

JAMES ALEXANDER BONUS

Curriculum Vitae

School of Communication, The Ohio State University
3045C Derby Hall, Columbus, OH, 43210 • (717) 222-1638 • bonus.1@osu.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2017 - Present Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University
School of Communication

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Communication Science, August 2017
University of Wisconsin - Madison

M.A. Communication Science, May 2014
University of Wisconsin – Madison

B.A. Sociology and Journalism, May 2012
Flagler College

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on **childhood media experiences**, divided into two prongs:

- 1) My research with young children focuses on the cognitive obstacles (e.g., developing story schema, inaccurate reality judgments) that impede their learning from socioemotional and science-themed media.
- 2) My research with adults focuses on the effects of exposure to nostalgic media (i.e., content that induces reflection on one's childhood). I am particularly interested in how this content triggers temporal comparisons between the past and present self, and the implications of these comparisons for psychological well-being.

RESEARCH FUNDING

2018 **School of Communication RFP Seed Grant**, *Communicating Gender Through Depictions of Careers in Children's Media* (\$49,943), joint award with Teresa Lynch, Amy Nathanson, and Susan Kline

2015 **Early Career Fellowship**, Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media (\$10,000), joint award with fellow graduate student, Alanna Peebles

RESEARCH AWARDS

2015 **Top 4 Paper** on the "Lifespan Communication" theme, 65th International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, with M. L. Mares, and A. Bartsch.

Top Poster Award, Children, Adolescents, & Media Division, 65th International Communication Association Conference (ICA) Conference, with M. L. Mares.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Wulf, T., **Bonus, J. A.**, & Rieger, D. (2018). The inspired time traveler: Exploring the nature of nostalgic media experiences. *Media Psychology*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1080/15213269.2018.1532299

Mares, M. L., **Bonus, J. A.**, & Peebles, A. (2018). Love or comprehension? Exploring strategies for children's prosocial media effects. *Communication Research*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1177/0093650218797411

Bonus, J. A. (2018) Who I am is not who I was: Temporal comparisons mediate the effect of listening to nostalgic music on well-being. *Communication Research*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1177/0093650218793806

Bonus, J. A. & Mares, M. L. (2018). When the sun sings science, are children left in the dark? Representations of science in children's television and their effects on children's learning. *Human Communication Research*, 44, 449-472. doi: 10.1093/hcr/hqy009/5055861

Peebles, A., **Bonus, J. A.**, & Mares, M. L. (2018). Questions + answers + agency: Interactive touchscreens and children's learning from a socio-emotional TV story. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 85, 339-348. doi:10.1016/j.chb.2018.03.039

Bonus, J. A., Peebles, A., Mares, M. L., & Sarmiento, I. G (2017). Look on the bright side (of media effects): Pokémon Go as a catalyst for positive life experiences. *Media Psychology*, 21(2), 263-287. doi:10.1080/15213269.2017.1305280

Mares, M. L., Bartsch, A., & **Bonus, J. A.** (2016). When meaning matters more: Media preferences across the adult life span. *Psychology of Aging*, 31(5), 513-531. doi:10.1037/pag0000098

Bonus, J. A., & Mares, M. L. (2015). Learned and remembered but rejected: Preschoolers' reality judgments and transfer from TV. *Communication Research*. Advanced online publication. doi:10.1177/0093650215609980

Bonus, J. A., Peebles, A., & Riddle, K. (2015). The influence of violent game enjoyment on hostile attribution bias. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 52, 472-483. doi:10.1016/j.chb.2015.05.044

Book Chapters

Mares, M. L., & **Bonus, J. A.** (2019). Children's judgment of reality and fantasy. In R. Hobbs and P. Mihailidis (Eds.), *The International Encyclopedia of Media Literacy*. John Wiley & Sons.

Toma, C. L., **Bonus, J. A.,** & van Swol, L. (2019). Lying online: examining the production, detection, and popular beliefs surrounding interpersonal deception in technologically-mediated environments. In T. Docan-Morgan (Ed.), *Palgrave Handbook of Deceptive Communication*. Palgrave Macmillan.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Bonus, J.A., & Mares, M.-L. (2018). The effects of exposure to misinformation in science TV on children's science knowledge. Paper presented during the panel symposium "Early Years, Early Media" at 68th *International Communication Association Conference*, Prague, Czech Republic.

Bonus, J.A. (2018). Temporal comparisons mediate the effect of listening to nostalgic music on well-being. Paper presented during the panel symposium "Synergy and Entertainment" at 68th *International Communication Association Conference*, Prague, Czech Republic.

Wulf, T., **Bonus, J. A.,** & Rieger, D. (2018). The inspired time traveler: Media-induced nostalgia fosters self-continuity. Paper presented during the panel symposium "Media and Entertainment" at 68th *International Communication Association Conference*, Prague, Czech Republic.

Bonus, J. A., Peebles, A., Mares, M-L., & Sarmiento, I. G (2017). Look on the bright side (of media effects): Pokémon Go as a catalyst for positive life experiences. Paper presented during panel symposium "Mobile Apps and Narrative" at 67th *International Communication Association Conference*, San Diego, California.

Bonus, J. A. (2017). The characteristics of science lessons in children's educational television. Paper presented during high-density session "Under the Hood: Content Analytic Insight into the Media Landscape of Children & Teens" at 67th *International Communication Association Conference*, San Diego, California.

Bonus, J. A., Mares, M-L. (2017). The impact of touchscreen interactivity on children's reality judgments. Paper presented during panel symposium, "Individual Difference Factors in Children's Learning From, Beliefs of, and Interactions with Media" at 67th *International Communication Association Conference*, San Diego, California.

Bonus, J. A., Mares, M-L., & Peebles, A. (2016). Children's reality judgments and word learning: Effects of medium and individual differences. Paper presented during panel symposium

“Interactivity of Touchscreens and Children’s Learning” at *Society for Research in Child Development, Special Topics Meeting: Technology and Media in Children’s Development*, Irvine, CA.

Peebles, A., **Bonus, J. A.**, & Mares, M-L. (2016). Helping children understand characters’ emotions: Effects on socio-emotional learning and outcomes. Paper presented during flash talk session titled “Parenting Mediation” at *Society for Research in Child Development, Special Topics Meeting: Technology and Media in Children’s Development*, Irvine, CA.

Mares, M-L., **Bonus, J. A.**, & Peebles, A. (2016). Looking for prosocial effects in the wrong places? Studying children in the lab versus asking about their real experiences. Paper presented during flash talk session titled “Prosocial” at *Society for Research in Child Development, Special Topics Meeting: Technology and Media in Children’s Development*, Irvine, CA.

Mares, M-L., **Bonus, J. A.**, & Peebles, A. (2016). Not feeling it, not getting it, not doing it: Non-effects of prosocial and affiliative TV. Paper presented at *66th International Communication Association Conference*, Fukuoka, Japan.

Bonus, J. A., & Toma, C. (2016). Sex, lies, and media use: Communication channel and perceptions of deception about romantic infidelity. Paper presented at *66th International Communication Association Conference*, Fukuoka, Japan.

Bonus, J. A., Peebles, A., & Riddle, K. (2015). Feeling good, expecting evil: The influence of violent game enjoyment on hostile attribution bias. Paper presented at *101st National Communication Association Convention*, Las Vegas, NV.

Bonus, J. A., & Mares, M.-L. (2015). Learning from the blue monster: Preschoolers’ reality judgments and transfer from TV to real life. Poster presented at *65th International Communication Association Conference*, San Juan, PR.

[TOP POSTER AWARD]

Mares, M. L., Bartsch, A., & **Bonus, J.A.** (2015). When meaning matters more: Media preferences across the adult life span. Paper presented at the *65th International Communication Association Conference*, San Juan, PR.

[TOP PAPER AWARD]

Bonus, J. A., & Mares, M-L. (2013). The meaning of “meaningful”: How age and emotion influence media entertainment preferences. Poster presented at *Institute on Aging 25th Annual Colloquium*, Madison, WI.

Bonus, J. A. (2012). Serious games, serious learning: How the intrinsically motivating nature of video games can be used to revitalize textbook learning. Paper presented at *Meaningful Play*, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Fall 2018 Comm 3440: Mass Communication & Society (N = 48), Rating: 4.77/5

Comm 3610: Communication Research Methods (*N* = 118), Rating: 4.66/5

Spring 2018 Comm 3440: Mass Communication & Society (*N* = 84), Rating: 4.1/5
 Comm 3620: Interpersonal Communication (*N* = 105), Rating: 4.6/5

Fall 2017 Comm 3513: Video Games and the Individual (*N* = 22), Rating: 4.6/5

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

Peer Reviewer	# of reviews performed
Mobile Media & Communication	3
Communication Research	6
Media Psychology	4
Journal of Experimental Child Psychology	1
Computers in Human Behavior	5
Preventive Medicine Reports	1
Journal of Media Psychology	1

SERVICE

Together with colleagues, judged submissions for 75th annual Peabody Awards, children and youth television division

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2018 - Present Faculty Collaborator
 Center for Scholars and Storytellers

2017 - Present Faculty Affiliate
 Crane Center for Early Child Research and Policy