

# REBECCA S. JOHNSON

Assistant Professor of Communication

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Rebecca Johnson joined the department of communication faculty in fall 2002 and teaches several courses, primarily research methods and interpersonal communication. In spring 2011, she assumed an additional role as internship director for the department's academic internship program; she also administers and teaches the corresponding academic course.

Rebecca's academic philosophy centers on andragogy, or adult learning style. As an educator, she curates content and motivates her students to discover concepts while working toward specific learning outcomes for each course. In short, her students learn by wrestling with the "how" and the "why" while "doing." At times, this happens outside of course work as she advises students in research projects of their own designs. These projects culminate in presentations of their work at regional and national conferences.

In addition to teaching and academic advising, Rebecca actively supports the Hope College Students Teaching and Empowering Peers (STEP) interpersonal violence prevention program and serves on the Frost Research Center Advisory Board. Prior to Hope College, she was a technical and marketing communication professional and consultant in both the software and manufacturing industries.

Don't be surprised if you walk past Rebecca's office and she's in there laughing with students and/or colleagues. She enjoys her work that much.

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Quantitative social science research methods — Seeks evidence to support claims in order to build on existing knowledge in the field of communication through experimental design, survey techniques and content analysis
- Interpersonal communication and relationships — Explores how and why we relate to each other the way we do, and how we can better manage all of our relationships (professional, familial or intimate) through effective and appropriate communication
- Compassionate communication — Focuses on relationship building and repair through expressed empathy
- Ethics in communication — Examines and advocates for valuing our humanity in all of our interactions: "All real living is meeting." —Martin Buber, 1958

Rebecca's research interests include power in relationships, with a focus on interpersonal violence; diversity in the workplace, specifically women in leadership, and women in math, science, and engineering; health communication, including patient-provider relationships and public health campaigns; listening and information processing; and social cognition in interpersonal communication.

## EDUCATION

- MA, Interpersonal Communication, Western Michigan University, 2004
- BS, Scientific and Technical Communication, Michigan Technological University, 1994

## OUTSIDE THE COLLEGE

Rebecca serves as secretary on the executive board for the Holland Area Lacrosse Club. She also is their communication guru and webmaster. Additionally, she consults as a communication strategist for websites, social media, public presentations and corporate training.


She picked up a camera summer of 2014 and hasn't put it down since. And last, but not least, she runs one of the best mom-taxis in Holland, Michigan.



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 Communication Department

