

# 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

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

### EDUCATION

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- 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

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- 2022                **Battelle, Engineering, Technology, and Human Affairs (BETHA) Endowment** (\$53,546), *Superpowers of Science! Leveraging Educational TV to Engage Young Children in Engineering Activities*, 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**, *Communicating Gender Through Depictions of Careers in Children's Media* (\$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

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- 2025 **Top Published Paper**, Children Adolescents, & Media Division, 75<sup>th</sup> International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, with Miriam Brinberg, Rebecca Dore, Blue Lerner, Julia Wilson, Nina Freiberger, & Adam Rini.
- 2020 **Top 3 Paper**, Mass Communication Division, 106<sup>th</sup> National Communication Association (NCA) Conference, with Dr. Nic Matthews.
- Top Paper**, Children Adolescents, & Media Division, 70<sup>th</sup> International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, with Judy Watts.
- 2019 **Top Paper**, Children, Adolescents, & Media Division, 69<sup>th</sup> International Communication Association (ICA) Conference.
- Top 3 Paper**, Mass Communication Division, 69<sup>th</sup> International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, with Dr. Nic Matthews & Dr. Tim Wulf.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Lerner, B., **Bonus, J. A.**, & Lynch, T. (2025). Mad scientists, bad impressions? The influence of superhero television on children's epistemic trust in scientists. *Journal of Media Psychology*, accepted for publication. <https://doi.org/10.1027/1864-1105/a000497>
- Coronel, J. C., Sweitzer, M., **Bonus, J. A.**, Dore, R., & Lerner B. (2025). Fusing theory-guided machine learning and bio-sensing: Considering time in how children learn science from dynamic multimedia. *Journal of Communication*, advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1093/joc/jqaf036>
- Wilson, J. M., Moyer-Gusé, E. & **Bonus, J. A.** (2025). If I don't laugh, I'll cry: Examining the mechanisms and gratifications of humor in eudaimonic entertainment experiences. *Media Psychology*, 28(4), 439-463. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15213269.2024.2396289>
- Bonus, J. A.**, Brinberg, M., Dore, R. A., & Coronel, J. C. (2025). A research brief investigating educational television and U.S. children's interest in science and world culture. *Journal of Children and Media*, 19(2), 418-430. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17482798.2024.2424835>
- Bonus, J. A.**, Brinberg, M., Dore, R. A., Lerner B., Wilson, J. M., Frieberger, N., & Rini, A. (2025). A building block for science talk: Educational TV supports parent-child conversations during an engineering activity. *Developmental Psychology*, 61(3), 432-445. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001911>
- Bonus, J. A.**, Dore, R. A., Hassinger-Das, B., Wilson, J. M., O'Hara, E., & Francemone, C. J. (2025). You do You[Tube]! The multifaceted roles of online video viewing in the lives of

- U.S. children. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 70, 167-177.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2024.10.001>
- Watts, J., **Bonus, J. A.**, & Moyer-Gusé, E. (2024). Wise beyond their years: Testing the mediated wisdom of experience framework with children. *Media Psychology*, 27(5), 763-784.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15213269.2023.2287657>
- 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.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appdev.2023.101603>
- Matthews, N. L. & **Bonus, J. A.** (2023). How moral expectancy violations influence audiences' affective dispositions toward characters. *Communication Research*, 50(3), 263-286.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00936502211039959>
- 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.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17482798.2023.2173856>
- Bonus, J. A.** (2023). Conceptualizing U.S. educational television as preparation for future learning. *Journal of Children and Media*, 17(1), 97-116. <https://doi.org/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. <https://doi.org/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.  
<https://doi.org/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.  
<https://doi.org/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.  
<https://doi.org/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.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2021.1917222>
- 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.  
<https://doi.org/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. <https://doi.org/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. <https://doi.org/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. <https://doi.org/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. <https://doi.org/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. <https://doi.org/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. <https://doi.org/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. <https://doi.org/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. <https://doi.org/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. <https://doi.org/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. <https://doi.org/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. <https://doi.org/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. <https://doi.org/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.  
<https://doi.org/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.  
<https://doi.org/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.  
<https://doi.org/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

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**Bonus, J. A.**, Dore, R. A., Stewart, K., Flanagan, S., & Lerner, B. (2025). Focus on facts, not fiction: Maximizing the impact of educational TV on later learning. Presented at the *75th Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Denver, Colorado.

**Bonus, J. A.**, Dore, R. A., Hassinger-Das, B., Wilson, Julia, M., O'Hara, E., & Francemone, C. J. (2025). You do You[Tube]! The multifaceted roles of online video viewing in the lives of U.S. children. Presented at *Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting*, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Bonus, J. A.**, Brinberg, M., Dore, R. A., Lerner B., Wilson, J. M., Frieberger, N., & Rini, A. (2024). A building block for science talk. Presented at the *74th Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Gold Coast, Australia.

**Bonus, J. A.**, Brinberg, M., Dore, R. A., & Coronel, J. C. (2024). A research brief investigating educational television and U.S. children's interest in science and world culture. Presented at the *74th Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Gold Coast, Australia.

- 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 *106<sup>th</sup> 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 *106<sup>th</sup> 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 *106<sup>th</sup> Annual National Communication Association Conference*, Indianapolis, IN.
- Bonus, J. A.,** & Watts, J. (2020). "You can't catch the sun in a net!": Children's misinterpretations of educational science television. Presented at the *70<sup>th</sup> 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 *70<sup>th</sup> 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 70<sup>th</sup> *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 69<sup>th</sup> *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 69<sup>th</sup> *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 69<sup>th</sup> *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 69<sup>th</sup> *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 68<sup>th</sup> *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 68<sup>th</sup> *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 68<sup>th</sup> *International Communication Association Conference*, Prague, Czech Republic.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Instructor

Fall 2025	Comm 7841: Mass Communication & Society ( <i>N</i> = 11), Rating: 4.91/5
Fall 2024	Comm 3160: Communication Research Methods ( <i>N</i> = 103), Rating: 4.40/5
Spring 2024	Comm 3440: Mass Communication & Society ( <i>N</i> = 202), Rating: 4.58/5 Comm 3160: Communication Research Methods ( <i>N</i> = 115), Rating: 4.52/5
Fall 2023	Comm 7841: Mass Communication & Society ( <i>N</i> = 14), Rating: 4.82/5
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**

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

## **EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES**

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### **Editor in Chief**

Journal of Children and Media

### **Editorial Board Member**

Communication Research

Media Psychology

<b>Peer Reviewer</b>	<b># of reviews performed</b>
Communication Research	20
Media Psychology	25
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	2
Social Media & Society	1
Mass Communication & Society	4
Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology	1
Early Childhood Research Quarterly	1
Journal of Homosexuality	1
Journal of Communication	1

## **SERVICE**

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2025 -- Present	Chair School of Communication – Community Building Committee
2023 – Present	Screening Committee Head Peabody Awards
2016 – Present	Peer Reviewer International Communication Association
2023 – 2025	Chair School of Communication Diversity Committee
2018 – 2023	Member School of Communication Diversity Committee
2018 – 2023	Member School of Communication Undergraduate Studies Committee
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