

JAMES ALEXANDER BONUS

Curriculum Vitae

School of Communication, The Ohio State University
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023 - Present	Associate Professor, The Ohio State University School of Communication
2017 - 2023	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 FUNDING

2022	Battelle, Engineering, Technology, and Human Affairs (BETHA) Endowment (\$53,546), <i>Superpowers of Science! Leveraging Educational TV to Engage Young Children in Engineering Activities</i> , joint award with Dr. Rebecca Dore
2019	Mattox Research Award (\$11,000), School of Communication, awarded for research productivity
2018	School of Communication RFP Seed Grant , <i>Communicating Gender Through Depictions of Careers in Children's Media</i> (\$49,943), joint award with Dr. Teresa Lynch, Dr. Amy Nathanson, and Dr. Susan Kline
2015	Early Career Fellowship , Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media (\$10,000), joint award with Dr. Alanna Peebles

RESEARCH AWARDS

- 2020 **Top 3 Paper**, Mass Communication Division, 106th National Communication Association (NCA) Conference, with Dr. Nic Matthews.
- Top Paper**, Children Adolescents, & Media Division, 70th International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, with Judy Watts.
- 2019 **Top Paper**, Children, Adolescents, & Media Division, 69th International Communication Association (ICA) Conference.
- Top 3 Paper**, Mass Communication Division, 69th International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, with Dr. Nic Matthews & Dr. Tim Wulf.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Bonus, J. A.**, Dore, R. A., Wilson, J. M., Frieberger, N., & Lerner B. (2023). Of scientists and superheroes: Educational television and pretend play as preparation for science learning. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 89, 101603. doi:10.1016/j.appdev.2023.101603
- Watts, J., **Bonus, J. A.**, & Moyer-Guse, E. (2023). Wise beyond their years: Testing the mediated wisdom of experience framework with children. *Media Psychology*. doi:10.1080/15213269.2023.2287657
- Snyder, A. L., **Bonus, J. A.**, & Cingel, D. P. (2023). Representations of LGBTQ+ families in young children's media. *Journal of Children and Media*, 17(1), 154-160. doi:10.1080/17482798.2023.2173856
- Bonus, J. A.** (2022). Conceptualizing U.S. educational television as preparation for future learning. *Journal of Children and Media*, 17(1), 97-116. doi:10.1080/17482798.2022.2134899
- Bonus, J. A.**, Watts, J., Francemone, C. J. (2022). When “meaningless” means more: Biographic resonance and audience appreciation of popular entertainment. *Journal of Communication*, 72(6), 647-660. doi:10.1093/joc/jqac028
- Bonus, J. A.**, Lynch, T., Nathanson, A., & Watts, J. (2022). Counter-stereotypical, yet counterproductive? How families at a science museum respond to narratives that defy gender stereotypes. *Media Psychology*, 25(2), 469-498. doi:10.1080/15213269.2021.1971093
- Bonus, J. A.**, Wing, H., & Watts, J. (2022). Finding refuge in reverie: The terror management function of nostalgic entertainment experiences. *Communication Monographs*, 89(2), 165-188. doi:10.1080/03637751.2021.1962933
- Mares, M. L., **Bonus, J. A.**, & Peebles, A. (2022). Love or comprehension? Exploring strategies for

- children's prosocial media effects. *Communication Research*, 49(6), 763-791.
doi:10.1177/0093650218797411
- McAndrew, J. & **Bonus, J. A.** (2022). I've got a girl crush: Parents' responses to stories about sexuality in children's television. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 69(9), 1524-1548.
doi:10.1080/00918369.2021.1917222
- Matthews, N. L. & **Bonus, J. A.** (2021). How moral expectancy violations influence audiences' affective dispositions toward characters. *Communication Research*. Advance online publication.
doi:10.1177/00936502211039959
- Bonus, J. A.** (2021). The influence of exposure to science television on U.S. parents' science explanations to their children. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, 49(5), 569-588.
doi:10.1080/00909882.2021.1912376
- Bonus, J. A.** (2021) Who I am is not who I was: Temporal comparisons mediate the effect of listening to nostalgic music on well-being. *Communication Research*, 48(8), 1091-1109.
doi:10.1177/0093650218793806
- Bonus, J. A.**, Matthews, N. L., & Wulf, T. (2021). The impact of moral expectancy violations on audiences' parasocial relationships with movie heroes and villains. *Communication Research*, 48(4), 550-572. doi:10.1177/0093650219886516
- Bonus, J. A.**, & Watts, J. (2021). You can[t] catch the sun in a net! Children's misinterpretations of educational science television. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 202.
doi:10.1016/j.jecp.2020.105004
- Watts, J., & **Bonus, J. A.** (2021). What do mothers learn from children's science television? *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*, 65(2), 228-247. doi:10.1080/08838151.2021.1925281
- Bonus, J. A.**, Wulf, T., & Matthews, N. L. (2020). The cost of clairvoyance: Enjoyment and appreciation of a popular movie as a function of affective forecasting errors. *Journal of Media Psychology*, 32, 216-222. doi:10.1027/1864-1105/a000268
- Watts, J., **Bonus, J. A.**, & Wing, H. (2020). Celebrating your *Circle of Life*: Eudaimonic responses to nostalgic entertainment experiences. *Journal of Communication*, 70(6), 794-818.
doi:10.1093/joc/jqaa030
- Bonus, J. A.** (2019). The impact of pictorial realism in educational science television on U.S. children's learning and transfer of biological facts. *Journal of Children and Media*, 13(4), 433-451. doi:10.1080/17482798.2019.1646295
- Bonus, J. A.**, & Mares, M. L. (2019). Learned and remembered but rejected: Preschoolers' reality judgments and transfer from TV. *Communication Research*, 46(3), 375-400.
doi:10.1177/0093650215609980
- Wulf, T., **Bonus, J. A.**, & Rieger, D. (2019). The inspired time traveler: Exploring the nature of nostalgic media experiences. *Media Psychology*, 5, 795-817.

doi:10.1080/15213269.2018.1532299

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

Bonus, J. A., Peebles, A., Mares, M. L., & Sarmiento, I. G (2018). 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

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

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., 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

Editor-Reviewed Journal Articles

Bonus, J. A., Watts, J., & Stemen, D. (2022). Won't somebody think of the parents? Reevaluating the audience for children's educational media. *Journal of Children and Media*, 16(1), 144-147. doi:10.1080/17482798.2021.2022943

Book Chapters

Mares, M. L., & **Bonus, J. A.** (2021). Life-span developmental changes in media entertainment experiences. In P. Vorderer and C. Klimmt (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Entertainment Theory*. Oxford University Press.

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., Dore, R., Wilson, J., Frieberger, N., & Harvill, B. (2023). Of scientists and superheroes: Educational television and pretend play as preparation for science learning. Presented at the 73rd Annual International Communication Association Conference, Toronto.

Bonus, J. A. (2022). Conceptualizing fantasy media as preparation for future learning. Presented at the *72nd Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Paris, France.

Bonus, J. A., & Watts, J. (2022). Memory recollection enhances appreciation of popular music and movies. Presented at the *72nd Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Paris, France.

Bonus, J. A., Watts, J., & Stemen, D. (2022). *Daniel Tiger* Moms: Investigating prosocial television as a parenting intervention. Presented at the *72nd Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Paris, France.

Bonus, J. A., Lynch, T., Nathanson, A., & Watts, J. (2021). Counter-stereotypical, yet counterproductive? Investigating children's responses to narratives that defy gender stereotypes. Presented at the *71st Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Virtual Conference.

Bonus, J. A., Wing, H., Watts, J. (2021). Finding refuge in reverie: The terror management function of nostalgic entertainment. Presented at the *71st Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Virtual Conference.

Matthews, N. L. & **Bonus, J. A.** (2020). How audiences update character dispositions in response to moral expectancy violations. Presented at the *106th Annual National Communication Association Conference*, Indianapolis, IN.

[TOP PAPER AWARD]

Watts, J., **Bonus, J. A., & Wing, H.** (2020). Celebrating your *Circle of Life*: Eudaimonic responses to nostalgic entertainment experiences. Presented at the *106th Annual National Communication Association Conference*, Indianapolis, IN.

McAndrew, J. & **Bonus, J. A.** (2020). I've got a girl crush: Parents' responses to stories about sexuality in children's television. Presented at the *106th Annual National Communication Association Conference*, Indianapolis, IN.

Bonus, J. A., & Watts, J. (2020). "You can't catch the sun in a new!": Children's misinterpretations of educational science television. Presented at the *70th Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Gold Coast, Australia.

[TOP PAPER AWARD]

Watts, J. & **Bonus, J. A.** (2020). It's so easy, not even a grown-up can do it: U.S. mothers' learning from children's educational television. Presented at the *70th Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Gold Coast, Australia.

Watts, J. & **Bonus, J. A.** (2020). Finding meaning in the meaningless: Autobiographical transportation and appreciation as responses to nostalgic entertainment. Presented at the *70th Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Gold Coast, Australia.

Bonus, J. A., Matthews, N. L., & Wulf, T. (2019). The impact of moral expectancy violations on audiences' parasocial relationships with movie heroes and villains. Presented at the *69th*

International Communication Association Conference, Washington D.C.
[TOP 3 PAPER AWARD]

Bonus, J. A. (2019). The impact of pictorial realism in educational science television on U.S. children's learning and transfer of biological facts. Presented at the *69th International Communication Association Conference*, Washington D.C.
[TOP PAPER AWARD]

Wulf, T., **Bonus, J. A.**, & Matthews, N. L. (2019). The cost of clairvoyance: Enjoyment and appreciation of popular movies as a function of affective forecasting errors. Presented at the *69th International Communication Association Conference*, Washington D.C.

Bonus, J. A. & Watts, J. (2019). Treasuring the past, savoring the present: The influence of nostalgic entertainment on enjoyment, appreciation, and vitality. Presented at the *69th International Communication Association Conference*, Washington D.C.

Bonus, J.A., & Mares, M.-L. (2018). The effects of exposure to misinformation in science TV on children's science knowledge. Presented at the *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. Presented at the *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. Presented at the *68th International Communication Association Conference*, Prague, Czech Republic.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Fall 2023	COMM 7841: Mass Communication & Society (<i>N</i> = 14), Rating: X.XX/5
Spring 2023	Comm 3440: Mass Communication & Society (<i>N</i> = 194), Rating: 4.57/5 Comm 3160: Communication Research Methods (<i>N</i> = 115), Rating: 4.44/5
Fall 2022	Comm 3513: Video Games and the Individual (<i>N</i> = 167), Rating: 4.72/5
Spring 2022	Comm 3440: Mass Communication & Society (<i>N</i> = 174), Rating: 4.72/5 Comm 3160: Communication Research Methods (<i>N</i> = 126), Rating: 4.54/5
Fall 2021	Comm 3440: Mass Communication & Society (<i>N</i> = 185), Rating: 4.60/5
Spring 2021	Comm 3440: Mass Communication & Society (<i>N</i> = 231), Rating: 4.73/5 Comm 3160: Communication Research Methods (<i>N</i> = 120), Rating: 4.81/5

Fall 2020	Comm 3440: Mass Communication & Society (<i>N</i> = 196), Rating: 4.78/5
Spring 2020	Comm 3513: Video Games and the Individual (<i>N</i> = 65), Rating: 4.80/5 Comm 3160: Communication Research Methods (<i>N</i> = 122), Rating: 4.85/5
Fall 2019	Comm 3513: Video Games and the Individual (<i>N</i> = 65), Rating: 4.81/5
Spring 2019	Comm 3440: Mass Communication & Society (<i>N</i> = 115), Rating: 4.67/5 Comm 3160: Communication Research Methods (<i>N</i> = 115), Rating: 4.70/5
Fall 2018	Comm 3440: Mass Communication & Society (<i>N</i> = 48), Rating: 4.77/5 Comm 3160: Communication Research Methods (<i>N</i> = 118), Rating: 4.66/5
Spring 2018	Comm 3440: Mass Communication & Society (<i>N</i> = 84), Rating: 4.1/5 Comm 3620: Interpersonal Communication (<i>N</i> = 105), Rating: 4.6/5
Fall 2017	Comm 3513: Video Games and the Individual (<i>N</i> = 22), Rating: 4.6/5

TEACHING AWARDS AND ENDORSEMENTS

2019	University Institute for Teaching and Learning Endorsement Course Design Institute Pathway
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EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

Associate Editor

Journal of Children and Media

Editorial Board Member

Communication Research

Media Psychology

Peer Reviewer

	# of reviews performed
Communication Research	20
Media Psychology	19
Journal of Children and Media	11
Journal of Media Psychology	3
Journal of Communication Technology	2
Communication Reports	3
Journal of Experimental Child Psychology	2
Mobile Media Communication	2
Communication Monographs	2
Frontiers in Psychology	2
Psychology of Popular Media	4
Cognitive Development	2

PLOS One	1
Journal of Applied Communication Research	3
Educational Researcher	1
Social Media & Society	1
Mass Communication & Society	1

SERVICE

2018 – Present	Member School of Communication Diversity Committee
2018 – Present	Member School of Communication Undergraduate Studies Committee
2016 – Present	Peer Reviewer International Communication Association
2023	Screening Committee Head Peabody Awards
2021 – 2022	Educational Consultant PBS Affiliate Station (WGBH), <i>Work it Out</i> , <i>WOMBATS!</i>
2020 – 2022	Secretary ICA Children, Adolescents, and Media Division