



CFTU

Christian Feminism To You

Speakers Bureau

# The Gracespeak Lexicon: Harness the Power of Language for Social Justice

*You can't raise your voice for social justice  
without having the words to name it first.*

*Doxxing* and *microaggressions* existed before we had the names to call them, but now that the words are coined, it's easier to recognize when they're happening and to do something in response. It's the same way with each of the systematically silenced groups in our society; when our experiences are identified with words, we can better understand, value, and act on them. During this session, learn to put words to ideas that have not been named or honored before now, and share that language with the world. This skill of communication creativity can be helpful, applicable to places of worship to the workplace to personal life. It's not just useful in helping individuals find their voices, however; it's also one of our best collective responses to cultural silencing.

The length of this presentation can be adjusted as needed.

***"I want to thank you for your wonderful talk. I've had the opportunity to hear from many women who attended and they were blown away by the information you shared, as was I. You really touched many of us in your communication session."***

—Nicole Erlan, Lithia Employment Development

**Dr. Alena Amato Ruggerio** loves several things: language, feminism, and progressive Christianity. She loves it even better when she can combine any two or all three together.

She is the editor of *Media Depictions of Brides, Wives, and Mothers* (Lexington Books), a contributor to *Talking Taboo: American Christian Women Get Frank About Faith* (White Cloud Press), and has written for the *Encyclopedia of Christianity* (Eerdmans), *Christian Century*, and *Feminist Media Studies*.

Ruggerio holds a Ph.D. from Indiana University in Communication and Culture. As a professor of communication at Southern Oregon University, Dr. Ruggerio teaches courses such as Women Transforming Language; Evaluation of Public Communication, Persuasion, Argumentation, and Critical Thinking ; Interpersonal Communication; and Advanced Public Speaking. Recipient of the AHA International Outstanding Visiting Faculty of the Year Award, she was also voted "Most Warm and Welcoming Professor" by the Associated Students of Southern Oregon University.

Learn more on her website <http://alenaaruggerio.com>.



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