

Benjamin Lyons

University of Utah | 255 Central Campus Dr #2400, Salt Lake City, UT 84112
ben.lyons@utah.edu | [Google Scholar](#) | ORCID: [0000-0001-7096-900X](#) | [Open Science Framework](#)

Appointments

2019 - Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, University of Utah
2017-19 Research Fellow, Department of Politics, University of Exeter
2016-17 Martin Fishbein Postdoctoral Fellow, Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania

AFFILIATIONS

2023 - Associate Member, Cancer Control Population Sciences, Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah
2016 - Associate, Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at University of Canberra

Education

2016 *PhD*, Mass Communication, Southern Illinois University
Dissertation: *Unbiasing Information Search and Processing through Personal and Social Identity Mechanisms*.
• Top Paper, Intergroup Communication, ICA, 2017
2013 *MA*, Media Theory and Research, Southern Illinois University
2010 *BA*, Psychology & English-Writing, *summa cum laude*, Illinois College

Publications & talks

BOOK

Stöckel, F., Stöckli, S., **Lyons, BA.**, Kroker, H., & Reifler, J. *The Power of the Crowd: How the Public Can Both Spoil and Improve Social Media as a Source of Information*. Book manuscript under contract with *Cambridge Elements* (Experimental Political Science Series).

JOURNAL ARTICLES (43)

2024 **Lyons, BA.**, Montgomery, J., Reifler, J. (Accepted). "Partisanship and older Americans' engagement with dubious political news." Accepted to *Public Opinion Quarterly*. [[Data](#)]

Stoeckel, F., Stöckli, S., Ceka, B., **Lyons, BA.**, Reifler, J. (2024). "The double-edged sword of user comments: Social corrections reduce the perceived accuracy of both false and real news in the UK, Germany, and Italy." *Communications Psychology*. doi:10.1038/s44271-024-00057-w [[Pre-reg + data](#) (UK)] [[Pre-reg + data](#) (Germany)] [[Pre-reg + data](#) (Italy)]

2023 **Lyons, BA.** (2023). "How orientations to expertise condition acceptance of (mis)information." *Current Opinion in Psychology*. doi:10.1016/j.copsyc.2023.101714. (Invited)

Lyons, BA. (with the students of COMM 5820). (2023). "The effects of narrative and statistical messaging about the health impacts of air quality." *Communication Research Reports*. doi:10.1080/08824096.2023.2282037 [[Pre-reg + data](#)]

Lyons, BA. (2023). "Older Americans are more vulnerable to prior exposure effects in news evaluation." *Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review*. doi:10.37016/mr-2020-118 [[Data](#)]

Lyons, BA., Mérola, V., Reifler, J., Spälti, A., Stoeckel, F., Stednitz, C. (2023). "When experts matter: Variations in consensus messaging for vaccine and GMO safety." *Public Understanding of Science*. doi:10.1177/09636625231188594 [[Pre-reg + data](#)]

Schmierbach, M., Andsager, J., Banning, S., Chung, M., **Lyons, BA.**, McLeod, DM., Meirick, PC, Pan, Z., Rojas, H. Sun, Y. (2023). "Another Point of View: Scholarly Responses to the State of Third-Person Research." *Mass Communication & Society*. doi:10.1080/15205436.2023.2193512 (Invited).

Spälti, A., **Lyons, BA.**, Stoeckel, F., Szewach, P., Mérola, V., Stednitz, C., López González, P.,* Reifler, J. (2023). "Partisanship and anti-elite worldviews as correlates of science and health beliefs in the multi-party system of Spain." *Public Understanding of Science*. doi:10.1177/09636625231154131 [[Pre-reg + data](#)]

- Thompson, J., Spälti, A., Barnfield, M., Stöckli, S., Phillips, J., Stoeckel, F., **Lyons, BA**, Mérola, V., Szewach, P., Reifler, J. (2023). “[Vaccine attributes and vaccine uptake in Hungary: Evidence from a conjoint experiment](#).” *European Journal of Public Health*. doi:10.1093/eurpub/ckad043/7099642. [Pre-reg + data]
- Stoeckel, F., Thompson, J., Szewach, P., Stöckli, S., Barnfield, M., Phillips, J., **Lyons, BA**, Mérola, V., Reifler, J. (2023). “[Correlates of support for international vaccine solidarity during the COVID-19 pandemic: Cross-sectional survey evidence from Germany](#).” *PLoS ONE*. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0287257. [Pre-reg + data]
- Stoeckel, F., Thompson, J., Merola, V., Szewach, P., **Lyons, BA**, & Reifler, J. (2023). “[Public Misperceptions of European Integration: A Comparative Study of Six EU Member States](#).” *European Union Politics*. doi:10.1177/14651165231193 [Data]
- 2022 **Lyons, BA**. (2022). “[Why We Should Rethink the Third Person Effect: Disentangling Bias and Earned Confidence Using Behavioral Data](#).” *Journal of Communication*. doi:10.1093/joc/jqac021 [Pre-reg + data]
- Lyons, BA**, & Workman, K.* (2022). “[Explicit voter fraud conspiracy cues increase belief among co-partisans but have broader spillover effects on confidence in elections](#)” *Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review*, 3(3). doi:10.37016/mr-2020-99 [*Undergrad]. [Pre-reg + data]
- Lyons, BA**. (2022). “[Insidiously Trivial: Meme Format Reduces Perceived Influence and Intent to Debate Partisan Claims](#)” *Media and Communication*, 10(3). doi:10.17645/mac.v10i3.5388 [Data]
- Stoeckel, F., Carter, C., **Lyons, BA**, & Reifler, J. (2022). “[The Politics of Vaccine Hesitancy in Europe](#).” *European Journal of Public Health*, 32(4): 636–642, doi:10.1093/eurpub/ckac041.
- Stoeckel, F., Stöckli, S., Spälti, A., Phillips, J., **Lyons, BA**, Mérola, V., Reifler, J., Szewach, P. (2022). “[Stamping the vaccine passport? Public support for lifting COVID-19 related restrictions for vaccinated citizens in Germany, France, and Sweden](#).” *Vaccine* 40(38): 5615–5620. doi:10.1016/j.vaccine.2022.08.009. [Data]
- Spälti, A., Stöckli, S., Phillips, J., Stoeckel, F., Reifler, J., **Lyons, B**, Mérola, V., & Szewach, P. (2022). “[Which vaccine attributes foster vaccine uptake? A cross-country conjoint experiment](#).” *PLoS ONE*, 17(5): e0266003. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0266003 [Pre-reg + data]
- 2021 **Lyons, BA**, Montgomery, J., Guess, A., Nyhan, B., & Reifler, J. (2021). “[Overconfidence in News Judgements is Associated with Susceptibility to False News](#).” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118(23). doi:10.1073/pnas.2019527118 [Pre-reg + data]
- Coverage (selected): *The Guardian*. *Snopes*. *CNN*. *The Independent*. *New York Daily News*. *Ars Technica*. *CNN* (2).
- Stoeckel, F., Carter, C., **Lyons, BA**, & Reifler, J. (2021). “[Association of vaccine hesitancy and immunization coverage rates in the European Union](#).” *Vaccine*, 39(29): 3945–3949. doi:10.1016/j.vaccine.2021.05.062
- Stoeckel, F., **Lyons, BA**, & Reifler, J. (2021). “[Public Misperceptions of European Integration in the U.K.](#)” *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*. doi:10.1080/17457289.2021.1945612
- Berlinski, N.,* Doyle, M.,* Guess, A., Levy, G.,* **Lyons, BA**, Montgomery, J., Nyhan, B., & Reifler, J. (2021). “[The Effects of Unsubstantiated Claims of Voter Fraud on Confidence in Elections](#).” *Journal of Experimental Political Science*. doi:10.1017/XPS.2021.18 [*Undergrad] [Pre-reg + data]
- Coverage: *CNN*. *The Atlantic*. *ProPublica*. *The Guardian*.
- Spälti, A., **Lyons, BA**, Mérola, V., Reifler, J., Stedtnitz, C., Stoeckel, F., & Szewach, P. (2021). “[Partisanship and public opinion of COVID-19: Does emphasizing Trump and his administration’s response to the pandemic affect public opinion about the coronavirus?](#)” *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*, 31:sup1, 145–154. doi:10.1080/17457289.2021.1924749. [Pre-reg + data]
- Lyons BA**, Farhart, C., Hall, M., Kotcher, J., Levendusky, M., Miller, J., Nyhan, B., Raimi, K., Reifler, J., Saunders, K., Skytte, R., & Zhao, X. (2021). “[Self-Affirmation and Identity-Driven Political Behavior](#)” *Journal of Experimental Political Science*. 1–15. doi:10.1017/XPS.2020.46 [Data]
- Recipient of the Rebecca Morton Best Article Award for the best article published in *JEPS* in 2022.
- 2020 Guess, A., Lerner, M., **Lyons, BA**, Montgomery, J., Nyhan, B., & Reifler, J., Sircar, N. (2020). “[A digital media literacy intervention increases discernment between mainstream and false news in the United States and India](#)” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(27): 15536–15545. doi:10.1073/pnas.1920498117. [equal co-authors] [Pre-reg+ data]
- Awarded “Honorable Mention” for APSA Political Communication section Walter Lippmann award for “Best article published in the field of political communication in the previous calendar year.”
 - Coverage: *Consumer Reports* (1, 2). *Ars Technica*. *Hindustan Times*. *Nieman Lab*. *Healthline*. *The Conversation*. *Der Spiegel*. *The New York Times*.
- Lyons, BA**, Merola, VM, Reifler, J., & Stoeckel, F. (2020). “[How politics shape views toward fact-checking: Evidence from Six European countries](#).” *International Journal of Press/Politics*, 25(3). doi:10.1177/1940161220921732. [Data]

- Coverage: [Thompson Reuters](#). [The Independent](#). [Nieman Lab](#).
- Lyons, BA**, Merola, V, & Reifler, J. (2020). “[Shifting medical guidelines: Compliance and spillover effects for revised antibiotic recommendations](#).” *Social Science & Medicine*, 255. doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2020.112943. [Pre-reg + data]
- Hasell, A, **Lyons, BA**, Tallapragada, M, & Jamieson, KH. (2020) “[Improving GM consensus acceptance through reduced reactance and climate change-based message targeting](#).” *Environmental Communication*, 4(7): 987–1003. doi:10.1080/17524032.2020.1746377. [Data]
- Guess, A, Lockett, D, **Lyons, BA**, Montgomery, J, Nyhan, B, & Reifler, J. (2020). “[‘Fake news’ may have limited effects beyond increasing beliefs in false claims](#).” *Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review*, 1(1). doi:10.37016/mr-2020-004. [Data]
- Coverage: [The Washington Post](#). [Lawfare](#).
- Lyons, BA**, McKay, A, & Reifler, J. (2020). “[High-status lobbyists are most likely to overrate their success](#).” *Nature Human Behaviour*, 4(2): 153–159. doi:10.1038/s41562-019-0761-9. [Data]
- Coverage: [National Affairs](#).
- Lyons, BA**, Akin, H., & Stroud, T. (2020). “[Proximity \(mis\)perception: Public awareness of nuclear, refinery, and fracking sites](#).” *Risk Analysis*, 40(2): 385–398. doi:10.1111/risa.13387. [Data]
- 2019 **Lyons, BA**. (2019). “[Discussion Network Activation: An Expanded Approach to Selective Exposure](#).” *Media and Communication*, 7(3): 32–41. doi:10.17645/mac.v7i3.2112. [Pre-reg + data]
- Lyons, BA**, Hasell, A, Tallapragada, M., & Jamieson, KH. (2019). “[How Conversion Messages Change Attitudes: Strong Arguments, Not Costly Signals](#).” *Public Understanding of Science* 28(3): 320–338. doi:10.1177/0963662518821017. [Data]
- Coverage: [Scientific American](#). [The Skeptical Inquirer](#). [Wissenschaftskommunikation.de](#). [Genetic Literacy Project](#).
- Lyons, BA**, Merola, V & Reifler, J. (2018). “[Not Just Asking Questions: Effects of Implicit and Explicit Conspiracy Information about Vaccines and Genetic Modification](#).” *Health Communication*, 34(14): 1741–1750. doi: 10.1080/10410236.2018.1530526. [Pre-reg + data]
- Coverage: [Psychology Today](#).
- 2018 **Lyons, BA**. (2018). “[Reducing Group Alignment in Factual Disputes? The Limited Effects of Social Identity Interventions](#).” *Science Communication*, 40(6): 789–807. doi:10.1177/1075547018804826. [Data]
- Lyons, BA**, Hasell, A. & Stroud, T. (2018). “[Enduring Extremes? Polar Vortex, Drought, and Climate Change Beliefs](#).” *Environmental Communication*, 12(7): 876–894. doi:10.1080/17524032.2018.1520735. [Data]
- Coverage: [Reuters](#). [NPR](#). [El País](#) (1, 2). [Pacific Standard](#). [Huffington Post](#).
- Lyons, BA**. (2018). “[When Readers Believe Journalists: Effects of Adjudication in Varied Dispute Contexts](#).” *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, 30(4): 583–606. doi:10.1093/ijpor/edx013
- Coverage: [Wired \[UK\]](#).
- 2017 **Lyons, BA**. (2017). “[From Code to Discourse: Social Media and Linkage Mechanisms in Deliberative Systems](#),” *Journal of Public Deliberation* 13(1): 4. doi:10.16997/jdd.270
- Veenstra, AS, **Lyons, BA**, & Degim, A. (2017) “[Intraparty Hostility: Social Identity, Sub-Identity, and the Hostile Media Effect in a Contested Primary](#),” *Journal of Political Marketing*, 16(3–4): 365–385. doi:10.1080/15377857.2017.1334255
- Reprinted in C. Williams (ed.), *Social Media, Political Marketing & the 2016 U.S. Election*, Routledge, 2018.
- 2016 **Lyons, BA**, & Veenstra, AS. (2016). “[How \(Not\) to Talk on Twitter: Effects of Politicians’ Tweets on Perceptions of the Twitter Environment](#),” *Cyberpsychology, Behavior & Social Networking* 19(1): 8–15. doi:10.1089/cyber.2015.0319
- Coverage: [Washington Post \(Monkey Cage\)](#).
- Veenstra, AS, **Lyons, BA**, & Fowler-Dawson, A. (2016). “[Conservatism vs. Conservationism: Counteractive Influences of Social Affiliation on Beliefs About Fracking](#),” *Environmental Communication*, 10(3): 322–336. doi:10.1080/17524032.2015.1127851.
- 2015 **Lyons, BA**. (2015). “[Is Online Citizen News Really Alternative? A Multiplatform Analysis of BP Oil Spill Coverage](#),” *Web Journal of Mass Communication Research*, 49. <http://wjmc.org/vol49>.
- Veenstra, AS, Park, CS, **Lyons, BA**, Kang, CY, & Iyer, N. (2015). “[Intramedium Interaction and the Third-Person Effect: How Partisans Respond to YouTube Ads and Comments](#),” *CyberPsychology, Behavior & Social Networking*, 18(7): 406–410. doi:10.1089/cyber.2014.0588.
- 2014 **Veenstra, AS**, Hossain, MD, & **Lyons, BA**. (2014). “[Partisan Media and Discussion as Enhancers of the Belief Gap](#),” *Mass Communication & Society*, 17(6): 874–897. doi:10.1080/15205436.2013.855791.
- Coverage: [National Affairs](#).

CHAPTERS, REPORTS, ETC. (6)

- 2020 **Lyons, BA**, Merola, V. & Reifler, J. (2020). “[How bad is the fake news problem? The effect of baseline information in public perceptions](#),” in: Greifeneder, R., Jaffé, M., Newman, E., Schwarz, N. (eds.) *The psychology of fake news: Accepting, sharing, and correcting misinformation*. London, UK: Routledge. doi:10.4324/9780429295379-3.
- Guess, A & **Lyons, BA** (2020). “[Disinformation, Misinformation and Online Propaganda](#),” in: N Persily & J Tucker (eds.), *Social Media and Democracy: The State of the Field*. Cambridge University Press.
- 2019 Guess, A, **Lyons, BA**, Montgomery, J, Nyhan, B, & Reifler, J. (2019). “[Fake news, Facebook ads, and misperceptions: Assessing information quality in the 2018 U.S. midterm election campaign](#).” Democracy Fund report.
- Coverage: *Scientific American*. *The Atlantic*. *Los Angeles Times*. *Facebook*. *Columbia Journalism Review*. *The Verge*. *Washington Post*.
- 2018 Guess, A, **Lyons, BA**, Nyhan, B, & Reifler, J. (2018). “[Avoiding the Echo Chamber about Echo Chambers: Why Selective Exposure to Like-Minded Political News Is Less Prevalent Than You Think](#).” Knight Foundation report.
- Coverage: *The Washington Post*. *Lawfare*. *Nieman Lab* (1, 2). *FiveThirtyEight* (1, 2). *Christian Science Monitor*. *The Conversation*. *The Verge*. *Reason*. *New York Times*.
- Veenstra, AS, **Lyons, BA**, Sapienza, Z, & Kang, CS. (2018). “[Social Identities and the Illinois Pension Problem: Roles of Politics, Geography, and Media](#).” *Illinois Municipal Policy Journal*, 3(1), 97-116.
- 2015 Veenstra, AS, Iyer, N, Xie, W, **Lyons, BA**, Park, CS, & Feng, Y. (2015). “[Come Together, Right Now: Retweeting in the Social Model of Protest Mobilization](#),” in N Rambukkana (ed.), *Hashtag Publics: The Power and Politics of Networked Discourse Communities*. New York: Peter Lang.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Voelkel, JG, Stagnaro, MN, Chu, J [...] **Lyons, BA** [...] Willer, R. “[Megastudy identifying successful interventions to strengthen Americans’ democratic attitudes](#)” (2023). [Pre-reg] Invited to revise and resubmit to *Science*.

- Coverage: *MSNBC*. *Sinclair National Desk*. *C-SPAN*. *Tech Policy Press*. *Fox News*. *NPR*. *Washington Post*. *The Atlantic*. *The Hill*. *Deseret News*. *Washington Post* (2). *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. *The Hill* (2). *New York Times*.

Lyons, BA, & Hasell, A. “[Communicating Republicans’ level of support for climate policy briefly increases personal support in the United States](#).” Revise and resubmit to *Science Communication*.

Altay, S*, **Lyons, BA***, Modirrousta-Galian, A. “[Exposure to Higher Rates of False News Erodes Media Trust and Fuels Skepticism in News Judgment](#)” [equal co-authors] Revise & resubmit to *Mass Communication & Society*

Barnfield, M., Stöckli, S., Spälti, A., Phillips, J., Stoeckel, F., Thompson, J., **Lyons, BA**, Mérola, V., Szewach, P., Reifler, J. “The Limited Effect of Moral Framing on Vaccine Uptake: An Online Experiment in the Context of COVID-19.” Revise and Resubmit to *Collabra: Psychology*.

Barnfield, M., Stoeckel, F., Phillips, J., Stöckli, S., Thompson, J., Mérola, V., Szewach, P., **Lyons, BA**, Reifler, J. “Forecasts Can Both Improve and Harm the Accuracy and Precision of Expectations.” Revise and resubmit to *Public Opinion Quarterly*.

Barnfield, M., Szewach, P., Stöckli, S., Stoeckel, F., Thompson, J., Phillips, J., **Lyons, BA**, Mérola, V., & Reifler, J. “Information on public climate attitudes has lasting effects on second-order beliefs, but limited and ephemeral effects on first-order beliefs.” Under review.

GRANT ACTIVITY

Funded

- 2023 Co-I (w/ A. King & K. Kaphingst). “Identifying and mitigating hereditary cancer risk misinformation in English and Spanish.” University of Utah. Huntsman Cancer Institute, Cancer Center Support Grant, P30CA042014. \$29,750.
- 2022 PI (w/ A. Hasell), “Can Increasing Perceptions of Public Support for Climate Policy Have Lasting Effects on Personal Support?” Annenberg Public Policy Center Alumni Grant. \$10,000.
- 2022 Co-I (PI: L. Fazio) “[Large collaborative project to compare misinformation interventions](#).” The Mercury Project. \$477,916.
- Co-I. (PI: F. Stoeckel) “[Distrust, Conspiracies, and the Political Challenges of Coping with COVID-19](#).” British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant. £9,995.
- 2021 PI, “How Voters React to Implicit and Explicit Conspiracy Cues.” U of Utah College of Humanities Seed Grant. \$23,500.
- 2018 Co-PI (w/ A. Guess, J. Montgomery, B. Nyhan and J. Reifler) Democracy Fund. Support to YouGov for [midterm election research on Facebook ads and fake news](#). \$82,070.
- 2016 Co-I (PI: J. Reifler) ERC Consolidator Grant: “[Debunker: The Problem of European Misperceptions in Politics, Health, and Science: Causes, Consequences, and the Search for Solutions](#).” approx \$2,189,616/£1,498,917.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2017 *Social Media: Principles and Applications*, by Pavica Sheldon. [Reviewed](#) in *New Media & Society*, 19(5): 799-800.
- 2014 *Social Media in Disaster Response: How Experience Architects Can Build for Participation*, by Liza Potts. [Reviewed](#) in *New Media & Society*, 16(7): 1191-1193.

COMMENTARY (SELECTED)

- 2020 “We need universal digital ad transparency now.” (2020, Oct. 16) *TechCrunch*.
- 2018 “Avoiding the Echo Chamber about Echo Chambers.” (2018, Feb. 13) *Medium*.
- “Why People Believe in Conspiracy Theories.” (2018, Feb. 13) *Economic and Social Research Council*.
- 2015 “Using a Rumor Site to Investigate Scientific Fraud.” (2015, June 22). *Poynter*.
- “Human Nature and Science Journalism” (2015). *Gateway Journalism Review* 45 (338): 10-11
- “Facebook v. Science?” (2015). *GJR* 44 (337): 14
- “Ebola Reminds Us Perception Is Reality.” (2015). *GJR* 44 (336): 12-13
- 2014 “Should Journalists Be Responsible for Reporting Bad Science?” (2014) *GJR* 44 (335): 12-13.
- GJR author archive: <http://gatewayjr.org/author/benlyons/>

INVITED TALKS

- 2022 Annenberg Public Policy Center Speaker Series.
Edna Anderson-Taylor Communication Institute.
- 2019 Association for Psychological Science. Invited symposium.
- 2018 U. of Illinois at Springfield.
Oxford Martin School at the U. of Oxford.
- 2017 London School of Economics.
- 2016 Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at U. of Canberra.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- ICA: 2013 (2), 2014 (3), 2017 (2), 2018, 2019, 2020(3), 2021, 2022, 2023
- MAPOR: 2011, 2013 (2), 2014 (2), 2015, 2018 (2), 2019
- MPSA: 2016 (2), 2018 (2), 2019, 2020
- AEJMC: 2014 (2), 2015, 2016
- APSA: 2016, 2018 (2), 2019
- AAPOR: 2012, 2016 (3)
- SPSP: 2020, 2024
- APS: 2019
- AAAS: 2018
- APLS: 2015
- APHA: 2014

Awards

TOP PAPER AWARDS AND OTHER RESEARCH PRIZES

- 2023 Rebecca Morton Best Article Award. *Best article published in Journal of Experimental Political Science*. (Lead author)
- 2022 Strengthening Democracy Challenge ([one of three interventions that significantly reduced anti-democratic attitudes, support for political violence, and partisan animosity](#)) \$6,153 award (Sole author)
- 2021 Honorable Mention, APSA Political Communication Section Walter Lippmann Best Published Article Award. (Co-lead)
- 2018 Center for Open Science. [Preregistration Challenge Prize](#), \$1,000 (Lead author)
- 2017 ICA. Top Paper. Intergroup Communication Interest Group. (Sole author)
- 2014 ICA. Top 4 Student Paper. Philosophy, Theory & Critique Division. (Sole author)
- 2014 NCA. Top Paper. Spiritual Communication Division. (Lead author)

FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

- 2023 Distinguished Junior Scholar Award. APSA Political Psychology Section
- 2021 Rising Star in the Humanities. University of Utah
- 2015-16 Doctoral Fellowship. Southern Illinois University
- 2011-13 PROMPT Fellowship. *Awarded to students from families that have traditionally not had access to higher education with unique contributions to make to the discipline.*
- 2007 Illinois College Rammelkamp Scholar Award. *School's highest academic honor.*

Teaching

COURSES TAUGHT

Utah	<p>Persuasion & Political Communication, COMM 5200.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• S2021. F2021. S2023. ~ 30-35 students <p>Strategic Comm Theory & Practice, COMM 2580.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• F2019, S2020, S2024. ~ 100-150 students <p>Designing Experiments in Science Communication, COMM 5820 (Capstone).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• S2022. ~ 15 students <p>PR Cases & Campaigns, COMM 5850 (Capstone).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• S2020. F2020. S2021. F2021. S2023. ~ 30-35 students <p>Science & Risk Communication, COMM 7260 (Graduate).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• F2020. ~ 10 students <p>Media Effects, COMM 7560 (Graduate).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• F2023. ~ 5-10 students <p>Quant. Methods Special Topics: Research Design, COMM 7800 (Graduate).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• S2022. ~ 5-10 students
Exeter	<p>Digital Media and Politics, POL2087.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• S2019. ~ 20 students <p>American Politics, POL2047.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• S2018. ~ 190 students

ASSISTANTSHIPS

SIU	<p>Writing for the Media, JRNL 201: F2014</p> <p>Sports, Media, & Society, RTD 321: S2013, F2013</p>
-----	--

ADVISING

Henry Allen - MA committee member (2022-23)
Laurie Simmons - MA committee member (PMST, 2021-22)
Sam O'Neill - UG dissertation chair (University of Exeter 2017-18)

Relevant experience

2014-15	Managing Editor, <i>Gateway Journalism Review</i>
2010-11	Reporter; Staff Writer, <i>The Jacksonville Source</i>

Service & public engagement

UNIVERSITY SERVICE (UTAH)

2019-2022	Student Media Council
-----------	-----------------------

DEPARTMENTAL AND COLLEGE SERVICE (COMM/HUMANITIES AT UTAH)

2023-24	Humanities Scholars Faculty Mentor
2023-24	Search committee, assistant professor of emerging media and technology
2022-24	Graduate committee
2021-22	Search committee, assistant professor of science communication
2020-22	College executive committee
2019-21	Undergraduate committee

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AAAS, AEJMC, APLS, APSA, ICA, MAPOR, MPSA, SPSP.

REVIEWING | [PUBLONS PEER REVIEW PROFILE](#) | 138 REVIEWS OF 104 MANUSCRIPTS

Editorial boards: *The Social Science Journal* (2018-). *International Communication Research Journal* (2019-)

Ad hoc reviewing:

- Science
- Nature Human Behaviour, 4
- Nature Communications, 4
- Nature Climate Change, 2
- Science Advances, 2
- American Political Science Review, 2
- Public Opinion Quarterly, 3
- Journal of Communication, 5
- Political Communication, 2
- Communication Research
- Human Communication Research
- International Journal of Press/Politics, 4
- Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly
- Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media
- International Journal of Communication, 2
- International Journal of Public Opinion Research, 4
- Climatic Change, 3
- Public Understanding of Science, 8
- Psychological Science, 1
- Health Communication, 9
- Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review, 7
- Journal of Experimental Political Science, 2
- Journal of Experimental Social Psychology
- Electoral Studies
- Research & Politics, 2
- Communication Monographs
- Communication Methods & Measures, 4
- Psychological Science
- American Politics Research
- Media Psychology, 2
- Mass Communication & Society, 7
- Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law
- Journalism, 3
- Digital Journalism
- Southern Communication Journal
- Motivation & Emotion
- Information Technology & Politics, 2
- Political Studies, 2
- Political Research Quarterly, 2
- CyberPsychology, Behavior & Social Networking, 4
- Environmental Sociology, 2
- Body & Society, 2
- Applied Environmental Education & Communication
- International Journal of Electronic Governance, 2
- Journal of Science Communication, 2
- Behavioural Public Policy, 2
- Behavior Research Methods, 2
- Policy & Internet
- Frontiers in Political Science
- PLOS One, 3
- PNAS Nexus, 5
- Cambridge Elements (Political Communication series)

Grant reviewing: Austrian Science Fund (FWF): Hertha Firnberg-Programme.
 Publons top reviewers in Social Science [2019] ([Top 1% in field](#))

MEDIA APPEARANCES | [ALTMETRIC](#) | [POLICY CITATIONS](#)

Research coverage/citation

Newsweek. 9/21/2023. [To Address Online Misogyny, Borrow from the Disinformation Defense Playbook.](#)
 Times-News. 7/22/2023. [We won't always agree — and that's OK — but we can disagree better.](#)
 PBS. 5/31/2023. [NewsHour 5/31 episode.](#)
 Reason. 5/18/2023. [“The Future of Media Literacy Education.”](#)
 Psychology Today. 4/19/2023. [“Strengthening Democracy, One Experiment at a Time.](#)
 Nature. 3/1/2023. [“How to tackle political polarization — the researchers trying to bridge divides.”](#)
 Psychology Today. 2/17/2023. [“How to Get People to Be More Civil.”](#)
 The New York Times. 2/8/2023. [“Meet the People Working on Getting Us to Hate Each Other Less.”](#)
 Forbes. 1/12/2023. [“Media Trends: Why Misinformation Is Here To Stay.”](#)
 The Hill. 11/4/2022. [“Democracy under attack: Time to condemn political violence.”](#)
 St. Louis Post Dispatch. 11/4/2022. [“Short takes on unfocused politicians, off-focus protests and unlawful law enforcers.](#)
 Washington Post. 11/1/2022. [“How can the U.S. help prevent more political violence?”](#)
 CNN. 10/31/2022. [“Misinformation and hate are trending in this election year.”](#)
 Deseret News. 10/27/2022. [“Perspective: How a bipartisan ad from Utah helped reduce partisanship.”](#)
 The Hill. 10/23/2022. [“Utah opponents made a campaign ad together. Here's what it achieved.”](#)
 The Atlantic. 10/21/2022. [“How to Save Democracy.”](#)
 Washington Post. 9/13/2022. [“Here's what persuades Americans to support democracy over party.”](#)
 NPR. 9/6/2022. [“Stanford's 'Strengthening Democracy' study.”](#)
 Thompson Reuters. 9/5/2022/ [“Prebunking: how to build resilience against online misinformation.”](#)
 Fox News 9/4/2022. [“The Next Revolution with Steve Hilton, September 4th episode.”](#)
 The Independent. 8/28/2022. [“How scientists used YouTube to prevent millions of people falling for misinformation.”](#)
 Nieman Lab. 8/25/2022. [“Can you inoculate people against misinformation before they even see it? This study says yes.”](#)
 C-SPAN [Washington Journal]. 8/25/2022. [“New study on reducing polarization in the U.S.”](#)
 Tech Policy Press. 8/24/2022. [“Challenge Yields Experimental Interventions to Strengthen U.S. Democracy.”](#)

Sinclair National Desk. 8/22/2022. "Researchers try to find ways to turn down America's political temperature."

MSNBC [Morning Joe]. 8/19/2022. "Study looks to strengthen how we feel about democracy"

LSE USAPP. 7/15/2022. "Misperceptions are much harder to correct in people who know less than they think they do [...]"

CNN. 10/7/2021. "What's stunning about the misinformation trend – and how to fix it."

The Guardian. 7/2/2021. "Researchers reveal corrosive power of Trump's lie of a stolen election."

Ars Technica. 6/2/2021. "Dunning-Kruger meets fake news"

The Independent. 6/1/2021. "Three in four Americans overestimate their ability to spot false news stories, study finds."

New York Daily News. 6/1/2021. "Americans most confident in spotting 'Fake News' may be the most vulnerable to it."

The Guardian. 5/31/2021. "Overconfident of spotting fake news? If so, you may be more likely to fall victim."

Snoopes. 5/31/2021. "Those Who Think They Can Spot Misinformation Are More Likely to be Duped by It, Study Finds."

CNN. 5/31/2021. "Most Americans think they can spot fake news. They can't, study finds."

Scientific American. 4/1/2021. "How to Debunk Misinformation about COVID, Vaccines and Masks."

The Conversation. 3/18/2021. "7 ways to avoid becoming a misinformation superspreader."

→ [Republished in Salon, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Arizona Daily Star, Seattle Post-Intelligencer etc.]

CQ Researcher [Congressional Quarterly]. 3/5/2021. "Expertise Under Assault."

The Washington Post. 11/6/2020. "Five myths about misinformation."

The New York Times. 9/11/2020. "Getting Wise to Fake News."

Der Spiegel 9/2/2020. "A dialogue is becoming increasingly difficult or even impossible."

ProPublica. 7/16/2020. "'Outright Lies': Voting Misinformation Flourishes on Facebook"

LSE US Centre. 7/13/2020. "Using digital media reinforces inequalities in political participation."

The Conversation. 7/8/2020. "Coronavirus anti-vaxxers: here's how to change their minds."

Healthline 6/28/2020. "Learn to Spot Fake Health News with These 5 Tips."

Nieman Lab. 6/26/2020. "The little things (pop-ups, notifications, warnings) work to fight fake news, new evidence shows."

Consumer Reports 6/26/2020. "Facebook Will Warn Users Sharing Outdated Content."

Hindustan Times. 6/24/2020. "Here's why it's important to be digitally literate and avoid spread of misinformation."

Ars Technica. 6/23/2020. "In the UK, social media use associated with COVID-19 conspiracy theories."

Consumer Reports 6/22/2020. "Facebook Gave Tips to Spot Fake News. A Study Says They Work Surprisingly Well."

The Atlantic 6/19/2020. "The Damage of Trump's Voter-Fraud Allegations Can't Be Undone."

Lawfare 2/20/2020. "The Empirical Effects of Disinformation."

Nieman Lab 10/11/2019. "Focus here, not there: These are the gaps in political misinformation research."

FiveThirtyEight. 10/8/2019. "Media Bubbles Aren't The Biggest Reason We're Partisans."

Reuters. 7/25/2019. "U.S. Democrats and Republicans can't even agree on the weather: Reuters/Ipsos"

NPR. 6/8/2019. "We All Owe Al Gore An Apology': More People See Climate Change In Record Flooding."

The Atlantic. 6/7/2019. "Some Real News About Fake News"

The Skeptical Inquirer. May/June 2019. "Skepticism And The Persuasive Power Of Conversion Stories"

LSE European Politics & Policy. 5/17/2019. "What do Europeans know about the EU before they go to the polls?"

Christian Science Monitor. 4/16/2019. "Is America's media divide destroying democracy?."

Los Angeles Times. 3/19/2019. "Some real facts about fake news and its influence on U.S. elections"

Medium. 3/7/2019. "We can't combat fake news if we don't really understand it"

Psychology Today. 2/8/2019. "Antivaxxers and the Plague of Science Denial"

Facebook Newsroom. 2/7/2019 "New Research Shows Facebook Making Strides Against False News"

Columbia Journalism Review. 2/7/2019. "Researchers say fears about 'fake news' are exaggerated"

El País. 2/3/2019. "Bienvenidos a la era de los extremos climáticos."

El País. 1/30/2019. "Estados Unidos se hiela mientras Australia se quema."

Wissenschaftskommunikation.de. 1/21/2019. "Kontraverse Themen: Gesinnungswechsel regen zum Nachdenken an"

Genetic Literacy Project. 1/18/2019. "Ex-GMO skeptics may be best advocates for crop biotech."

Huffington Post. 10/8/2018. "Americans hit by extreme weather want the media to cover climate change."

Pacific Standard. 10/2/2018. "Extreme weather won't convince climate skeptics."

The Conversation. 8/31/2018. "Google News serves conservatives and liberals similar results, but favors mainstream media."

Neiman Lab. 6/8/2018. "How can we restore trust in news?"

The Verge. 3/22/2018. "If Facebook controls your mind, so do a lot of other tech companies."

FiveThirtyEight. 3/9/2018. "Why do Americans hate the media?"

Axios. 2/22/2018. "The science of conspiracies: Where Flat Earth meets Pizzagate."

Reason. 2/14/2018. "When an echo chamber gets worked up about echo chambers."

New York Times. 10/20/2017. "How fiction becomes fact on social media."

Wired [UK]. 9/14/2017. "Journalists can help readers sift facts from false opinions."

Washington Post (Monkey Cage). 11/4/2016. "Twitter trolls are actually hurting democracy"

Research roundups

National Affairs. 4/3/2020. "Misrepresentative."

The Verge 2/6/2019. "Facebook's global crackdown on information operations is getting more intense."

Washington Post. 2/6/2019. "Happy hour roundup."

American Press Institute. 6/23/2015. "Need to know."

National Affairs. 7/28/2014. "Drinking the Kool-Aid."

Bookforum. 4/1/2014. "A genius awareness."

Interviews

Wired. 10/6/2017. "That flag-burning NFL photo isn't fake news. It's a meme."

Los Angeles Times. 1/27/2017. "One man's assault is another man's meme"

El País. 11/7/2016. "Los 'memes' mantienen vivos los carteles electorales."

Los Angeles Times. 10/20/2016. [“From Clinton’s shimmy to Pepe the frog: Memes are the language of the 2016 election.”](#)