

COLTEN MEISNER

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EDUCATION

- 2024 Ph.D., Cornell University
Department of Communication
Minor: Feminist, Gender & Sexuality Studies
Dissertation: “The New(s) Creators: Labor, Precarity, and Community on Global Subscription Platforms”
Committee: Brooke Erin Duffy (chair), Tarleton Gillespie, Lee Humphreys, Katherine Sender
- 2019 M.S., Texas Christian University
Department of Communication Studies
- 2017 B.S., Texas Christian University, *magna cum laude*
Department of Communication Studies
John V. Roach Honors College Laureate

RESEARCH INTERESTS

social media industries; digital labor; platform governance; algorithmic cultures; the political economy of media; identity, marginality & inequality; qualitative research methods

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Meisner, C. (2023). The weaponization of platform governance: Mass reporting and algorithmic punishments in the creator economy. *Policy & Internet*, 15(4), 466-477. <http://doi.org/10.1002/poi3.359>

Meisner, C. (2023). Networked responses to networked harassment? Creators’ coordinated management of “hate raids” on Twitch. *Social Media + Society*, 9(2), 1-12.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/20563051231179696>

Duffy, B. E., & Meisner, C. (2023). Platform governance at the margins: Social media creators’ experiences with algorithmic (in)visibility. *Media, Culture & Society*, 45(2), 285-304.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/01634437221111923>

* Article featured in MIT Technology Review and Business Insider

Meisner, C., Duffy, B. E., & Ziewitz, M. (2022). The labor of search engine evaluation: Making algorithms more human or humans more algorithmic? *New Media & Society*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448211063860>

Meisner, C., & Ledbetter, A. M. (2022). Participatory branding on social media: The affordances of live streaming for creative labor. *New Media & Society*, 24(5), 1179-1195.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1461444820972392>

Ledbetter, A. M., & Meisner, C. (2021). Extending the personal branding affordances typology to parasocial interaction with public figures on social media: Social presence and multiplexity as mediators. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 115, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2020.106610>

Meisner, C., & Hinderaker, A. (2020). Reframed crisis narratives: Localized agenda setting, product loyalty, and pre-existing organizational narratives in the 2015 Blue Bell Creameries listeriosis crisis. *Western Journal of Communication*, 84(2), 186-203. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10570314.2019.1637015>

Book Chapter in an Edited Collection

Ledbetter, A. M., & Meisner, C. (2022). Sharing with just a few “finsta” friends: Context collapse, privacy, and imagined audiences on social media. In D. O. Braithwaite, J. T. Child, K. R. Rossetto, & J. T. Wood (Eds.), *Casing Interpersonal Communication: Case Studies in Personal and Social Relationships* (3rd ed.). Kendall Hunt.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Meisner, C., & Rodrigues, B. Reconsidering representational infrastructures: Identity tagging and vulnerability in online communities. Data analysis.

Meisner, C. “It’s like OnlyFans for journalists”: Creative labor and commoditized identities on subscription news platforms. Manuscript in preparation.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 Top Student Paper Award, Media Industry Studies Interest Group
International Communication Association
- 2022 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant
College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Cornell University
Recognizes a graduate instructor who provided invaluable support to students and faculty
- 2021 Top Student Paper Award, Media Industry Studies Interest Group
International Communication Association
- 2021 Glass Family Fellowship (\$3,475)
Graduate Field of Communication, Cornell University
Recognizes a graduate student who exemplifies leadership and service to the department, field, and Cornell University
- 2020 Honorable Mention Top Paper Award, Human Communication & Technology Division
National Communication Association
- 2019 Cornell University Recruitment Fellowship
- 2019 Outstanding Graduate Student, Dept. of Communication Studies, Texas Christian University

GRANTS

- 2022 Qualitative & Interpretive Research Institute Small Grants (\$1,440)
Cornell Center for Social Sciences, Cornell University
Project: “Independent News Production in the Platform Economy: Digital Journalists, Social Media Creators, and the Labor of Subscription Platforms”
PI: Colten Meisner
- 2021 Media Studies Graduate Working Group Grant (\$1,000)
Media Studies Initiative, Cornell University
Team: Colten Meisner, Nik Pasqualini, Beatrys Rodrigues & Aspen Russell
- 2021 Graduate Seed Grant (\$930)
Center for the Study of Inequality, Cornell University
Project: “Digital Labor at the Margins: Algorithmic Discrimination in the Platform Economy”
PI: Colten Meisner
- 2018 “What’s Next?” Communication Grant (\$2,000)
Schieffer College of Communication, Texas Christian University
Project: “Self-Branding on Social Media: An Affordances Approach to Digital Labor”
Co-PI with Andrew M. Ledbetter

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Meisner, C. (2024). Fragmented solidarities in the social media industries: Labor politics, creator-platform relations, and the case of harassment campaigns. Paper accepted for presentation at the Media Industries 2024 conference, London, UK.
- Meisner, C. (2024). Beyond algorithmic visibility. Roundtable accepted for presentation at the Media Industries 2024 conference, London, UK.
- Meisner, C. (2023). Networked responses to networked harassment? Creators’ coordinated management of “hate raids” on Twitch. **Top Student Paper** presented in the Media Industry Studies Interest Group at the International Communication Association, Toronto, Canada.
- Meisner, C., & Duffy, B. E.** (2022). Mass reporting in the creator economy: Enacting and contesting platform governance. Paper presented at the Association of Internet Researchers, Dublin, Ireland.
- Duffy, B. E., & **Meisner, C.** (2022). The pursuit of platform visibility: Algorithmic labor and capital in the creator economy. Paper presented at the Association of Internet Researchers, Dublin, Ireland.
- Duffy, B. E., & **Meisner, C.** (2022). Creator discipline and platform punishment: Uneven governance in the social media economy. Paper presented in the Popular Media & Culture Division at the International Communication Association, Paris, France.
- Meisner, C. (2021). The media work of queer liveness: Digital closets and the case of YouTube’s “live reaction” genre. Paper presented in the Critical & Cultural Studies Division at the National Communication Association, Seattle, WA.

Meisner, C., Duffy, B. E., & Ziewitz, M. (2021). The labor of search quality rating: Making algorithms more human or humans more algorithmic? **Top Student-Led Paper** presented in the Media Industry Studies Interest Group at the International Communication Association, virtual.

Ledbetter, A. M., & **Meisner, C.** (2020). Extending the personal branding affordances typology to parasocial interaction with celebrities on social media: Social presence and multiplexity as mediators. **Honorable Mention Top Paper** presented in the Human Communication & Technology Division at the National Communication Association, virtual.

Taylor, H., & **Meisner, C.** (2020). What do you weigh? Popular feminism and body positivity as mediated disembodiment. Paper presented at the Association of Internet Researchers, virtual.

Meisner, C., & Ledbetter, A. M. (2020). Live streaming creative labor: From personal to participatory branding on social media. Paper accepted for presentation at Media Industries 2020, London, UK (conference canceled due to COVID-19).

Meisner, C. (2018). Logging in and coming out: Self-branding, identity, and the queer master narrative. Paper presented at the Association of Internet Researchers, Montreal, QC.

Meisner, C. (2018). Self-branding on live streaming technologies: An affordances approach to digital labor. Work-in-progress paper presented at Going Live: Exploring Live Digital Technologies and Live Streaming Practices (preconference), Association of Internet Researchers, Montreal, QC.

Hinderaker, A., & **Meisner, C.** (2018). “Like part of me is just inherently wrong”: The narrative of conflicting identities of LGBTQ+ members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Paper presented in the Religious Communication Division at the National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.

Betts, T. E. S., & **Meisner, C.** (2018). Getting what you paid for: Unobtrusive control and socialization in college sororities. Paper presented in the Group Communication Division at the National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.

Meisner, C., & Hinderaker, A. (2017). When product loss minimizes product harm: The reframed narrative of Blue Bell Creameries’ 2015 listeriosis crisis. Paper presented in the Mass Communication Division at the National Communication Association, Dallas, TX.

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

2022	PhD Research Intern, Social Media Collective Microsoft Research New England Spring 2022, Summer 2022 Supervisor: Dr. Tarleton Gillespie, Senior Principal Researcher
2020-21	Graduate Research Assistant, “Algorithms, Big Data & Inequality” Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Summer 2021 Supervisors: Dr. Brooke Erin Duffy & Dr. Malte Ziewitz Cornell Center for Social Sciences

TEACHING & INVITED TALKS

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Cornell University

- COMM 2200 – Media Communication (F23; 150 students)
- COMM 2310 – Writing for Communication (F19; 40 students)
- COMM/INFO 3200 – New Media and Society (SP20; 150 students)
- COMM/INFO 5300 – Ethics in New Media & Technology (WI22; 30 students)

Section Instructor

Cornell University

- COMM 1300 – Visual Communication (SP22; Head TA; 150 students)
- COMM 2010 – Oral Communication (SP21; 36 students)
- COMM 2820 – Communication Research Methods (F21; 28 students)

Texas Christian University

- COMM 10123 – Communicating Effectively (F17/SP18/F18; 40 students)

Invited Panels, Talks & Lectures

- 2023 Guest Lecture, “The Political Economy of Digital Media”
Undergraduate lecture
Department of Communication, Cornell University
- 2021-22 Guest Lecture, “Sexuality in an Algorithmic Culture”
Undergraduate lecture
Department of Communication, Cornell University
- 2021 Invited Panelist, “AI in Work”
AI in Society Workshop, Cornell University
- 2020 Guest Lecture, “Ethnographic Methods in Communication Research”
Communication Research Methods (Master’s seminar)
Department of Communication Studies, Texas Christian University

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & SERVICE

Disciplinary Service and Engagement

- 2023 Review Committee Member, Graduate Student Paper Award
Labor Tech Research Network
- 2022 Screening Committee Member, Interactive and Immersive Media
George Foster Peabody Awards
- 2020-present Ad hoc peer reviewer
Communication Studies
Digital Geography and Society
Information, Communication & Society
New Media & Society
Poetics
Policy & Internet

Social Media + Society
 Association of Internet Researchers annual conferences
 National Communication Association annual conferences
 International Communication Association annual conferences

2019 Editorial Assistant, *Communication Monographs*

Departmental Service

2021 Member, subcommittee for developing student code of conduct, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
 2021 Graduate student representative, Department of Communication external review
 2020-21 President, Communication Graduate Student Association

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

Nover, S. (2023, November 22). TikTok is America's next major news source. *Fast Company*.
<https://www.fastcompany.com/90987238/tiktok-is-americas-next-major-news-source>

Duffy, B. E. (2022, December 8). 'If you don't have a backup plan, you're done': How the chaos in social media is hurting the most vulnerable content creators. *Business Insider*.
<https://www.businessinsider.com/big-tech-shakeup-layoffs-leaving-social-media-creators-scrambling-2022-12>

Ohlheiser, A. (2022, July 14). How aspiring influencers are forced to fight the algorithm. *MIT Technology Review*. <https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/07/14/1055906/tiktok-influencers-moderation-bias/>

Thompson, J. (2021, May 14). Fans in action! The science of participatory branding. *Canvas8*.
<https://www.canvas8.com/content/2021/05/14/science-of-participatory-branding.html>

AFFILIATIONS

International Communication Association
 Association of Internet Researchers
 National Communication Association
 Labor Tech Research Network