

AUDREY HALVERSEN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.

(Spring 2026
Expected)

Communication & Media

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.

2021

Mass Communication

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.

2018

Social Science Education

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Minor: Spanish

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (15)

Dreston, J., **Halversen, A.**, & Weeks, B. E. (Accepted/Forthcoming). 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*.

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)

Church, S. H., Bagley, S., King, J., Burroughs, B., & **Halversen, A.** (Revised and Resubmitted 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 *Communication Monographs*). How different political messaging strategies on social media affect interpersonal relationships and offline discussion.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREP (1)

Halversen, A., & Weeks, B.E. (Expected Submission: November 2025). Delivering the news through TikTok? How TikTok news affects perceptions of journalists and news learning.

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

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

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

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

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:

Computers in Human Behavior

Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace

Digital Journalism

Information, Communication, & Society

In-Mind

International Communication Association Annual Conference

Journalism Studies

Popular Communication

Social Media + Society

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