

# NEW FACULTY PROFILES

## Eean Grimshaw

**JOB TITLE:** Assistant Professor of Communication.

**YOUR HOMETOWN:** Boise, Idaho.

**DEGREES EARNED:** B.A. in Native American Studies and M.A. in Communication Studies, University of Montana; and Ph.D. in Communication, University of Massachusetts.

**PREVIOUS JOB EXPERIENCE:** I was an assistant coach for varsity lacrosse at a high school for two years between my undergraduate and master's degrees.

**PREVIOUS TEACHING EXPERIENCE:** I taught public speaking for two years while pursuing my master's at Montana, and I taught intercultural and interpersonal communication, among other courses, at UMass. I also taught interpersonal communication last spring semester at Manchester Community College in Connecticut.

**WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO NCWC:** I feel like one of the major benefits of a small liberal arts college is the ability to work with students in small classroom settings, which only serves to enhance the kind of education and academic opportunities we can provide.



Eean Grimshaw Randolph-Schoneck Photo

**YOUR AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:** I specialize in the integration of communication and culture. I focus on issues of language and social interaction, cultural discourse analysis, and intercultural communication. In recent years, I studied communication of the Blackfeet (Amskapi Piikuni) within the Native America Speaks program in Glacier National Park, the longest-running Indigenous Speaker Series in the National Park Service. This was the subject of my dissertation "Native America Speaks: Blackfeet Communication and Culture in Glacier National Park."

**COURSES YOU EXPECT TO TEACH AT NCWC:** I'm now teaching Intercultural Communication, Research Methods, and Mass Communication. In the spring, I plan to teach Communication Theory as well. Eventually I hope to offer courses in Environmental Communication as well as Political Communication.

**YOUR TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:** Student engagement is critical. In my courses, I stress the importance and application of material on both a practical and theoretical level through activities and group discussion. I believe that students learn the most when they're in a supportive environment where they feel comfortable sharing their own definitions and understandings. For example, I connect academic articles with both popular and personal accounts and ask students to put both popular and personal perceptions in dialogue with communication theory and practice during in-class discussions and activities. I also advocate for affective learning so students can learn to both appreciate and value classroom material. As a result, students are more likely to remember as well as incorporate knowledge from the classroom to the world around them.

**HOBBIES/INTERESTS:** When it's safe to do so, I look forward to traveling again. Most recently I went to Denmark with my mother and

brother to visit my great-grandmother's family home. I'm a big fan of listening to vinyl records as well as watching anime and anything Star Wars. I enjoy rock climbing/bouldering and being outdoors, particularly during the winter.

**FAVORITE TV SHOWS:** Some all-time favorites: "Scrubs," "The Muppet Show," and "Stargate SG-1." Current favorites: "Reservation Dogs," "What We Do in the Shadows," and "Rutherford Falls."

**FAVORITE MOVIES:** "The Lion King" (1994), "Jurassic Park," "Mrs. Doubtfire," and "Jumanji" (1995).

**FAVORITE MUSICAL ARTISTS:** Daft Punk, Rush, Styx, America. I also enjoy Ska/ Reggae music.

**FAVORITE MEAL:** Frikadeller (Danish Meatballs) and Poke.

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** "The Lorax," the "Harry Potter" series, and "The Dark Tower" series.

**FAVORITE PLACE:** Missoula, Montana, or anywhere on Blackfoot territory where the mountains meet the plains.

**FAVORITE TEAMS:** Utah Jazz and Iroquois National.

**SOCIAL MEDIA USE:** I have a Facebook account; at this point it's primarily to keep in touch with old friends from high school, college, and some of the Blackfeet I met while living on the reservation.

**ONE SURPRISING THING ABOUT YOU:** I speak some niitsii'po'w'sin (Blackfoot language) and can tell you a story in Hinóno'eitítí (Arapaho language).

## Amy Lunceford

**JOB TITLE:** Visiting Instructor of Education, Teacher Education Program Manager.

**YOUR HOMETOWN:** Midland, North Carolina.

**DEGREES EARNED:** B.S. and M.Ed. in Elementary Education, Appalachian State University.

**PREVIOUS JOB EXPERIENCE:** Other than working at a daycare as the after-school director, I've always been in education. While at ASU, I worked waitstaff at Daniel Boone Restaurant to help pay for college.

**PREVIOUS TEACHING EXPERIENCE:** I began my teaching career in 2011 as a 2nd-grade teacher at Green Valley Elementary School in Boone. Then, after my sixth year of teaching, I asked for a leave of absence so I could complete my master's in elementary education. While in graduate school, I served as a graduate assistant for my mentor, who was the teacher education director at ASU.

**WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO NCWC:** One draw was the location, since my family and I now live in Rocky Mount. Once I visited the campus and met some of the incredible teacher education faculty, I felt a connection and a call to serve this community. I started as an adjunct in fall 2019 and then moved to Teacher Education Program Manager and adjunct in fall 2020. Now I serve as a Visiting Instructor of Education and Teacher Education Program Manager.



Amy Lunceford

**YOUR AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:** It encompasses all subjects within elementary education. I have two published works, both within "Science for Children" magazines in

2017 and 2020.

**COURSES YOU EXPECT TO TEACH AT NCWC:** Introduction to Teaching, Reading (K-6) and Language Arts (K-6), Directed Teaching, and PRAXIS Core Prep.

**YOUR TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:** The truth is, "students don't learn from teachers they don't like." This is a quote from one of my favorite TED-Ed talks by the late Rita Pierson. What Mrs. Pierson was saying is, it's so important to relate to our students and get to know them. My teaching philosophy is rooted in the power of relationships. I always like to make time to chat with my students. Whether it be discussing sports, food, my daughters and their shenanigans, students should be able to make a connection and relate to the instructor and their peers throughout our time together. Learning will take place, and with the right mindset and a lot of hard work, excellence will be the result.

**HOBBIES/INTERESTS:** My husband is the senior pastor at First Baptist Church in downtown Rocky Mount. Married for 11 years, we have shared a home with six children over the last five years through foster care and we've adopted three girls, ages 6, 5, and 4. I run a CBD side business, partnering with a USDA organic company that grows their hemp in North Carolina (It's not psychoactive and it's safe). We have a 120-pound golden retriever named Boone that keeps our yard free from cats and squirrels. Our two oldest daughters are in Spanish immersion public school in Nash County so we've been learning a lot of Spanish in our house. As a family, we enjoy gardening, backpacking, camping, hiking, paddle boarding at the reservoir, and riding bikes to our favorite local spot, Larema Coffee House. Our family just enjoys making memories in God's beautiful creation.

**FAVORITE TV SHOWS:** We watch little TV, but my favorites include "NCIS" and "Everybody Loves Raymond."

**FAVORITE MOVIES:** "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" and "The Greatest Showman."

**FAVORITE GENRES OF MUSIC:** Christian/gospel, bluegrass, and classic rock.

**FAVORITE MEAL:** Give me all the donuts, Nutella, soy sauce, and guacamole.

**FAVORITE LOCAL SPOT:** Larema Coffee House in downtown Rocky Mount. Tell the owner that Amy sent you.

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** Fiction: "Harry Potter" and "Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH." Non-fiction: The Bible.

**FAVORITE PLACE:** Wherever my husband and daughters are.

**FAVORITE TEAMS:** App State football, Dallas Cowboys, Boston Red Sox, Atlanta Braves. I'll cheer for UNC if I'm around a Duke fan or vice versa, just to get a rise out of my friends.

**SOCIAL MEDIA USE:** I use Instagram; my account name is @amylunceford (don't miss the t between my first and last name). I talk about my family adventures with our girls and fluffy dog, my CBD biz, church life, and NCWC events and classes in teacher education. I'm fixing to start a NCWC TeacherEd IG page, just waiting on approval from the college's marketing department.

**ONE SURPRISING THING ABOUT YOU:** I've done short-term teaching in India, Pakistan, and Tanzania. I've visited for fun: England, Mexico, Jamaica, and Israel.

## Kaitlin Pericak

**JOB TITLE AT NCWC:** Assistant Professor of Sociology.

**YOUR HOMETOWN:** Albany, New York.

**DEGREES EARNED:** B.A. and M.A. in Sociology, American University; Ph.D. in Sociology, University of Miami.



Kaitlin Pericak Randolph-Schoneck Photo

**PREVIOUS JOB EXPERIENCE:** High school and club lacrosse coach.

**PREVIOUS TEACHING EXPERIENCE:** I was a graduate teaching assistant for three years at American University and the University of Miami; I was a solo instructor for the past four years at the University of Miami.

**WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO NCWC:** I liked the sense of community that I felt when I visited campus and met the faculty, staff, and students.

**YOUR AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:** medical sociology; race, ethnicity, and immigration; and the sociology of sport. My M.A. thesis was "Institutional Separation: Stress Experienced Among Division I Women Collegiate Athletes." My dissertation was titled "Institutionalized Healthcare: An Examination of the Injury Experience in Collegiate Sport."

**COURSES YOU EXPECT TO TEACH AT NCWC:** Sociology of Sport, Social Problems, Research Methods, Social Theory.

**YOUR TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:** I strive to create a safe space that fosters in students the ability to think critically through collaboration both inside and outside of the classroom. For example, critical thinking and collaboration are core skills in sociology that I emphasize in my classes through "pair and share" activities. I have students collaborate with classmates to examine an issue and then share with the rest of the class what was discussed. My broader goal is to help aid in students' growth. I make sure to be accessible outside of the classroom to meet with students who want to discuss topics further or who need a space in which to process sensitive topics. I bring passion and energy to every interaction. Through my own enthusiasm for sociology, I hope to spark interest in students.

**HOBBIES/INTERESTS:** I enjoy hiking. And I have a kitten named Guapo.

**FAVORITE MEAL:** Spicy Salmon Tostones.

**FAVORITE PLACE:** Oak Island, North Carolina.

**FAVORITE TEAM:** Washington Capitals.

**SOCIAL MEDIA USE:** I use Twitter to learn from other academics how to develop my teaching and research skills. Twitter Handle: @KaitPericak.

**ONE SURPRISING THING ABOUT YOU:** I played ice hockey, in various leagues, for 13 years.

## Shane Thompson

**JOB TITLE AT NCWC:** Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

**YOUR HOMETOWN:** Columbia, South Carolina.

**DEGREES EARNED:** B.A., Wake Forest University; M.A., Brandeis University; M.T.S., Emory University; and Ph.D., Brown University.

**PREVIOUS TEACHING EXPERIENCE:** I've taught at Brown, High Point University, Wake Forest, the Wake Forest University School of Divinity, Wofford College, and the University of South Carolina. While in grad school, I was a teaching assistant at both Brandeis and Brown.

**WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO NCWC:** I'm the product of a liberal arts education and I always wanted to wind up at a small liberal arts college. As

a South Carolina native, Wesleyan's location was appealing as well.

**YOUR AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:**

I work on the religions, cultures, and languages of ancient Israel and the ancient Near East (modern day Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey). My current research focuses on the use of non-native religious imagery in architecture, iconography, and public ritual by foreign powers that attempted to consolidate their rule. This is an outgrowth of my dissertation and should appear as a book next year under the title "Power in Public: Displays of Cultural Hegemony and Counter-Hegemony in the Late Bronze and Iron Age Levant." My next project, using archaeological, textual, and comparative lenses, will examine the cultic reforms of the Israelite king Hezekiah. I'm focused on locating the non-elites within ancient religion, with forthcoming projects on a variety of topics that include music and sports.

**COURSES YOU EXPECT TO TEACH AT NCWC:** I will teach broad introductory religion courses such as Religious Worlds, as well as courses in my particular area such as Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, New Testament, and Biblical Life and Thought. In coming years, I hope to add interesting courses such as Archaeology of the Bible.



Shane Thompson

**YOUR TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:**

It centers on letting students excel and enjoy learning. I like students to submit projects in ways that interest them, such as making videos, music, art, etc. I also employ active-learning techniques, such as playing games in class, to make learning fun. Students are more likely to remember course material when it's connected to a positive memory. Religion is multifaceted, and I like when students study it through their own interests.

**HOBBIES/INTERESTS:** I love to fish and hike and do both as often as possible. I also have many fur babies and aquatic pets with my wonderful wife, Tasneem. I've recently gotten into grilling and smoking meats since we're back in the Carolinas and I like to make my own BBQ. I also like to make crafts related to my scholarly interests, so if you take a course with me, it's possible that we'll make clay tablets or figurines of gods and goddesses.

**FAVORITE TV SHOWS:** "How I Met Your Mother," "The Office," "MasterChef," "Good Mythical Morning," "River Monsters," and "Expedition Unknown."

**FAVORITE MOVIES:** "The Natural," "For Love of the Game," "Field of Dreams," "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," and "Talladega Nights."

**FAVORITE MUSICAL ARTISTS:** Eric Church and Zac Brown Band.

**FAVORITE CUISINE:** I'm a foodie so I will eat anything! Seafood is a favorite.

**FAVORITE BOOK:** I'm a big fan of James Rollins' books. I also like historical fiction, and I have a weird obsession with books about the New England mob.

**FAVORITE PLACE:** Jerusalem.

**FAVORITE TEAMS:** Wake Forest Demon Deacons; Atlanta Braves.

**ONE SURPRISING THING ABOUT YOU:** If at all possible, I will be wearing sandals!