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1. NEW CRC FELLOWS
Research is an integral part of faculty and student activities at Boston University. Researchers at COM use the most advanced theory and methods to examine communication phenomena. Addressing theoretical and applied problems through a range of quantitative and qualitative perspectives, faculty and students engage in the most cutting-edge developments in communication research that provide an extraordinarily fertile ground for innovation and science.

The CRC was established in 1959 and reorganized in 1994. The CRC pioneered the use of television as a research tool, conducting systematic analyses on the effects of television on children and measuring political opinions and voting intentions. This early beginning led the CRC to develop a specialty in survey research methodology.

Today, the CRC has 40 research fellows specializing in advertising, critical cultural studies, health communication, human-computer interaction, international communication, journalism studies, media entertainment, political communication, and public relations.

The CRC has recently updated several research tools such as the iMotions biometric research platform, which allows faculty and students to examine physiological responses to games and other media. Other recent additions include a virtual reality system that aids faculty and students in investigating issues related to psychological presence, empathy, and immersive storytelling.

In 2009, the CRC established the Communication Research Colloquium Series consisting of monthly research presentations that highlight current and original research of faculty in COM. This forum provides an intellectual exchange of ideas and perspectives and features several methodological traditions. It fosters discussions among faculty and students about a variety of research topics in communication.

In 2011, the Dr. Melvin L. DeFleur Distinguished Lecture Series was established. Each year two distinguished scholars from outside the university are invited to share their outstanding scholarship, expertise, and experience with the BU community. In recognition of the pioneering and inspirational contributions of Dr. Melvin L. DeFleur to the field of mass communication research and his service as a venerable and inexhaustible member of the CRC, the faculty members named this series in his honor.
As the Fall 2022 semester wraps up, there is an impressive number of new faces and activities at the CRC to reflect on. We welcomed four new faculty research fellows: Dr. Nivea Cannali Bona, Lecturer, Media Science; Dr. Katy Coduto, Assistant Professor, Media Science; Dr. Pablo Miño, Assistant Professor, Public Relations, and Dr. Emily Saidel, Lecturer, Television Studies. We also welcomed 3 new PhD student fellows: Nicole Hash, Dongpeng Huang, and Yihan “Danny” Jia.

Given the University’s commitment to involving students in research, the CRC once again had a busy semester in facilitating fellows’ efforts to recruit students as research participants via our SONA research participant management system. The SONA pool gives students an opportunity to become involved with various research activities across COM while earning course credit for doing so. This semester, 17 studies were conducted, recruiting students from 26 different COM courses to participate in 24 research opportunities.

Our fellows have also been using the CRC’s biometric technology which includes devices for measuring heart rate, sweat levels in the skin, and eye movements. Our Lab and Research Manager, Lindsy Goldberg, has been certified by iMotions on use of this technology and has hosted numerous classes and individual students for demonstrations of our iMotions equipment. She has offered workshops on biometrics in media effects research with specific modules on galvanic skin response, facial expression analysis, and eye tracking.

With the assistance of Master Lecturer Anne Danehy, the CRC continued its Media and Technology Survey highlighting the expertise of several of our fellows. The questions were administered by Ipsos, the market research company, using their eNation Omnibus, a nationally representative online survey that measures attitudes and opinions of 1,000 adults across the United States.

We fielded one survey about artificial intelligence in the workplace, led by Dr. James E. Katz along with two PhD students, Ekaterina “Katya” Novozhilova and Dongpeng Huang. The other survey involved public perceptions of climate change, led by Dr. Arunima Krishna and Dr. Chris Wells.

The CRC hosted numerous events this fall. Our Colloquium Series, which originated in 2009, consists of monthly research presentations that highlight current and original research of faculty in COM. Our Fall Colloquium Speakers were Dr. Patrice Oppliger (September) and Dr. Charlotte Howell (October). Every semester, the CRC also invites a distinguished scholar from outside the university to share their outstanding scholarship, expertise, and experience with the BU community. Our Fall 2022 DeFleur Distinguished Lecturer was Dr. Sarah Banet-Weiser (University of Pennsylvania). Video links to all our speakers are available on the CRC website. The CRC also co-sponsored a panel with COM’s Career Services on Careers in Communication Research. The panel included COM alumni discussing their current research jobs and offered tips to students about how to enter the burgeoning field of communication research.
I am incredibly grateful for the commitment and hard work of our staff this fall. Lindsy has been nothing short of outstanding in managing the CRC. She has been involved in every aspect of upkeeping the center, offering workshops on our technologies, overseeing technology and facility reservations, promoting the news and accomplishments of the CRC research fellows and our lecture series, overseeing the creation of this fall’s newsletter, and much more. Sadly, we are saying goodbye to our longtime graduate assistant, Jenna Vigre as she completes her MS in Advertising this semester. She has been a tremendous asset to the CRC with her creative design skills and assistance in promoting and administering our events. We wish you the best, Jenna, as you embark upon your professional career!

Finally, I will be on a much-anticipated research sabbatical in the Spring 2023 semester. The CRC will be in the very capable hands of Interim Director, Dr. Michael Elasmar, with Lindsy continuing as Lab and Research Manager. I will return as CRC Director in the fall of 2023.

I wish you all a joyous and restful holiday season.
NEW CRC FELLOWS - FACULTY

The CRC would like to welcome our four new faculty research fellows

Dr. Katy Coduto
Assistant Professor, Media Science

Kathryn D. Coduto is an assistant professor of media science in the Department of Mass Communication, Advertising and Public Relations. Katy researches the intersections of mass media and interpersonal communication, focusing on how individuals use media to connect with each other and make sense of the world around them. Recent studies have investigated compulsive social media use during major news events and the privacy management practices of individuals across a number of communication technologies, including dating applications and social media. Her work has been published in journals including the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, Computers in Human Behavior, Political Communication, and the Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media.

Dr. Pablo Miño
Assistant Professor, Public Relations

Pablo Miño, PhD (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2022) is assistant professor at Boston University’s College of Communication. His research has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as the International Journal of Communication, Public Relations Inquiry, and Public Relations Review, focused on branding and public relations from a critical-cultural perspective. His dissertation focused on the branding of Latin American countries that aim to promote their nation brand to foreign publics, mainly with economic purposes—such as to foster exports, enhance foreign direct investment, and encourage tourists to visit their country. He is originally from Santiago, Chile, and has a professional background in journalism and public relations. At BU COM, he teaches courses on public relations campaigns and strategic communication.

Dr. Emily Saidel
Lecturer, TV Studies

Dr. Nivea Cannali Bona
Master Lecturer, Media Science
NEW CRC FELLOWS - PHD STUDENTS

The CRC would like to welcome our 3 new Ph.D student fellows

Nicole Hash
Ph.D Student, Emerging Media Studies
Research interests: Political communication

Dongpeng Huang
Ph.D Student, Emerging Media Studies
Research interests: Human-machine communication, human-computer interaction, psychological and social consequences of emerging media

Yihan "Danny" Jia
Ph.D Student, Emerging Media Studies
Research Interests: Positive media psychology, video games, virtual reality, cognitive message processing, immersive media and wellbeing.
The Communication Research Colloquium Series at Boston University was established in October 2009. This series consists of monthly research presentations that highlight current and original research of faculty in the College of Communication. This forum provides an intellectual exchange of ideas and perspectives, features scholarship in several methodological traditions, and fosters discussions among faculty and students about a variety of research topics in the field of communication.

**Transmasculinity on Television**

Dr. Patrice Oppliger  
**Assistant Professor, Communication**  
**September 2022**

It has been long accepted that media representations have a direct effect on viewers’ perceptions of the world and society. As more transgender characters are included in television series, it is essential to assess the quality, accuracy, and sensitivity of the portrayals. Dr. Patrice Oppliger will discuss her book Transmasculinity on Television (Routledge 2022), which takes a closer look at 44 transmasculine and nonbinary characters on broadcast, cable, and streaming services between 2000 and 2021. She notes that significant changes have occurred since the release of the 1999 film Boys Don’t Cry, primarily the increase in transgender producers, writers, and actors playing those roles.

**COM Students | RSVP through SONA**

Follow our hashtag #COMCOLLOQUIUM on Twitter and Instagram @BUCOMResearch
From the 1994 “denim kit”-wearing bad-boys of soccer US Men’s National Team and the 1999 record-breaking US Women’s National Team to the present angst over the 2022 World Cup and recently-resolved equal pay fight, US senior national soccer teams have provided the US television industry with a nationalistic sports spectacle every few years to draw in viewers who may not otherwise watch soccer regularly. While the Olympics and World Cups propel soccer’s TV ratings into the arena of the “big 4” men’s sports leagues (football, basketball, baseball, hockey), they further highlight the unique position the television industry has generally cultivated for soccer in the US: an upscale sport with an English-language audience that is more cosmopolitan, educated, an affluent than other televised sports. This presentation examines how television uses the American Outlaws supporters group rooting for US senior national teams at major tournaments to represent that upscale vision of the US soccer fan while also exemplifying the tension between that ideal viewer and the persistent sexist and white-supremacist norms of American sports television and its core viewers.
One of the most concrete changes brought about by the #MeToo movement is that it has created a new public appetite for stories about sexual violence-based harms—an appetite that has been readily seized upon by Hollywood and the press, a growing market for anti-sexual violence products and services, and a renewed investment in digital media as a space where women are believed. In this talk, I evaluate this contemporary context through the lens of what I call the digitization of doubt. The market for anti-sexual violence that has emerged in the aftermath of #MeToo is one that suggests that if only women can furnish more and better evidence of their assaults (photographs, videos, screenshots, and other ‘corroborating’ digital artifacts) then they will prevail in bids for believability, both in the court of public opinion and potentially in courts of law. At the core of this narrative are struggles over how, whether, and when different forms of evidence ought to bolster believability—especially now that such evidence can be freely circulated online, and highly public bids for belief are made without arbitration or intervention by the state. Within the context of contemporary examples, I test these assumptions by tracking what actually happens to and with these artifacts in a mediated struggles over believability, and how their evidentiary value—that is, their status as evidence—continues to be shaped by familiar structures of power.
OTHER FALL EVENTS: CAREERS IN COMMUNICATION RESEARCH PANEL

CAREERS IN COMMUNICATION RESEARCH PANEL

COM 200  5 PM - 6:30 PM
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022

THE EVENT WILL BE MODERATED BY PROFESSOR MICHELLE AMAZEEN.

COM Career Services and the Communication Research Center are excited to present the Careers in Communications Research Panel. This event will include a 1-Hour panel and a 1/2 Hour networking to meet the panelists and ask questions. Coffee, Tea, and Cookies will be provided.

This session is free and open to the Boston University community.

Careers in Communication Research Panel

COM Career Services and the Communication Research Center collaborated to present the Careers in Communications Research Panel. This event included a 1-Hour panel and a 1/2 Hour networking to meet the panelists and ask questions.

Nitya Ravi COM'20
Researcher at Elevate Labs

Michaela Muto COM'18 and COM 19'
Data Analyst at Chadwick Martin Bailey

Xin Hu COM'15
Senior UX Designer at Amazon

Jennifer Rodstrom COM'02
Director CX Operations and Planning at BCBSMA
LOOKING AHEAD

SPRING 2023 EVENTS

Spring Colloquium Speakers

February 2023: Dr. Chris Chao Su
March 2023: Dr. Katy Coduto
April 2023: Dr. Pablo Miño

Spring 2023 Dr. Melvin L. DeFleur Distinguished Lecture:

Dr. Deen Freelon,
Associate Professor, UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media

Friday, April 21st, 2023
Lecture 4-5p in COM101
Reception to follow from 5-6 in COM209
ALSO COMING IN 2023...

We will be creating new policies and procedures for requests of Lindsy’s time, utilizing CRC resources and general CRC questions. More information on this new form and process coming in January!

QUICK NOTES ON SONA IN SP23:

Due to a high number of anticipated in-lab studies in Spring 2023, no students will be permitted to use SONA for research recruitment for coursework unless the course professor has made advance arrangements with me for the entire class to do so before the first day of classes. One other potential exception is a directed study led by a CRC fellow. Researchers can continue as normal.

Related: We are looking for a larger participant pool! The Google form to register your courses in the Spring pool will be sent out around January 10th.


**BOOK CHAPTERS**


Trifiro, B. Navigating data collection collaborations between academia and social media companies. Invited panelist at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Detroit, Michigan. August 2022.

**MEDIA APPEARANCES**

Michelle Amazeen:

November 2, 2022: WGBH “How will Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter impact democracy? Media experts weigh in”

November 2, 2022: Reuters “Gaming Google: Oil firms use search ads to greenwash, study says”

November 4, 2022: The Guardian “Joe Rogan admits schools don’t have litter boxes for kids who ‘identify’ as furries”
https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2022/nov/04/joe-rogan-school-litter-boxes-kids-furries-gender

November 5, 2022: The Washington Post “With Musk at the helm, tweeting the boss may actually change Twitter”
https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2022/11/05/elon-musk-twitter/
With Musk at the helm, tweeting the boss may actually change Twitter

November 11, 2022: WCVB “Sen. Ed Markey calls out Elon Musk's Twitter after impersonation account 'was quickly verified'”

**GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**


American Heart Association’s Tobacco Regulation and Addiction Center (A-TRAC) Fellowship ($50,000 grant), Briana Trifiro.
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

NEW EXTERNAL FACULTY AFFILIATE, CENTER FOR LATINX DIGITAL MEDIA AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

DR. PABLO MIÑO

2022 PROMISING PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD, MASS COMMUNICATION AND SOCIETY DIVISION, AEJMC

BRIANA TRIFIRO

2021-2022 OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD, BOSTON UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF EMERGING MEDIA STUDIES

BRIANA TRIFIRO
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADS!

DIVISION OF EMERGING MEDIA STUDIES

ERIN WERTZ, PHD

DEPT OF MASS COMMUNICATION, ADVERTISING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

JENNA VIGRE, MA
LINDSY GOLDBERG, M.A.
Lab & Research Manager

Research Interests: College radio, audience engagement in public media, psychophysiological responses to popular music, media economics

JENNA VIGRE
Social Media Specialist

Research Interests: Environmental communication, psychological and social impacts of advertisements