AUDREY HALVERSEN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. — **Communication & Media**
Spring 2027 (Expected) — University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Advisor: Dr. Brian Weeks
Dissertation: The (functional) echo chamber does exist: Online social learning and the formation of polarized political norms

M.A. — **Mass Communication**
2021 — Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah
Advisor: Dr. Jason Freeman
Thesis: Linking exposure to political content on social media with political polarization: The mediating role of anger

B.S. — **Social Science Education**
2018 — Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah
Minor: Spanish

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (17)

Halversen, A., & Weeks, B. E. (Forthcoming at *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*). Delivering the news through TikTok? How TikTok news affects perceptions of journalists and news learning.

Church, S. H., Bagley, S., King, J., Burroughs, B., & **Halversen, A.** (2026). When push feels like pull: Early adolescent dependence on YouTube recommendation algorithms. *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media, 70*(2), 280-295. https://doi.org/10.1080/08838151.2026.2637780

Dreston, J., **Halversen, A.,** & Weeks, B. E. (2025). Is it what you know or what you think you know? Understanding the roles of objective and subjective political knowledge in political discussion. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research, 37*(4), edaf056. https://doi.org/10.1093/ijpor/edaf056

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

King, J., **Halversen, A.,** Richards, O., John, K., & Strong, B. (2024). Anxiety and physiological responses to virtual reality and audio meditation in racial and ethnic minorities. *Journal of Technology in Behavior Science, 9*(2), 275-283. https://doi.org/10.1007/s41347-023-00330-5

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, 6*(2), 73-93. https://doi.org/10.51548/joctec.6.2.2024.04

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

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 (2)

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

Leer, K., & **Halversen, A.** (Revise & Resubmit at *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*). Traumatic media effects of social media exposure to the war in Gaza.

RESEARCH CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (17)

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

2026: Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant ($3,000)
Project: Audrey Halversen, "How In-group Cues Shape Reactions to Political Content on TikTok"

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 AND FELLOWSHIPS

2026: The Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship

- A one-year fellowship covering tuition and stipend awarded to a small selection of University of Michigan Ph.D. candidates. Selection is based on results of early scholarship, excellence in teaching, and the creativity and impact of candidates' dissertation projects.

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

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 (Solo-taught weekly sections) **2022 - 2025**
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

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

Curriculum Development Assistant **2023-2024**

- Worked with the University of Michigan's Foundational Course Initiative and the course instructor for Media Processes and Effects for three semesters to redesign this introductory communication course; created new assignments, activities, lectures, and assessments

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)

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

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

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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

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; created and fielded targeted social media ads; 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; wrote press releases; worked with other teams (sales, product) to develop market research surveys

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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:
Behavior & Information Technology
Computers in Human Behavior
Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace
Digital Journalism
Human Communication Research
Humanities and Social Sciences Communications
Information, Communication, & Society
In-Mind
International Communication Association Annual Conference
International Journal of Communication
International Journal of Public Opinion Research
Journalism Practice
Journalism Studies
Popular Communication
Social Media + Society