

Janell C. Walther, Ph.D.

University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
402.472.2762 / jwalther2@nebraska.edu

Education

Kansas State University	B.A., English	2003
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	M.A., Communication Studies	2013
	Thesis: <i>Transformative Engagement in Deliberative Democracies: Exploring a Framework for Engagement Using a Creative, Braided Approach</i>	
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Ph.D., Communication Studies	2018
	Research Focus: <i>Science communication, civic & public engagement, research design & methodology, nonprofit organizing, public policy</i>	
	Dissertation Topic: <i>Creating Dialogic Moments in Municipal Deliberation: The Case of Recycling in Nebraska</i>	

Professional Experience

2006 - Present	University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, Lincoln, NE
	2019 – Present: Research Manager
	2018 – 2019: Senior Research Specialist
	2014 – 2018: Research Specialist
	2011 – 2014: Research Coordinator
	2006 – 2011: Project Assistant
2004 - 2006	Project Administrator, Emerson Process Management, St. Louis, MO
2001 - 2004	Office Assistant, Division of Continuing Education PIO, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Research Specialist, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, August 2006 – Present

<http://ppc.unl.edu/>

- Coordinate and manage multiple projects at local, state, and federal levels through strategic planning, project management, research design, and facilitation.
- Developed and manage School Safety & Security Initiative in a 22-county region to build school and first responder relationships, develop all-hazards plans, and provide training and planning in over 50 school systems.
- Led the 2012 - 2017 Statewide Training, Exercise, & Planning Workshop for 18 regional and state agencies, and wrote the annual report on behalf of the State for submission to federal and regional authorities.
- Designed curriculum for public speaking and public meetings for technical professionals at the Department of Natural Resources.
- Leading research collection of Learning Frontiers Study 1: a 50-school study examining how early childhood policy and context impacts academic outcomes through qualitative and policy analysis.
- Leading qualitative data collection and analyses for a multi-university National Science Foundation grant examining public and scientist perceptions of drone technologies for atmospheric sciences.

Project Administrator, Emerson Process Management, 2004 - 2006

- Managed budgets for multiple projects for accounts receivable, time management, and reporting.
- Revised the Quality Manual for FABCON, a Division of Emerson Process Management.
- Coordinated the International Lean Manufacturing Committee to increase efficiency in both the shop and offices of FABCON and Emerson Process Management.

Publications

Iruka, I., Sheridan, S., Dekraai, M., & **Walther, J.C.** (in press). Examining how rural ecological contexts influence children's early learning opportunities. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*.

Walther, J.C., PytlikZillig, L.M., Detweiler, C., & Houston, A. (2019) How people make sense of drone technology used for atmospheric science (and other purposes). *Journal of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems*, 7(3), 219 - 234.
**Editor's Choice*

Walther, J.C. (2016). Engaging jurors with technical information: Building trust and cognition without overload.

Walther, J.C. (2016). Technically Speaking: Sharing complex information with juries. *American Bar Association Expert Witness Newsletter, 11:1.*

Conference Presentations & Other Papers

PytlikZillig, L.M., Walther J.C., Detweiler, C., Elbaum, S., & Houston. A. *Public opinions of unmanned aerial technologies in 2014 -2019: A technical and descriptive report.* University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, Lincoln, NE.

DeKraai, M., Sheridan, S., Knocke, L., Iruka Thompson, I., & **Walther, J.** (2018, April). *Understanding policy and contextual factors in 12 Nebraska school districts.* Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference, New York City, NY.

Walther, J.C., PytlikZillig, L.M., Houston, A.L., Detweiler, C., & Kawamoto, J. (2018). *Using public & stakeholder perceptions of drone technology to influence design and implementation of drones for atmospheric data collection.* Paper presented at American Meteorological Society 98th Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, January 2018.

PytlikZillig, L.M., Houston, A.L., **Walther, J.C.,** Kawamoto, J., & Detweiler, C. (2018). *Understanding the role of trust in public support for weather (and other) drones: Results of a nationally representative U.S. survey* Paper presented at American Meteorological Society 98th Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, January 2018.

Walther, J.C., & PytlikZillig, L.M. (2017, April). *Taking Charge: Nine years of engaging the public in municipal budgeting priorities.* Paper presented at Consortium of University Public Service Organizations Annual Conference in Newark, Delaware.

Houston, A. L. PytlikZillig, L. M., **Walther, J.,** & Kawamoto, J. (2017, January 26). *NWS Data Needs for Short-term Forecasts and the Role of Unmanned Aircraft in Filling the Gap.* Paper presented at the 97th annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society. <https://ams.confex.com/ams/97Annual/webprogram/Paper315880.html>

PytlikZillig, L. M., **Walther, J.,** Houston, A., Detweiler, C. & Kawamoto, J. (2017, January 26). *Public Opinions and Recommendations Regarding Drones: Potential Policy Implications.* Paper presented at the 97th annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society. <https://ams.confex.com/ams/97Annual/webprogram/Paper315760.html>

Walther, J.C. (2016, September). *Tell me a science story: Transforming engagement with science through creative nonfiction.* Paper presented at the SciCOMM conference in Lincoln, NE.

PytlikZillig, L.M., **Walther, J.C.,** Detweiler, C., Houston, A.L. (2016, September). *Public perceptions of drones used for weather-related purposes.* Paper presented at the SciCOMM conference in Lincoln, NE.

PytlikZillig, L. M., Detweiler, C., Elbaum, S., Houston, A., & **Walther, J.** (2016, June 24-26). *In drones we trust? A trust-centered model of responsible innovation.* Paper presented at the Giving Psychology Away: Sharing Research through teaching, interdisciplinary collaboration, and public engagement (The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, SPSSI 2016), Minneapolis, MN.

Walther, J.C., & PytlikZillig, L.M. (2015, November). *City and academic collaboration: Fostering opportunities for public and research based decision-making.* Paper presented at the National Communication Association Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Hutchens, M.J., PytlikZillig, L.M., Muhlberger, P., Tomkins, A.J., Anderson, R.P., **Walther, J.C.,** & Gonzalez, F.J. (2014, May). *Message or process? Learning about nanotechnology through engaged deliberation.* Paper presented at International Communication Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA.

PytlikZillig, L., Anderson, R., Phear, N., & **Walther, J.C.** (2013, May). *Using creative non-fiction to communicate about climate change.* Poster presented at the Water for Food Conference, Lincoln, NE.

Krone, K.J., Ewalt, J., Utah, C.I., & **Walther, J.C.** (2013, November). *Organizing on behalf of refugee resettlement: Re-thinking inter-organizational collaboration and conflict as organizing struggle*. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Garner, J., Kramer, M., Meisenbach, R.J., Mize Smith, J., Nichols, Z., & **Walther, J.C.** (2013, November). *Connections through current theoretical approaches and interdisciplinary perspectives of volunteer research*. Panel presented at the National Communication Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Articles in Progress

Houston, A.L., **J.C. Walther**, L.M. PytlikZillig, J. Kawamoto, 2019: Initial Assessment of unmanned aircraft system characteristics required to fill data gaps for short-term forecasts: Results from focus groups and interviews. Short Contribution submissions. *J. Operational Meteor.*, In review.

Walther, J.C. Using Stories to Make Decisions: Exploring a Framework for Engagement Using a Creative, Braided Approach.

PytlikZillig, L.M., **Walther, J.C.**, Houston, A.L., & Detweiler, C. What's in a name? The use of terminology in predicting individual attitudes and trust in drone technology.

Teaching at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Lecturer, COMM 398: Nonprofit Organizing and Communication (Fall 2019)

Instructor: COMM 286: Business and Professional Communication (Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2018)

Guest Lecturer: NRES 475/875: Water Quality Strategy (Spring 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)

Guest Lecturer: COMM 465: Communication & Social Identity (Spring 2017)

Guest Lecturer: COMM 220: Public Advocacy & Civic Engagement (Spring 2017)

Guest Lecturer: Civic Engagement Certificate Lecture Series (Fall 2015)

Guest Lecturer: POLS 400: Democracy & Citizenship (Fall 2015)

Guest Lecturer: COMM 210: Communication in Small Groups (Summer 2014)

Speaking Activities

Trainer, "How to run and participate in effective meetings," Community Action of Lancaster and Saunders County, 2019

Trainer, "A Guide to Effective Meetings & Group Facilitation," Region V Behavioral Health Authority, 2019

Speaker, "Project Management, Monitoring, & Evaluation," Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Leadership in Civic Engagement Institute, 2019

Speaker, "Improving Fiscal Transparency to Increase Public Confidence," Nebraska Association of County Officials, 2019

Speaker, "Running Effective Meetings," Leadership Lincoln Service Training, 2019

Speaker/ Facilitator, "Early Childhood Policies & Practices," Consortium of University Public Services Organizations, 2018

Speaker/ Trainer, "Strategic Planning 101," Get on Board, 2018

Speaker, "Careers with an English Degree," Alumni Connections 2009, Kansas State University, 2009

Academic Service

Council on Inclusive Excellence & Diversity, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2020 – Present.

Advisory Board, Civic Health Index, Civic Nebraska, 2020.

Awards & Honors Committee, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Dept. of Communication Studies, 2015-16.

Memberships & Honors

Awardee, Honorable Mention 13th Symposium on Societal Applications: Policy, Research and Practice Student Competition for: "Using Public and Stakeholder Perceptions of Drone Technology to Influence Design and Implementation of Drones for Atmospheric Data Collection" at the American Meteorological Society's 98th Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, 2018

Awardee, Diana Carlin Research Fellowship, 2018

Member, American Evaluation Association, 2015 - 2018
Board of Directors, Junior League of Lincoln, 2013 - 2017 (President, 2015-2016)
Fellow, Leadership Lincoln, Class XXX, 2014 -2015
Member, International Communication Association, 2014 - 2017
Member, Lincoln Young Professionals Group, 2013 - 2014
Member, Central States Communication Association, 2013 - 2015
Member, National Communication Association, 2012 - Present
Volunteer, American Red Cross, Cornhusker Chapter, 2008 - 2010
Member, Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Fraternity, 2000 - 2003
Member, Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Fraternity, 1999 – 2003

Other Skills

Proficient in Adobe InDesign, SPSS, Adobe Connect, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, EndNote, Atlas.ti, Constant Contact, SquareSpace, Zoom, Box, Dropbox, and Quickbooks software, Slack, Trello, MS Teams.

Experience with MS Access, LIWC, Adobe Photoshop, Google Forms, SAS, SAP, Oracle, Unanet, Wix, and Wordpress.