

# AUDREY HALVERSEN

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## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. 2021- Communication & Media**

**2026** University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

*Advisor:* Dr. Brian Weeks

*Dissertation:* The (Functional) Echo Chamber Does Exist: How the Social Dynamics of Online Political Communication Can Polarize Users

**M.A. 2021 Mass Communication**

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

*Thesis:* Linking Exposure to Political Content on Social Media with Political Polarization: The Mediating Role of Anger

**B.S. 2018 Social Science Education**

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

*Minor:* Spanish

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (13)

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Rasul, M. E., **Halversen, A.**, & Smith, J. (2025). "When you're a star, they let you do it": Trump, Twitter, and Moral Disengagement. *Communication and the Public*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20570473251314521>

Hasell, A., & **Halversen, A.** (2024). Feeling Misinformed? The role of perceived difficulty in evaluating information online in news avoidance and news fatigue. *Journalism Studies*, 25(12), 1441-1459. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2024.2345676>

Hasell, A., **Halversen, A.**, & Weeks, B. E. (2024). When social media attack: How exposure to political attacks on social media promotes anger and political cynicism. *The International Journal of Press/Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19401612231221806>

Weeks, B. E., **Halversen, A.**, & Neubaum, G. (2024). Too scared to share? Fear of social sanctions for political expression on social media. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 29(1). <https://doi.org/10.1093/jcmc/zmad041>

Johnson, J., Callahan, C., Alfaro, A., & **Halversen, A.** (2024). Moving away from the margins: The Peruvian indigenous response to social media. *Journal of Social Media in Society*, 13(1). <https://www.thejsms.org/index.php/JSMS/article/view/1045>

- King, J., **Halversen, A.**, Silva, L., Church, S. H., & Brubaker, P. (2024). Rejecting others on dating apps: Feeling empowered on Bumble. *Journal of Communication Technology*.
- Halversen, A.**, & Weeks, B. E. (2023). Memeing politics: Understanding political meme creators, audiences, and consequences on social media. *Social Media + Society*, 9(4). <https://doi.org/10.1177/20563051231205588>
- King, J., **Halversen, A.**, Morrow, O., Westhoff, W., & Brubaker, P. (2023). Communicating about mental health during a pandemic: An examination of active and aware publics on Twitter. *International Journal of Communication*, 17, 631–648. <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/17593>
- King, J., **Halversen, A.**, Rogers, A., & Morrow, O. (2022). Mental health communication in immigrant families: The positive influence of social media contact. *Health & New Media Research*, 6(2), 162-188. <https://doi.org/10.22720/hnmr.2022.6.2.162>
- Church, S. H., **Halversen, A.**, & Yergensen, B. (2022). Music technologies and AirPods: Considering Theodor Adorno as media ecologist. *Explorations in Media Ecology*, 21(2-3), 251-269. [https://doi.org/10.1386/eme\\_00132\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1386/eme_00132_1)
- Callahan, C., Church, S. H., & **Halversen, A.** (2022). Too young to die: Narratives of nineteenth century American murder ballads. *Journal of American Culture*, 45(1), 51-62. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jacc.13313>
- Halversen, A.**, King, J., & Silva, L. (2021). Reciprocal self-disclosure and rejection strategies on Bumble. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 39(5), 1324-1343. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075211055759>
- Callahan, C., King, J., & **Halversen, A.** (2020). Blogadapting: Adaptation experiences among expatriate bloggers. *Journal of Intercultural Communication Research*, 49(3), 227–241. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17475759.2020.1765840>

### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW (3)

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- Dreston, J., **Halversen, A.**, & Weeks, B. E. (Revised and resubmitted at *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*). Is it what you know or what you think you know? Understanding the roles of objective and subjective political knowledge in political discussion.
- Church, S. H., Bagley, S., King, J., Burroughs, B., & **Halversen, A.** (Revise and resubmit at *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*). When push feels like pull: Early adolescent dependence on YouTube recommendation algorithms.

**Halversen, A.,** Boyle, K., & Weeks, B.E. (Under review at *Political Communication*). How different political messaging strategies on social media affect interpersonal relationships and offline discussion.

## **RESEARCH CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (17)**

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**Halversen, A.,** & Weeks, B. E. (2025, September). *How delivering news through TikTok affects perceptions of journalists' credibility: Evidence from two experiments*. Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Vancouver, Canada.

Dreston, J., **Halversen, A.,** & Weeks, B. E. (2025, June). *Is it what you know or what you think you know? Understanding the roles of objective and subjective political knowledge in political discussion*. Paper presented at the International Communication Association Convention. Denver, CO.

**Halversen, A.,** & Weeks, B. E. (2025, June). *Delivering the news through TikTok? How TikTok news affects perceptions of journalists and news learning*. Paper presented at the International Communication Association Media, Trust, and Technology Pre-conference. Boulder, CO.

**Halversen, A.** (2024, November). *How women experience online political discourse: Effects on relationships and emotional well-being*. Paper presented at the National Women's Studies Annual Conference. Detroit, MI.

**Halversen, A.,** & Weeks, B. E. (2024, September). *It's not just what you say but how you say it: How different strategies of online political expression promote or hinder discussion and friendships*. Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Political Communication Pre-conference. Philadelphia, PA.

Dreston, J., **Halversen, A.,** & Weeks, B.E. (2024, September). *Is it what you know or what you think you know? Understanding the roles of objective and subjective political knowledge in political discussion*. Paper presented at the European Communication Research and Education Association Conference. Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Hasell, A., & **Halversen, A.** (2023, May). *Feeling disinformed? The role of disinformation perceptions in news avoidance and news fatigue*. Paper presented at the International Communication Association Convention. Toronto, Canada.

**Halversen, A.,** & Weeks, B. E. (2023, May). *Exploring the circulators and audiences of political memes in the United States*. Paper presented at the International Communication Association Convention. Toronto, Canada.

**Halversen, A.,** Boyle, K., Noorda, C., Kramer, I., & Harmuth, L. (2023, May). *The emotional, attitudinal, and relational impacts of exposure to others' political posts on social media: An interview study*. Paper presented at the International Communication Association Political Communication PhD Student Preconference. Toronto, Canada.

King, J., **Halversen, A.,** Richards, O., John, K., & Strong, B. (2022, May). *Anxiety and physiological responses to virtual reality meditation in racial and ethnic minorities*. Paper presented at the International Communication Association Convention. Paris, France.

**Halversen, A.** (2021, November). *Linking exposure to political content on social media with political polarization: The indirect effect of anger*. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Convention. Seattle, WA.

**Halversen, A.,** John, K., & Boyle, K. (2021, August). *Battle Royale and addictive gaming: The indirect effect of player motivations*. Paper presented online at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Convention.

- Awarded “top faculty paper” in the AEJMC Entertainment Studies Interest Group

Callahan, C., Johnson, J., **Halversen, A.,** Kramer, I. (2021, March). *Redneck Revival: Tönnies, Culture, and the Emergence of the Rural Voice in New Media Communities*. Paper presented at the 2021 World Communication Association virtual conference.

King, J., **Halversen, A.,** Morrow, O., Westhoff, W., & Brubaker, P. (2021, March). *Communicating about mental health during a pandemic: An examination of social support on Twitter*. Paper accepted for presentation at the International Public Relations Research Conference. Orlando, FL.

- Awarded the “Boston University Award for the Top Paper about Public Relations and Social and Emerging Media”

**Halversen, A.,** King, J., Silva, L., Church, S. H., & Brubaker, P. (2020, November). *Rejecting others on dating apps: Feeling empowered on Bumble*. Paper presented online at the National Communication Association Virtual Convention.

Mariner, T., Fitzner, A., **Halversen, A.,** Gibb, J., Shreeve, M., Romney, M., John, K., & Johnson, R. (2020, August). *A (meta) picture is worth a thousand 'clicks': A biometric analysis of images on Instagram*. Paper presented online at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Convention. San Francisco, CA.

- Awarded “top paper” in the AEJMC Visual Communications Division

**Halversen, A.** (2020, June). *Mormons, minorities, and media: How progressive Latter-day Saints use Twitter to advocate and connect*. Paper presented online at the Media Ecology Association Convention. New York, NY.

## GRANTS

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### **2025: Communication and Media Chair's Graduate Student Research Award (\$3,000)**

Project: Audrey Halversen and Brian E. Weeks, "Assessing Political and News Information Sharing on TikTok"

### **2025: The Democracy & Civic Empowerment Initiative Grant (\$5,000)**

Project: Audrey Halversen and Brian E. Weeks, "Does Exposure to Opinionated Political Media 'Backfire'? Re-examining the Backfire Effect in the Context of Online Political Influencer Content"

### **2024: DEI Graduate Student Research Award (\$3,000)**

Project: Audrey Halversen and Kristen Leer, "Exposure to Traumatic Online Media from the Israel-Hamas War in Gaza"

### **2023: Winthrop B. Chamberlain Scholarship for Graduate Student Research (\$1,500)**

Project: Audrey Halversen, "An Interpersonal Perspective on the Spiral of Silence: Do Online Political Posts Silence Offline Dialogues?"

### **2021: Ashton Research Grant (\$3,000)**

Project: Audrey Halversen and Kristoffer Boyle, "Political Communication Between Friends and Relatives on Social Media"

## AWARDS

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### **2025: The Susan Lipschutz, Margaret Ayers Host, and Anna Olcott Smith Award for Women Graduate Students (\$8,500)**

- Annually awarded to six women graduate students (across all departments) at the University of Michigan who demonstrate exceptional scholarly achievement, a sense of social responsibility, and an interest in the success of women in the academic community

### **2021: Top Faculty Paper; AEJMC Entertainment Studies Interest Group**

- Halversen, A., John, K., & Boyle, K. *Battle Royale and addictive gaming: The indirect effect of player motivations*.

**2021: Boston University Award for the Top Paper about Public Relations and Social and Emerging Media**

- King, J., Halversen, A., Morrow, O., Westhoff, W., & Brubaker, P. *Communicating about mental health during a pandemic: An examination of social support on Twitter.*

**2020: Top Paper; AEJMC Visual Communications Division**

- Mariner, T., Fitzner, A., Halversen, A., Gibb, J., Shreeve, M., Romney, M., John, K., & Johnson, R. (2020, August). *A (meta) picture is worth a thousand 'clicks': A biometric analysis of images on Instagram.*

**TEACHING POSITIONS**

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**Instructor of Record**

**2024**

*University of Michigan*

- COMM 261: Views on the News  
*Summer 2024, 23 students*

**Instructor of Record**

**2020 - 2021**

*Brigham Young University*

- COMM 238: Introduction to Communications Studies  
*Winter 2021, 24 students*
- COMM 301: The History and Philosophy of Mass Media  
*Fall 2020, 44 students*

**Graduate Student Instructor**

**2022 - 2025**

(Solo-taught weekly sections)

*University of Michigan*

- COMM 102: Media Processes and Effects  
*Winter 2025, 75 students*
- COMM 370: Social Networks  
*Fall 2024, 50 students*
- COMM 230: Advertising  
*Winter 2024, 75 students*
- COMM 102: Media Processes and Effects

*Fall 2023, 75 students*

\*Lead Graduate Student Instructor

- COMM 102: Media Processes and Effects  
*Winter 2023; 75 students*
- COMM 261: Views on the News  
*Fall 2022, 75 students*

## **ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Department Graduate Student Teaching Mentor** **Fall 2025**

- Mentored University of Michigan graduate students during their first semester serving as graduate student instructors; assisted in lesson planning and teaching for COMM 993, the department's intro to teaching course

### **High School Social Studies Teacher** **2018 - 2019**

- Taught high school courses in Psychology, U.S. History, and World History at Riverton High School in Jordan School District (Utah)

### **Junior High Student Teacher** **Winter 2018**

- Taught junior high courses in U.S. History and Geography at Payson Junior High in Nebo School District (Utah)

### **Social Science Writing Advisor** **2016 - 2017**

- Through the Brigham Young University Social Science Writing Lab, met one-on-one with students from various social science departments and helped them to develop and improve their academic papers; tutored students in APA style

### **Writing Tutor** **2016-2017**

- Through the Brigham Young University Writing Fellows program, consistently met with specific students to help them improve their academic writing skills

## **TEACHING CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (1)**

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**Halversen, A., Hegland, A., & Hart, S. (2024, May).** *What to know before you flip: Factors that shape the success of a flipped classroom.* Presentation given at the University of Michigan Enriching Scholarship Conference. Ann Arbor, MI.

## DEPARTMENT SERVICE

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*University of Michigan*

### Politics and Communication Lab

- Graduate Student Coordinator, *Winter 2024 – Winter 2025*
  - Mentored a group of 4-5 undergraduate researchers through weekly research meetings; helped them to design and execute two online experiments and present their work

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

- Graduate Committee Member, *Fall 2023 – Winter 2024*
  - Surveyed department members and contributed to creating department DEI goals; developed and co-led focus groups with undergraduate students to assess student needs; helped to design strategies for improving the accessibility and learning outcomes of undergraduate courses

### Graduate Committee

- Treasurer, *Fall 2023*
- Graduate Student Representative, *Winter 2024 – Fall 2024*
  - Orchestrated social events for graduate students, staff, and faculty; spearheaded and coordinated department improvement efforts (e.g., installing a bulletin board for displaying recent publications); acted as a communication liaison between graduate students and department leadership

### Political Communication Working Group

- Graduate Student Co-coordinator, *Fall 2022 – Winter 2024*
  - Assisted in planning bi-weekly meetings, scheduling weekly presenters, managing documentation, and coordinating visiting speaker talks

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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### Manuscript Proofreader

**2023**

*Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*

- Lightly edited accepted manuscripts for grammar, clarity, and APA style prior to online publishing

### Ad-hoc Reviewer:

*Computers in Human Behavior*

*Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace*

*Digital Journalism*

*Information, Communication, & Society*



*In-Mind*  
*International Communication Association Annual Conference*  
*Popular Communication*

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

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### **Oxford Media Policy Summer Institute**

*Oxford University, Summer 2024*

### **Summer School of the ECPR Standing Group on Political Communication**

*University of Amsterdam, Summer 2023*

### **Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research**

*University of Michigan, Summer 2022*

- Completed courses including Regression II, Structural Equation Modeling, and Panel Data Analysis

## **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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### **Executive Assistant and Marketing Specialist**

**2019 – 2020**

*Autism Solutions*

- Performed office management duties (scheduling, planning events)
- Led company marketing efforts; coordinated development of printed marketing materials; developed marketing materials for social platforms; launched a targeted direct mail ad campaign

### **Content Marketing Specialist**

**2020**

*ObservePoint*

- Wrote numerous e-books and blog posts marketing ObservePoint's software; performed copywriting for web content, video ads, and marketing emails; developed market research surveys