

Leah Sprain

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Education

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

PhD, Communication, 2009

Dissertation: Cultivating Cooperativismo: An Ethnography of Communication in Nicaraguan Fair Trade Coffee Cooperative Meetings

National Communication Association's Language and Social Interaction Division Outstanding Dissertation Award, 2010

MA, Communication, 2005

Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA

BFA, Communication (Social Advocacy emphasis), *summa cum laude*, 2003

BA, Environmental Studies, *summa cum laude*, 2003

Institute for Central American Development Studies, San Jose, Costa Rica

Semester Field Course in Resource Management and Sustainable Development, Fall 2001

Academic Appointments

University of Colorado Boulder

Associate Professor, Department of Communication, 2018-present

Director, Center for Communication and Democratic Engagement, 2017-present

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, 2012-2018

Colorado State University

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies, 2009-2012

Associate Director, Center for Public Deliberation, 2009-2012

Areas of Interest

Deliberation, Democratic Engagement, Public Dialogue

Environmental Communication, Climate Change Governance, Energy Democracy

Language and Social Interaction, Ethnography of Communication, Communication Design, Discourse Analysis

Publications

* Indicates graduate student at time of research/writing

Books (N = 1)

Endres, D., Sprain, L., & Peterson, T. R. (Eds.). (2009). *Social movement to address climate change: Local steps for global action*. Amherst, NY: Cambria Press. **Received the 2010 Christine L. Oravac Book Award from the Environmental Communication Division of the National Communication Association.**

Journal Articles (Peer reviewed; N = 20)

Winchatz, M. R., Sprain, L., Poutiainen, S., & Ho, E. Y. (iFirst). "Wo don't say that word out loud": A grounded practical theory for analyzing difficult data in language and social interaction classrooms. *Communication Education*. doi: 10.1080/03634523.2022.2148708

Sprain, L. (OnlineFirst). Facilitating deliberative play. *American Behavioral Scientist*. doi: 10.1177/00027642221093590

Reinig*, L. & Sprain, L. (2019). Taking note of note-taking: Designs for taking notes in public processes. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, 47, 648-666. doi: 10.1080/00909882.2019.1690667

Naputi, T., Pezzullo, P., Sprain, L., & Reinig, L. (2018). On climate math and community engagement: Lessons from Boulder's 2016 climate action plan. *Journal of Argumentation in Context*, 7, 316-346. doi: 10.1075/jaic.18020.nap

Sprain, L., & Black, L. W. (2018). Deliberative moments: Understanding deliberation as an interactional accomplishment. *Western Journal of Communication*, 82, 336-355. doi:10.1080/10570314.2017.1347275

Sprain, L., & Reinig*, L. (2018). Citizens speaking as experts: Expertise discourse in deliberative forums. *Environmental Communication*, 12, 357-369. doi: 10.1080/17524032.2017.1394894

Sprain, L., & Ivancic*, S. (2017). Communicating openness in deliberation. *Communication Monographs*, 84, 241-257. doi:10.1080/03637751.2016.1257141.

Sprain, L. (2016). Paradoxes of public participation in climate change governance. *Good Society*, 25, 61-79. doi:10.5325/goodsociety.25.1.0062

- Ackerman, J. M., Druschke, C. G., McGreavy, B., & Sprain, L. (2016). The skunkwork of ecological engagement. *Reflections: A Journal of Public Rhetoric, Civic Writing, and Service Learning*, 16, 75-95.
- McGreavy, B., Druschke, C. G., Sprain, L., Thompson, J. L., & Lindenfeld, L. (2016). Environmental communication pedagogy for sustainability: Developing core capacities to engage with complex problems. *Applied Environmental Education and Communication*, 15, 261-274. doi:10.1080/1533015X.2016.1181018
- Carcasson, M., & Sprain, L. (2016). Beyond problem solving: Reconceptualizing the work of public deliberation as deliberative inquiry. *Communication Theory*, 26, 41-63. doi:10.1111/comt.12055
- Sprain, L., & Hughes*, M. F. (2015). A new perspective on stories in public deliberation: Analyzing small stories in discussions about immigration. *Text & Talk*, 35, 531-551. doi:10.1515/text-2015-0013
- Sprain, L., Carcasson, M., & Merolla, A. (2014). Utilizing "on tap" experts in deliberative forums: Implications for design. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, 42, 150-167. doi:10.1080/00909882.2013.859292
- Black, L. W., & Sprain, L. (2013). Storytelling as public modality: Analyzing Joel Burns's "It Gets Better" speech. *Qualitative Communication Research*, 2, 109-132. doi:10.1525/qcr.2013.2.2109
- Sprain, L., & Gastil, J. (2013). What does it mean to deliberate? An interpretive account of jurors' expressed deliberative rules and premises. *Communication Quarterly*, 61, 151-171. doi:10.1080/01463373.2012.751433
- Sprain, L., & Carcasson, M. (2013). Democratic engagement through passionate impartiality. *Tamara Journal for Critical Organizational Inquiry*, 11, 13-26. Retrieved from <https://tamarajournal.com/index.php/tamara/index>
- Sprain, L., & Timpson, W. (2012). Pedagogy for sustainability science: Case-based approaches for interdisciplinary instruction. *Environmental Communication: Journal of Nature and Culture*, 6, 532-550. doi:10.1080/17524032.2012.714394
- Sprain, L., & Boromisza-Habashi, D. (2012). Meetings: A cultural perspective. *Journal of Multicultural Discourse*, 7, 179-189. doi:10.1080/17447143.2012.685743
- Sprain, L., Endres, D., & Peterson, T. R. (2010). Research as a transdisciplinary networked process: A metaphor for difference-making research. *Communication Monographs*, 77, 441-444. doi:10.1080/03637751.2010.523600
- Witteborn, S., & Sprain, L. (2010). Grouping processes in a public meeting from an ethnography of communication and cultural discourse analysis perspective. *International Journal of Public Participation*, 3, 14-35.

Journal Articles (Invited; N = 3)

Sprain, L., & Boromisza-Habashi, D. (2013). The ethnographer of communication at the table: Building cultural competence, designing strategic action. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, 41, 181-187. doi:10.1080/00909882.2013.782418

Carcasson, M., & Sprain, L. (2012). Deliberative democracy and adult civic education. *New Directions in Adult Civic Education*, 135, 15-23. doi:10.1002/ace.20022

Endres, D., Sprain, L., & Peterson, T. R. (2008). The imperative of praxis-based environmental research: Suggestions from the Step It Up 2007 national research project. *Environmental Communication: Journal of Nature and Culture*, 2, 237-245. doi:10.1080/17524030802141794

Editor of Journal Special Issues (N = 2)

Sprain, L., & Feldpausch-Parker, A. (Eds.). (2018). Energy democracy [Special topic]. *Frontiers in Communication and Environmental Science*.

Sprain, L., & Boromisza-Habashi, D. (Eds.). (2013). Ethnography of communication in applied communication research [Special section]. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, 41, 181-215.

Book Chapters (N = 15)

Winchatz, M. R., Ho, E. Y., & Sprain, L. (in press). Stories of speech codes in the field. In G. Philipsen & T. Hart (Eds.), *Contending with codes*.

Reinig*, L., & Sprain, L. (2019). Cultural discourses of public engagement in energy system transformation. In Hunt, K. Walker, G. & Depoe, S. (Eds.), *Breaking boundaries: Innovative practices in environmental communication and public participation*, pp. 121-148. Albany, NY: SUNY Press.

Boromisza-Habashi, D., Sprain, L., Shrikant, N., Reinig*, L., & Peters*, K. R. (2018). Cultural discourse analysis within an ecosystem of discourse analytic approaches: Connections and boundaries. In M. Scollo and T. Milburn (Eds.), *Engaging and transforming global communication through cultural discourse analysis: A tribute to Donal Carbaugh*, pp.297-312. Fairleigh Dickinson University Press.

Sprain, L. (2018). Framing science for democratic engagement. In S. Priest, J. Goodwin, & M. Dahlstrom (Eds.), *Ethics and practice in science communication* (pp. 74-90). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

McGreavy, B., Druschke, C. G., Sprain, L., Thompson, J., & Lindenfeld, L. (2017). Praxis-based environmental communication training: Innovative activities for problem solving. In T. Milstein, M. Pileggi, & E. Morgan (Eds.), *Environmental communication pedagogy and practice* (pp. 229-238). New York, NY: Routledge.

- Sprain, L. (2017). Terms for communication in Nicaraguan meetings. In D. Carbaugh (Ed.), *The handbook of cross-cultural communication* (pp. 261-272). New York, NY: Taylor & Francis.
- Sprain, L., van Over, B., & Morgan, E. L. (2016). Divergent meanings of participation: Two ethnographies of communication in water governance. In T. R. Peterson, H. Bergeå, A. Feldpausch-Parker, & K. Raitio (Eds.), *Environmental communication and community: Constructive and destructive dynamics of social transformation* (pp. 259-266). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Sprain, L. (2014). Voices of organic consumption: Understanding organic consumption as political action. In J. Peeples & S. Depoe (Eds.), *Voice and environmental communication* (pp. 127-147). New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Gastil, J., & Sprain, L. (2010). Ethical challenges in small group communication. In S. May, G. Cheney, & D. Munshi (Eds.), *Handbook of communication ethics* (pp. 148-165). New York, NY: Routledge/Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Sprain, L. (2010). ¡La lucha y conducción grupal! A workshop for youth members of a Nicaraguan Fair Trade coffee cooperative. In L. W. Black (Ed.), *Group communication: Cases for analysis, appreciation, and application* (pp. 55-62). Dubuque, IA: Kendall-Hunt.
- Carcasson, M., & Sprain, L. (2010). A different kind of public meeting: Engaging a public controversy through small groups. In L. W. Black (Ed.), *Group communication: Cases for analysis, appreciation, and application* (pp. 175-182). Dubuque, IA: Kendall-Hunt.
- Sprain, L., Endres, D., & Peterson, T. R. (2009). Introduction. In D. Endres, L. Sprain, & T. R. Peterson (Eds.), *Social movement to address climate change: Local steps for global action* (pp. 1-14). Amherst, NY: Cambria Press.
- Sprain, L., Norton, T., & Milstein, T. (2009). Step It Up in the Pacific Northwest and image politics. In D. Endres, L. Sprain, & T. R. Peterson (Eds.), *Social movement to address climate change: Local steps for global action* (pp. 281-307). Amherst, NY: Cambria Press.
- Sprain, L., Peterson, N., Vickory, M., & Schutten, J. (2009). Environmentalism 2.0: New forms of social activism. In D. Endres, L. Sprain, & T. R. Peterson, (Eds.), *Social movement to address climate change: Local steps for global action* (pp. 337-360). Amherst, NY: Cambria Press.
- Sprain, L. (2005). Protest speaking. In D. Zarefsky, *Public speaking: Strategies for success* [Custom ed.]. New York, NY: Pearson.

Conference Proceedings (N = 6)

- Soden*, R., Sprain, L., & Palen, L. (2017). Thin grey lines: Designing confrontations with flood risk. In *CHI '17 Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (pp. 2042-2053). New York, NY: Association for Computing Machinery. Retrieved from <https://chi2017.acm.org/proceedings.html>
Honorable Mention (Top 5% of Papers).
- Reinig*, L., & Sprain, L. (2016). Cultural discourses of public engagement: Insights for energy system transformation. In J. Goodwin (Ed.), *Confronting the challenges of public participation: Issues in environmental, planning, and health decision-making* (pp. 167-188). Ames, IA: Science Communication Project.
- Soden*, R., Palen, L., Chase*, C., Deniz, D., Arneson*, E., Sprain, L., . . . & Dashti, S. (2015). The polyvocality of resilience: Discovering a research agenda through interdisciplinary investigation and community engagement. In L. Palen, M. Büscher, T. Comes, & A. Hughes (Eds.), *Proceedings of the ISCRAM 2015 Conference—Krisiansand, May 24–27* (pp. 225-234). Kristiansand, Norway: ISCRAM. Retrieved from http://iscram2015.uia.no/?page_id=143
- Sprain, L. (2013). Framing science for public action. In J. Goodwin, M. F. Dahlstrom, & S. Priest (Eds.), *Ethical issues in science communication: A theory-based approach* (pp. 279-286). Charleston, SC: CreateSpace.
- Sprain, L., Merolla, A., & Carcasson, M. (2012). Do experts help or hinder? An empirical examination of experts and expertise during public deliberation. In J. Goodwin (Ed.), *Between scientists & citizens: Proceedings of a Conference at Iowa State University June 1-2, 2012* (pp. 355-364). Ames, IA: CreateSpace.
- Sprain, L., Tompsett, C., Ertor, P., & Asara, V. (2011). The “wickedness” of participation in climate change adaptation governance. In S. Movik & A. Vatn (Eds.), *Thor Heyerdahl Summer School in Environmental Governance* (Vol. 1, pp. 84-100). Ås: Norwegian University of Life Sciences.

Encyclopedia Entries (N = 2)

- Sprain, L. (2015a). Deliberative democracy discourse. In K. Tracy, C. Illie, & T. Sandel (Eds.), *The international encyclopedia of language and social interaction* (Vol. 1, pp. 331-340). Boston, MA: John Wiley & Sons.
- Sprain, L. (2015b). Expertise discourse. In K. Tracy, C. Illie, & T. Sandel (Eds.), *The international encyclopedia of language and social interaction* (Vol. 1, pp. 574-579). Boston, MA: John Wiley & Sons.

Research Reports (N = 6)

- Sprain, L. (2016a). *Deliberation in everyday speech: Interventions for cultivating more deliberative interaction*. Report prepared for the Kettering Foundation.

- Sprain, L. (2016b). *Energy framing report*. Report prepared for the North American Association of Environmental Education and the Kettering Foundation.
- Sprain, L. (2016c). *Water scarcity framing report*. Report prepared for the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education and the Kettering Foundation.
- Sprain, L. (2014). *Deliberation in everyday speech: Communicating Boulder's energy future*. Report prepared for the Kettering Foundation.
- Sprain, L. & Black, L. (2012). *Deliberative moments: Locating deliberation in everyday speech*. Report prepared for the Kettering Foundation.
- Kadlec, A., Sprain, L., Carcasson, M., & Rowlett, I. (2011). *Framing for democracy: Exploring the impacts of adversarial and deliberative framing, understanding the longer-term benefits of deliberation*. Report prepared for the Kettering Foundation. Available online: <https://www.kettering.org/wp-content/uploads/Kadlec.-Sprain.Carcasson.-Adversarial-Framing-KFWP-2012-08.pdf>

Additional Publications (N = 4)

- Sprain, L. (2016). Re-view flood risk in Boulder. In K. McClune (Ed.), *Understanding risk: Building Boulder's resilience: Proceedings from UR Boulder* (pp. 9-11). Washington, DC: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank. Retrieved from https://understandrisk.org/wp-content/uploads/Boulder_Proceedings_WEB.pdf
- Carcasson, M., & Sprain, L. (2012). *The Poudre runs through it: Public dialogue report*. Event report prepared for the Center for Public Deliberation, Colorado State University.
- Carcasson, M., & Sprain, L. (2010, July). Key aspects of the deliberative democracy movement. *Public Sector Digest*. Retrieved from http://www.publicsectordigest.com/articles/view_article.php?id=722
- Finley-Brook, M., Haeffner, M., Heslop-Thomas, C., Montaña, E., & Sprain, L. (2010, August). *Climate change and globalization in the Americas: Case studies of mitigation and adaptation* [White Paper, Pan-American Advanced Studies Institute on Climate Change and Hazards in the Americas]. Panama City, Panama: National Science Foundation.

Presentations

Conference Paper Presentations (Peer reviewed; N = 43)

- Hodge, D. & Sprain, L. (2022). "It never even occurred to me that they were Black": Color-blind discourse, white supremacy, and the (im)possibilities of democratic deliberation. Language and Social Interaction Division, International Communication Association, Paris, France.
- Winchetz, M., Sprain, L., & Ho, E. (2021). A spectrum of speech codes. Language and Social Interaction Division, National Communication Association, Seattle, WA.
- Winchetz, M., Ho, E., Sprain, L., & Poutiainen, S. (2020, May). We don't say that word out loud": Testing the boundaries of 'difficult data' in discourse-centered pedagogy. Language and Social Interaction Division, International Communication Association (ICA) Conference (virtual).
- Sprain, L. (2018, August). *Expertise in public engagement*. Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Conference, Sydney, Australia.
- Sprain, L. (2018, June). *Discourses of environmental governance in China*. Communication, Media, & Governance in the Age of Globalization, Beijing, China.
- Reinig*, L. & Sprain, L. (2017, November). *Taking note of note-taking: Designs for taking notes in public processes*. Public Deliberation and Dialogue Division, National Communication Association (NCA) Convention, Dallas, TX.
- Sprain, L., Dashti, S., Javernick-Will, A., Liel, A., & Palen, L. (2017, July). *Serious games as resilience process: Re-view flood risk in Boulder*. Presented at the Conference on Communication and the Environment, Leicester, England.
- Sprain, L., & Reinig*, L. (2017, July). *Designing public participation in climate action: Navigating stakeholder identities, collective action, and scale*. Presented at the Conference on Communication and the Environment, Leicester, England.
- Soden*, R., Sprain, L., & Palen, L. (2017, May). *Thin grey lines: Designing confrontations with flood risk*. Presented at the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, Denver, CO. **Honorable Mention (Top 5% of Papers)**
- Sprain, L., & Reinig*, L. (2016, June). *"To be the city on the hill": Community identity in energy system transformation*. Presented to the Language and Social Interaction Division, International Communication Association (ICA) Convention, Fukuoka, Japan.
- Sprain, L., Liel, A., Javernick-Will, A., Palen, L., & Dashti, S. (2015, December). *Reimagining critical infrastructure for community resilience: Interdependent built, information, and social dimensions of critical infrastructure*. Presented at the Conference on Earth System Governance, Canberra, Australia.
- Sprain, L. (2015, November). *Discourses of energy system transformation: A case study of Boulder's Energy Future*. Presented to the Association of Rhetoric & Technology Division, NCA Convention, Las Vegas, NV.

- Goldstein, B., & Sprain, L. (2015, June). *The practice and possibilities of collaborative resilience assessment*. Presented at the Conference on Communication and the Environment, Boulder, CO.
- Sprain, L., & Reinig*, L. (2015, June). *Citizens speaking as experts: A grounded practical theory of expertise discourse in deliberative forums*. Presented at the Conference on Communication and the Environment, Boulder, CO.
- Soden*, R., Palen, L., Chase*, C., Deniz, D., Arneson*, E., Sprain, L. . . . Dashti, S. (2015, May). *The polyvocality of resilience: Discovering a research agenda through interdisciplinary investigation and community engagement*. Presented at the International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management, Kristiansand, Norway.
- Sprain, L. (2014, November). *Creating opportunities for future deliberation: Communicating Boulder's energy future*. Presented to the Social Construction Division, NCA Convention, Chicago, IL.
- Sprain, L. (2014, November). *Cultural insights from a failed meeting: An ethnography of communication of meeting interaction between local experts and an outside expert*. Presented to the Language and Social Interaction Division, NCA Convention, Chicago, IL.
- Sprain, L., & Black, L. (2014, May). *Deliberative moments: Understanding deliberation as an interactional accomplishment*. Presented to the Language and Social Interaction Division, ICA Convention, Seattle, WA. **Top 5 Paper in the Language and Social Interaction Division**
- Ivancic*, S., & Sprain, L. (2013, November). *Communicating openness in deliberation*. Presented to the Political Communication Division, NCA Convention, Washington, DC. **Top Paper in the Political Communication Division**
- Sprain, L., & Hughes*, J. M. F. (2013, November). *Small stories as group resources in public deliberation*. Presented to the Language and Social Interaction Division, NCA Convention, Washington, DC.
- Sprain, L., & Milburn, T. (2013, June). *Relating with/through/in the environment: Examining human-nature relationships in water controversies*. Presented to the Language and Social Interaction Division, ICA Convention, London, England.
- Sprain, L. (2013, June). *Not a speech event: Examining (counter) cultural discourses in deliberation*. Presented at the Conference on Communication and the Environment, Uppsala, Sweden.
- Sprain, L., & Carcasson, M. (2012, November). *Toward a more democratic university: The role of community deliberation in improving campus-community relationships*. Presented to the Applied Communication Division, NCA Convention, Orlando, FL.
- Sprain, L. (2012, May). *Speaking as "experts" and "citizens" in public meetings*. Presented to the Language and Social Interaction Division, ICA Convention, Phoenix, AZ.

- Sprain, L., Tompsett, C., Ertor, P., & Asara, V. (2012, April). *The “wickedness” of participation in climate change adaptation governance*. Presented at the Lund Conference on Earth System Governance, Lund, Sweden.
- Sprain, L. (2011, November). *“It Gets Better” as conflict transformation: A framework for analyzing social change campaigns*. Presented to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Division, NCA Convention, New Orleans, LA.
- Sprain, L. (2011, July). *Rethinking reasonable expectations for reasonable activists*. Presented at the Alta Argumentation Conference, Alta, UT.
- Sprain, L. (2011, May). *A local theory of meetings*. Presented to the Language and Social Interaction Division, ICA Convention, Boston, MA. **Top Abstracts in the Language and Social Interaction Division**
- Sprain, L. (2011, May). *Transnational activism & environmental governance: Insights on links across scale from 350.org*. Presented at the Colorado Conference on Earth System Governance: Crossing Boundaries and Building Bridges, Fort Collins, CO.
- Sprain, L. (2011, February). *An unbounded bailiwick: Insights from Leland Griffin for studying contemporary protest rhetoric*. Presented to the Rhetoric and Public Affairs Interest Group, Western States Communication Association (WSCA) Convention, Monterey Bay, CA.
- Sprain, L., Finley-Brook, M., Haeffner, M., Heslop-Thomas, C., & Montaña, E. (2011, February). *Climate change and globalization in the Americas: Case studies of mitigation and adaptation*. Presented to the Environmental Communication Interest Group, WSCA Convention, Monterey Bay, CA.
- Sprain, L. (2009, November). *Coffee and the environment: How farmers and marketers construct relationships between coffee cultivation, environmentalism, and nature*. Presented to the Environmental Communication Division, NCA Convention, Chicago, IL.
- Sprain, L., & Leichter, J. (2008, November). *What counts as rhetoric and performance?* Presented to the Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, NCA Convention, San Diego, CA.
- Sprain, L., Black, L., & Gastil, J. (2008, July). *First among strangers: The selection of forepersons and their experience as leaders in civil and criminal juries*. Presented at the Interdisciplinary Network for Group Research Convention, Kansas City, MO.
- Sprain, L. (2007, June). *How do you cook a ROCKY® or a ROSIE® chicken?: An examination of the branding of sustainably farmed*. Presented at the Conference on Communication and the Environment, Chicago, IL.
- Sprain, L. (2006, November). *Consumption as environmental ethic? Analyzing appeals for buying local and organic*. Presented to the Environmental Communication Division, NCA Convention, San Antonio, TX.

- Sprain, L., & Gastil, J. (2006, November). *What constitutes deliberation? Norms and rules of deliberation expressed by jurors*. Presented to the Political Communication Division, NCA Convention, San Antonio, TX.
- Sprain, L. (2006, June). *Voices of organic consumption: An ethnographic and rhetorical exploration of organic consumption as political consumption*. Presented to the Language and Social Interaction Division, ICA Convention, Dresden, Germany.
- Sprain, L. (2005, November). *Seeking community (and conversation): An ethnographic study of participant orientation to group process in Conversation Cafes*. Presented to the Applied Communication Division, NCA Convention, Boston, MA.
- Sprain, L. (2005, May). *"The process-it's where the magic is": Group process and ideological commitment in Conversation Café*. Presented to the Organizational Communication Division, ICA Convention, New York, NY.
- Sprain, L. (2004, November). *Communication and commitment in small groups*. Presented to the Group Communication Division, NCA Convention, Chicago, IL.

Paper Presentations (Not Peer Reviewed; N = 6)

- Sprain, L. (2017, May). *Process push-back: A grounded practical theory for facilitators facing challenges to the meeting design*. Presented at the Gothenburg Meeting Science Symposium, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- Sprain, L., Ramirez, K., Maul, A., Hildreth, R., & Aiken, E. (2016, December). *Assessing deliberative spaces for engagement across difference*. Presented at the Association of Moral Education Convention, Cambridge, MA.
- Reinig*, L., & Sprain, L. (2016, June). *Cultural discourses of public engagement: Insights for transformation*. Presented at the Iowa State University Summer Symposium on Science Communication: Confronting the Challenges of Public Participation in Environmental, Planning and Health Decision-making, Ames, IA.
- Sprain, L. (2015, April). *When common values do not provide common ground: The rhetoric of consensus and dissensus in deliberative groups*. Presented at the Building Consensus: Rhetoric Between Democracy and Conflict Conference, Palermo, Italy.
- Sprain, L. (2012, September). *Energy or climate change: Examining the impacts of framing for public deliberation*. Presented at the Culture, Politics, and Climate Change Conference, Boulder, CO.
- Sprain, L., Merolla, A. J., & Carcasson, M. (2012, June). *Do experts help or hinder? An empirical examination of experts and expertise during public deliberation*. Presented at the Great Plans Society for the Study of Argumentation Conference, Ames, IA.

Poster Presentations (N = 1)

Liel, A., Javernick-Will, A., Palen, L., Dashti, S., Sprain, L, . . . & Golstein, B. (2015, October). *The interdependent criticality of built, social, and information infrastructures in community resilience*. Poster session presented at the National Workshop on Resilience Research for Critical Infrastructure: Current Status and Challenges, Washington, DC.

Conference Presenter: Panels, Roundtables, Preconferences, and Seminars (N = 15)

"Facilitating deliberative talk." Paper presented on a panel for the Language and Social Interaction Division, International Communication Association (ICA) Conference (virtual).

(2020, November). *"Dialogue and deliberation at the crossroads: Navigating pathways to address uncontainable problems across invisible borders."* Panel participant at the NCA Conference (virtual).

(2018, May). *"Voice of the people" and "studies tell": Plurivocity and univocity of publics and expertise in energy system transformation*. Paper presented at preconference Voice and voices: exploring tensions between plurivocity and univocity. ICA Convention, Prague, Czech Republic.

(2018, May). *Ethno improv: Performing the ethnography of communication*. Panel participant at the ICA Conference, Prague, Czech Republic.

(2016, November). *Engaging our civic calling through public deliberation/dialogue on campus and in communities*. Short course presenter at the NCA Convention, Philadelphia, PA.

(2016, November). *Theorizing energy democracy in practice: Communication's civic calling to address the future of energy*. Participant on roundtable presented to the Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, NCA Convention, Philadelphia, PA.

(2016, November). *Teaching dialogue: A cultural comparison between Nicaragua and the United States*. Panel presented to the Language and Social Interaction Division, NCA Convention, Philadelphia, PA.

(2015, November). *Public dialogue and deliberation: An invitation to integrate our teaching, research, service, and professional networks*. Short course presenter at the NCA Convention, Las Vegas, NV.

Sprain, L., Goldstein, B., & Chase*, C. (2015, November). *The communicative dimensions of resilience: A multiscale investigation*. Pair and Share session, presented at the Aspen Conference on Engaged Scholarship, Aspen, CO.

- (2015, May). *Communicating Boulder's energy future*. Presented at the Front Range Conference on Environmental Governance Research, Fort Collins, CO.
- (2013, November). *Organizational influence on government policy-making*. Preconference presented at the NCA Convention, Washington, DC.
- (2009, November). *Using, testing, and extending speech codes theory*. Panel presented to the Language and Social Interaction Division, NCA Convention, Chicago, IL.
- (2008, November). *Making sustainable connections: Service-learning and community-based research in environmental communication*. Preconference presented at the NCA Convention, San Diego, CA.
- (2007, June). *Step It Up 2007: A National Research Project on Climate Change*. Panel presented at the Conference on Communication and the Environment, Chicago, IL.

Conference Session Organizer and Facilitator (N = 15)

- (2017, November). Special session devoted to public dialogue and deliberation on NCA and polarization. Special session organizer with L. Black, L. Britt, E. Ruminski, and M. Carcasson, NCA Convention, Dallas, TX.
- (2017, November). *Public deliberation and activism in an era of rising authoritarianism*. Preconference organizer, with A. Wolfe, L. Black, R. Townsend, and M. Carcasson, NCA Convention, Dallas, TX.
- (2017, July). *Energy democracy: Creating a research agenda*. Symposium co-organizer, with D. Endres, T. R. Peterson, and A. Feldpausch-Parker, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.
- (2016, October). *Assessing deliberative pedagogy: A design workshop on measurement tools*. Workshop facilitator, with K. Ramirez, National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation Convention, Boston, MA.
- (2016, June). *Public deliberation and dialogue: Building an international network of research, pedagogy, and service*. Preconference organizer, with T. Steffensmeier, A. Hashim, and S. Han, ICA Convention, Fukuoka, Japan.
- (2016, March). *New strategies and vision for assessing students' civic learning*. Workshop organizer, Deeper Learning Conference, San Diego.
- (2015, October). *Re-view flood risk in Boulder*. Facilitated game, with S. Dashti, E. Arenson*, C. Chase*, D. Deniz*, L. Palen, and R. Soden,* presented at the Understanding Risk Forum Boulder, Boulder, CO.
- (2015, June). *Environmental communication and resilient communities*. Preconference workshop co-organizer, with John Ackerman, Bruce Goldstein, and Bridie McGreavy, Conference on Communication and the Environment, Boulder, CO.

- (2015, May). *Ethnographers of communication joining theoretical conversations outside of their subfield*. Blue Sky Seminar co-organizer, with David Boromisza-Habashi, ICA Convention, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- (2013, November). *Public deliberation and civic engagement: Building connections to energize and sustain this work within NCA*. Seminar co-organizer, with T. Steffensmeier, J. Gastil, and M. Carcasson, NCA Convention, Washington, DC.
- (2012, November). *Swing state activism: A conversation with Florida community organizers*. Roundtable discussion co-organizer, with B. McCann, for NCA-Forum, NCA Convention, Orlando, FL.
- (2012, June). *Applied moves*. Co-organizer, with D. Boromisza-Habashi, Ethnography of Communication: The Ways Forward Conference, Omaha, NE.
- (2011, November). *Applied moves in ethnography of communication research: Fostering a conversation between scholarship and practice*. Co-organizer, with D. Boromisza-Habashi, Language and Social Interaction Division, NCA Convention, New Orleans, LA.
- (2010, March). *Center for Public Deliberation: Building student capacity for deliberative practice through passionate impartiality*. Workshop facilitator, presented at the Connect the Dots Conference, Point Clear, AL.

Invited Presentations (N = 6)

- Pezzullo, P., & Sprain, L. (2017, January). *Uses and practices of community dialogue in geosciences and environmental studies*. Presented at the Engaged Scientist Series, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), University of Colorado Boulder.
- Sprain, L. (2016, September). *Democratic dilemmas of energy system transformation*. Presented for the Global Change & Sustainability Center Seminar Series, University of Utah, Salt Lake City.
- Sprain, L. (2013, July). *Deliberation in environmental politics*. Presented at the Aspen Conference on Organizational Communication, Aspen, CO.
- Sprain, L. (2013, June). *Framing science for public action*. Presented at the Ethical Issues in Science Communication: A Theory-based Approach Conference, Ames, IA.
- Sprain, L. (2013, January). *Challenges of democracy faced by citizens in communities*. Presented at the Kettering Foundation Research Retreat, Covington, KY.
- Sprain, L. (2012, May). *From talking together to sharing a vision: Facilitating regional cooperation amidst distrust*. Two-session panel presented to the Language and Social Interaction Division, ICA Convention, Phoenix, AZ.

Grants | Contracts

External

- Endres, D., Sprain, L., Peterson, T. R., & Feldpausch-Parker, A. (2017). Senior Personnel. National Science Foundation, "Workshop Proposal: Energy Democracy Across Rhetoric and STS." \$25,390
- Sprain, L., Peterson, T. R., & Feldpausch-Parker, A. (2017). Principal Investigator. National Communication Association, "Energy Democracy: Creating a Research Agenda." \$5000
- Strubar, W., Kasprzyk, J., & Sprain, L. (2016-2019). Co-Principal Investigator. National Science Foundation, "DEMS: Design Optimization of Sustainable and Resilience Concrete Mixtures." \$500,000 (my portion: \$10,899)
- Sprain, L. & Ramirez, K. (2015-2017). Principal Investigator. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, "Assessing Deliberative Spaces for Engagement Across Difference: Scaling Measures." \$50,000
- Sprain, L., Ramirez, K., Maul, A., Hildreth, R., Aiken, E., & Briggs, D. (2015-2017). Principal Investigator. Spencer Foundation, "Assessing Deliberative Spaces for Engagement Across Difference." \$400,000
- Sprain, L. (2015-2016). Principal Investigator. Kettering Foundation, "Deliberation in Everyday Speech: Interventions for More Deliberative Interaction." \$6500
- Liel, A., Dashti, S., Goldstein, B., Javernick-Will, A., Palen, L., & Sprain, L. (2014-2016). Co-Principal Investigator. National Science Foundation, CMMI Division/Engineering Directorate, "RIPS: The Interdependent Criticality of Built, Social, and Informational Infrastructures in Community Resilience: A New Framework and Participatory Process." \$292,000 (my portion: \$35,900)
- Sprain, L. (2012-2014). Principal Investigator. Kettering Foundation, "Deliberation in Everyday Speech: Communicating Boulder's Energy Future." \$20,000
- Sprain, L., & Black, L. (2011). Principal Investigator. Kettering Foundation, "Deliberation in Everyday Speech." \$10,000
- Carcasson, M., & Sprain, L. (2011). Co-Principal Investigator. Pharos Fund through the Bohemian Foundation, operating costs of the Center for Public Deliberation. \$25,892
- Carcasson, M. & Sprain, L. (2010). Public Agenda and the Kettering Foundation, support research on the impact of deliberative framing. \$8500 (CPD portion)

Internal

- Faculty Fellow, OOE Initiative for Higher Education and the Public Good, Office of Outreach and Engagement (CU-Boulder), 2022-2023 (\$3000)

Summer Graduate Student Fellowship, Department of Communication (CU-Boulder), 2017-2013

Dean's Fund for Excellence, College of Arts and Science (CU-Boulder), 2015 (\$700); 2013 (\$900)

Gordon Gamm Interdisciplinary Fund (CU-Boulder), 2012, with B. Goldstein and M. Koschmann. Course buy-out to support interdisciplinary instruction of "Inclusive Community Design"

Information, Communication, and Technology/Information, Communication, Journalism, Media, and Technology (ICT/ICJMT) Grant for Curriculum Development (CU-Boulder), 2012, with J. Ackerman, S. Clarke, B. Goldstein, and M. Koschmann. "Design, Deliberation, Democracy-3D: Planning for Inclusive, Sustainable Communities" (\$6500, my portion \$1000).

Carl A. Bimson Humanities Seminar (CSU), 2012, with C. Schomel and M. Carcasson. Through the CPD for a summer seminar "Reinforcing Civics Education: A Focus on Deliberation and Community Engagement" (\$15,000).

Lilla B. Morgan Memorial Fund (CSU), 2011, with J. Lupo. Support for the annual G. Jack Gravlee lecture (\$700).

School of Global Environmental Sustainability (SoGES) Research Working Group (CSU), 2009-2010, with W. Timpson, L. Jennings, N. Kees, and E. Brantmeier. "Educating for Sustainability, Peace, and Reconciliation: Managing the Conflicts of Human Needs and Place with Finite Resources" (\$12,000).

Ames Endowment, Department of Communication (UW), 2007. Support for dissertation research with a Nicaraguan cooperative (\$500).

Wang Center Student Grant (PLU), 2002. Funded research trip to Guatemala to conduct fieldwork for undergraduate thesis

Richard D. Moe Capstone Fellowship (PLU), 2002-2003. Supported a senior thesis project that integrated communication research and community outreach

Awards | Honors

2017 Provost's Faculty Achievement Award, CU-Boulder

2017 Honorable Mention (Top 5% of Papers), CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems

2015 J. Robert Cox Award in Environmental Communication and Civic Engagement, Environmental Communication Division, National Communication Association (NCA)

2014 Faculty Recognition Award, CU Boulder Faculty Association

2014 Top 5 Paper, Language and Social Interaction Division, International

- Communication Association (ICA)
- 2013 Top Paper, Political Communication, NCA
- 2011 Selected Participant, Thor Heyerdahl Summer School, "Environmental Governance: Institutions for Sustainable Development," Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway
- 2011 Top Abstracts, Language and Social Interaction Division, ICA
- 2010 Outstanding Dissertation Award, Language and Social Interaction Division, NCA
- 2010 Christine L. Oravac Book Award, Environmental Communication Division, NCA, for coedited book *Social Movement to Address Climate Change: Local Steps for Global Action*
- 2010 Selected Participant, Pan-American Advanced Studies Institute on Integration of Research on Climate Change and Hazards in the Americas, Panama City, Panama
- 2008 Fellow, Institute on the Public Humanities for Doctoral Students, University of Washington
- 2007 Selected Participant, NCA Doctoral Honors Seminar, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2006 Selected Participant, Northwestern Summer Rhetoric Institute, "Rhetoric, Difference, and Deliberative Democracy"
- 2005 Japan Debate Tour Debater, Committee for International Discussion and Debate, NCA
- 2003 Top Scholar Award, University of Washington
- 2003 Outstanding Student–Social Advocacy, PLU Communication and Theatre Department
- 2003 Outstanding Student–Forensics, PLU Communication and Theatre Department
- 2001 Outstanding Student–Forensics, PLU Communication and Theatre Department

Teaching

Courses

University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder), 2012–Present

- Campaigns and Revolutions
- Designing Inclusive Communities
- Discourse, Culture, and Identity
- Environmental Communication
- Facilitating Public Conversation

Group Interaction

Inclusive Community Design (Cross-listed: Environmental Design)

Senior Seminar: Functions of Communication: Public Deliberation

Civic Discourse in Polarized Times (Graduate course, co-taught with Pete Simonson)

Community-Based Research Methods (Graduate course)

Culture and Communication (Graduate course)

Public Deliberation (Graduate course)

Qualitative Research Methods (Graduate course)

University of Helsinki, Summer 2018

Ethnography of Communication (Graduate course)

Colorado State University, 2009-2012

Applied Deliberative Techniques

Communication Skills: Parliamentary Procedure

Conflict Management and Communication

Environmental Discourse

Intercultural Communication

Rhetoric in Contemporary Social Movements

Rhetoric and Public Affairs (Graduate course)

University of Washington (Graduate Teaching Assistant), 2003-2007, 2008-2009

Essentials of Argument

Interpersonal Communication

Interviewing

Introduction to Public Speaking

Political Deliberation

Public Debate

Rhetoric of Social and Political Movements

Graduate Independent Studies (CU-Boulder)

Communication and Design (C. Chase)

Anarchy and Democracy (R. Munoz)

Dialogue and Deliberation (A. Lauver)

Advanced Qualitative Methods: Ethnography & Discourse Analysis (D. Hodge)

Advising (CU-Boulder)

PhD Chair

Current: Emaan Tawfiq Salim and Jo Marres Tate

Completed: Claire Chase (co-chair), Lydia Reinig (co-chair), Elisa Varela

PhD Committee Member

Current: Blessed Ngoe, Anna Turner (Media Studies), Shiva Durian (Information Studies)

Completed: Erin Arneson (Engineering), Meghan Dunn, Danielle Hodge, Ricky Munoz, Katie Peters, Marc Rich, Shannon Sindorf (Journalism), Bingjuan Xiong

PhD Comprehensive Examinations Reader

Completed: Kelly Brownlee, Joanne Esch, Elyse Janish, Rex Parks, Lise St. Denis (Computer Science)

MA Chair

Current: none

Completed: Rachel Larsen, Bill Shrum

MA Committee Member

Current: none

Completed: David Birchfield (Environmental Studies), Kellie Brownlee, Nicole Castro, Wayne Freeman, Sonia Ivancic, Katie Peters, Casie Venable (Engineering)

Undergraduate Honor's Thesis Advisor

Current: Jayla Harding

Completed: Ali Kammerling

At Colorado State University, chaired 3 MA theses and served on 4 MA committees.

Related Employment

Deliberation Guide Field Tester, Energy Choices: How Should We Guide America's Energy Future? Kettering Foundation and the North American Association of Environmental Educators, Fall 2016

Facilitator and Framing Reviewer, Water Distribution in Colorado, Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, Spring 2016

Facilitator, Local Resilience Project, Colorado Climate Network, Fall 2014

Facilitator, Building Resilience of Mountain Social-Ecological Systems to Global Change Workshop, May 2012

Facilitator, Biological Resource Management Division of the National Parks Service, Spring 2011 and Winter 2012

Literature Review Contractor, "Painting the Landscape: A Cross-Cultural Exploration of Public-Government Decisionmaking." International Association of Public Participation-Kettering Foundation, Spring 2006

Research Assistant, Corporate and Foundation Relations, University of Washington, 2004-2006

Service

Discipline

External Expert, Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor in Environmental Communication search, SLU Sweden, 2022

Research Associate, Center for Public Deliberation, Colorado State University, 2012-2020

Associate Scholar, Center for Local Strategies Research, 2015-2020

Nominating Committee Chair, Public Dialogue and Deliberation Division, National Communication Association (NCA), 2015-2017

Advisory Board, NCA-Forum, 2012-2015

Associate Scholar, Center for Local Strategies Research, University of Washington, 2010-2014

Committee Member, Kaid Dissertation Award Committee, Political Communication Division, NCA, 2014

Advisory Committee Member, Ethnography of Communication: Ways Forward Conference, 2012

Committee Member, Christine L. Oravec Award Committee, Environmental Communication Division, NCA, 2011, 2014, 2016

Editorial Boards

Frontiers in Communication and Environmental Science, 2016-2018

Handbook of Communication in Cross-cultural Perspective, 2014

Journal of Intercultural and International Communication, 2015-2020

Journal of Public Deliberation, 2015-2018

Western Journal of Communication, 2012, 2014-2017

Reviewer

National Science Foundation, Science of Organizations Directorate, 2016

Applied Environmental Education & Communication, 2016-2017

Communication Monographs, 2017, 2021, 2022

Communication Quarterly, 2014

Communication Theory, 2012

Conservation Letters, 2009

Corporate Communications: An International Journal, 2017

Cultural Studies ↔ Critical Methodologies, 2015

Global Environmental Change, 2015
Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture, 2011, 2016
Environment, Development, & Sustainability, 2012
Frontiers in Communication and Environmental Science, 2016–2017
International Journal of Public Participation, 2008
International Journal of Communication, 2015
Journal of Applied Communication Research, 2009, 2012–2013, 2015–2017
Journal of Communication, 2017
Journal of Intercultural and International Communication, 2016–2019
Journal of Public Deliberation, 2014–2018
Management Communication Quarterly, 2012
Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Climate Science, 2016
Policy and Society: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Policy Studies, 2009
Polity, 2009
Science Communication, 2016
Small Group Research, 2017, 2019, 2020
Sociological Perspectives, 2015
Sociological Theory, 2011
Text & Talk, 2016
Western Journal of Communication, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013–2016
Women's Studies in Communication, 2017
Oxford University Press, 2011–2012
Sage Publications, 2012
Conference on Communication and the Environment, 2011, 2013
International Communication Association (Language and Social Interaction and Environmental Communication Divisions), 2011, 2013–2017, 2020, 2021
National Communication Association (Language and Social Interaction, Environmental Communication, Public Deliberation and Dialogue Divisions), 2011, 2013–2017
Western States Communication Association (Rhetoric and Public Affairs, and Environmental Communication Interest Groups), 2009, 2011

Department (CU-Boulder unless noted)

Director, Center for Communication and Democratic Engagement, 2018-present
Co-Director, BoulderTalks (Renamed CDE), 2016–2018
Executive Committee, BoulderTalks, 2015–2018

Graduate Committee, 2017-2018
Graduate Admissions Committee, 2019-2020, 2021-2022
Primary Unit Evaluation Committee (Communication), 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
Primary Unit Evaluation Committee (Communication & Society Residential Academic Program), 2017
Faculty Search Committee (Chair position), 2016
Faculty Search Committee (Community Engagement and Race/Ethnicity), 2015
Course Coordinator, Discourse, Culture, and Identity (COMM 2400), 2013-2017
Coordinator, Discourse & Society Research Lunch and Data Sessions, 2015-2016
Instructor Search Committee (Debate, Dialogue, Deliberation), 2015
Center for Conflict, Collaboration, and Creative Governance (3CG) Planning Committee, 2013-2014
Fall Event Coordinator, COMM Residential Academic Program (COMM RAP), 2014-2015
Rap Session (Dialogue and Deliberation Series) Coordinator (COMM RAP), 2012-2016
Merit Committee, 2014
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2012-2014
Faculty Peer Observations, 2017, 2016, 2014-2023
Associate Director, CSU Center for Public Deliberation, 2009-2012
Center Associate, CSU Center for Fair and Alternative Trade, 2010-2012
G. Jack Gravlee Lecture Committee, CSU, 2011-2012
College of Liberal Arts Internship Resource Team, CSU, 2010-2012
50th Anniversary Committee, CSU, 2011-2012

College and and University (CU unless otherwise noted)

Academic Review and Planning Advisory Committee, 2023
Outreach Awards Committee, 2022-2023
CMCI Personnel Committee, 2022-2023
CMCI Committee on Industry Outreach Position, 2018
Advisory Board, CU Dialogues Program, 2013-2016
Inter-group Relations Working Group, 2014-2016

Outreach

Outreach was a prominent part of my work with the Center for Public Deliberation at Colorado State University (CSU). In total, I worked on 18 projects, most with multiple meetings and community cosponsors, which engaged more than 3,000 participants from Northern Colorado during my 3 years at CSU (details and reports can be found at <http://cpd.colostate.edu>). With CDE, I support democratic engagement on and off campus.

Prominent Outreach Partners

League of Women Voters, 2022

City of Boulder, 2014-2019

Consult about climate action plan, designed and convened deliberative process on community resilience, and consulted and designed deliberative process for neighborhood summit.

Alliance for Sustainable Colorado, 2013

Consulted about deliberative processes for regional roundtables on sustainability.

Embrace Northern Colorado, 2011-2012

With Center for Public Deliberation (CPD), designed and convened processes for five meetings of the Leadership Task Force, including simulation on regional planning in Northern Colorado.

Poudre School District, 2009-2011

With CPD, designed and convened deliberative forums on small schools and closing neighborhood schools.

Professional Development

National Intergroup Dialogue Institute, University of Michigan, 2014

Leadership Education for Advancement and Promotion (LEAP), 2013

Teaching with Technology, 2013