

Ned O’Gorman is Professor of Rhetoric & Public Culture in the Department of Communication at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where he writes and teaches about the history of rhetoric, media studies, and political culture. He is the author of several books, most recently [*Politics for Everybody: Reading Hannah Arendt in Uncertain Times*](#) (University of Chicago Press, translated into German, Korean, and Chinese, and now an audio book), a lively defense of politics in an age of political crises and an introduction to the political thinking of Hannah Arendt.

In 2020 the University of Illinois named him a University Scholar.

Prior to *Politics for Everybody*, he was the author of three books on the Cold War and its aftermath: (1) [*The Iconoclastic Imagination: Image, Catastrophe, and Economy in America since the Kennedy Assassination*](#) (University of Chicago Press), which won the 2016 Bruce E. Gronbeck Political Communication Research Award, sponsored by the Carl Couch Center for Social and Internet Research. (2) [*Spirits of the Cold War: Contesting Worldviews in the Classical Age of American Security Strategy*](#), came out in 2012, and was reviewed widely, including in *The New Republic*. And, (3) with Kevin Hamilton, of the award-winning [*Lookout America! The Secret Hollywood Film Studio at the Heart of the Cold War*](#), published in 2018 with over 600 images by Dartmouth College Press (see here). The book was a basis of the Smithsonian documentary “Atomic Age Declassified: Filming the Bomb” and has informed other documentaries and exhibits on the nuclear age in the United States and Europe. The book is centered on the largely forgotten history of Lookout Mountain Laboratory, a U.S. Air Force film studio responsible for many of the most iconic images of the Cold War, from mushroom clouds to space monkeys (see lookoutamerica.org). But its analysis extends well beyond the film studio to the Cold War it helped construct.

O’Gorman is former editor of the *Journal for the History of Rhetoric*, published by Penn State University Press and the American Society for the History of Rhetoric. In 2023 he was named an Associate at the University of Illinois’s Center for Advanced Study, and he has been the recipient of a number of other grants and fellowships from both within and without the University of Illinois.

O’Gorman teaches undergraduate and graduate courses ranging from the history of rhetoric to rhetorical theory to Cold War culture to media theory. In 2014 he was awarded College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Dean’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching at the University of Illinois, and in 2021 the college gave him the Impact Award for teaching service. In addition to his departmental home, Communication, he is affiliated at Illinois with the Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies, the Center for Global Studies and the Center for Writing Studies.

He has been a writer at The Infernal Machine, the Huffington Post, and The Hedgehog Review. He currently runs a substack newsletter on civic culture at civicfields.org and is writing a book-length history of liberalism.