

Communication Colloquium

Spring 2012

Melanie Loehwing

“‘Food Not Bombs’:

The Protest Rhetoric of Homeless Meal-Sharing Programs”

Friday April 6, 2012, 12:00-1:30

Bailyn Conference Room (CU 222)

Dr. Loehwing will analyze the rhetorical reframings of community and civic identity by the Orlando chapter of Food Not Bombs (FNB), a national organization protesting the allocation of federal funds for military rather than social service expenditures. Dubbed “food terrorists” by the mayor of Orlando, the FNB activists have continued their decades-long meal-sharing initiative to bring food to the growing population of individuals experiencing homelessness despite the city of Orlando’s legislative campaign to remake such community service efforts into criminal acts. The reframing of criminality associated with homelessness to include care providers as well as people experiencing homelessness represents a relatively recent phenomenon. This paper investigates the rhetorical strategies used by FNB advocates as well as city officials in the legal and political contestation over the identity of the community at risk and the perpetrators of civic harm. The FNB protest rhetoric offers a potentially powerful model for reframing citizenship outside the narrow confines of institutional or contractual status by envisioning alternate forms of citizenship relying on continual enactment for their political legitimacy.

Becky Mulvaney

“Under the Bus: Political Engagement in the University Curriculum”

Friday April 13, 2012, 1:00-2:30

Bailyn Conference Room (CU 222)

Using the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies’ Spring 2008 Communication Studies Civic Engagement Capstone class and project (Save Our School) as a case study, Dr. Mulvaney will examine the major institutional and rhetorical pitfalls in providing our students with a truly organic civic engagement experience in the capstone course.