzes not only what an individual says, but also the social, political, and ethical conditions that enable him or her to do so. This book also offers valuable ethical and political insights for the study of subjectivity in philosophy, cultural studies, and critical theory.

“This is a crisply written, broadly informed, and carefully argued work in which the defining tendencies of the Western rhetorical tradition, broadly conceived, are rethought. These tendencies, above all, those pertaining to universalization and representation, are suggestively rethought in light of Nietzsche, Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, and other important theorists. Even where one is disposed to disagree with the author (indeed, especially at these points), one can learn much from this work. For it is a painstaking, honest, and admirably clear attempt to not only think anew what has been traditionally supposed but also what has, until now, remained unthought. The particular treatments of ethos, representation, memory, and silence are of value to virtually anyone working in the intersection among various disciplines (e.g., philosophy, rhetoric, literary theory, and cultural studies).” — Vincent Colapietro, author of Fateful Shapes of Human Freedom: John William Miller and the Crises of Modernity

Bradford Vivian is Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at Vanderbilt University.

For more information on this title please visit http://www.sunypress.edu/details.asp?id=60901