

DEBORAH L. DWYER, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Ooltewah TN 37363 | 423.994.2840

deborahldwyer@gmail.com | deborahldwyer.com | unpublishingthenews.com | [LinkedIn](#)

ORCID ID [0000-0002-0839-0264](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0839-0264)

Professional Experience

Newly minted PhD in Mass Communications with a positive track record of media industry engagement, quality research, and quality collegiate instruction. Expertise in multiple research methodologies and modes of analyses, with special skillsets related to project strategy, instrument development, qualitative analysis, and content analysis. More than eight years of adjunct teaching experience. Before returning to academia in 2016, experience included 25 years in the communications industry in an array of specialties including journalism, advertising and marketing, media and public relations, strategic planning and branding, nonprofit communications and fundraising, and employee management. [See LinkedIn for more details.](#)

Education

Ph.D., Mass Communication

December 2022

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism and Media

Dissertation: Unpublishing the News: An Assessment of U.S. Public Opinion, Newsroom Accountability, and Journalists' Authority as "The First Draft of History"

Committee Chair: Victoria S. Ekstrand, Ph.D., UNC

Committee members: Spencer R. Barnes, Ed.D., UNC | Matt Carlson, Ph.D., University of Minnesota

UNC Rhonda Gibson, Ph.D., UNC | Philip M. Napoli, Ph.D., Duke University

M.A., The University of Memphis, Journalism

2008

Thesis: Prior Restraint on the College and University Campus: An Exploratory Study of Administrators' Knowledge and Attitudes

Chair: Joseph R. Hayden, Ph.D. | Committee: Rick Fischer, Ph.D. | Elinor K. Grusin, Ph.D.

B.A., The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Mass Communications, Cum Laude

1995

Fellowships

2020-2021 Residential Fellow

Reynolds Journalism Institute, The University of Missouri

Project focused on unpublishing news content in partnership with:

- *The Chattanooga Times Free Press*
- *Columbia Missourian*
- *KOMU Columbia*

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Dwyer, D. L., & Painter, C. (2020). Erasing the past: Untangling the conflicting journalistic loyalties and paradigmatic pressures of unpublishing. *Journal of Media Ethics*, 35(4), 214-227.
DOI: [10.1080/23736992.2020.1819286](https://doi.org/10.1080/23736992.2020.1819286)

Saffer, A., **Dwyer, D. L.,** Harker, J., Etheridge, C., Turner, M., & Riffe, D. (2019). Interlocking among American newspaper organizations revisited: “Pressure from the top” and its influence on newsroom and content. *Mass Communication and Society*, 24(3), 441-469. DOI: [10.1080/15205436.2020.1868523](https://doi.org/10.1080/15205436.2020.1868523)

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate

Instructor | Media Ethics | MEJO 141 Summer Session II, 2017
UNC Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism and Media Fall 2017 | Fall 2018 | Spring 2019

Instructor | Media Writing | COMM 230 1998 – 2003
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Instructor | Graphic Design for Communicators 1998 – 2003
COMM 350, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Teaching Assistant | Media Law | MEJO 340 Fall 2016
UNC Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism and Media
Instructor: Cathy Packer, Ph.D.

Graduate

Teaching Assistant | Media Law | MEJO 740 Fall 2016
UNC Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism and Media
Instructor: Cathy Packer, Ph.D.

Industry Engagement

Newsroom Consultations (Sampling)

- The San Diego Union-Tribune | August 2021
- Coastside News Group / Bay Area Editors’ Collaborative | July 2021
- The Associated Press | April 2021
- Express News Group | February 2021
- The Philadelphia Inquirer | February 2021

Articles

Stewart, C., & Dwyer, D. L. (2020, October). [Responding to requests to take down content](#). *Texas Press Messenger*, 95(10), 3. Texas Press Association.

Conferences and Industry Events

Dwyer, D. L. (April 2023). Unpublishing: Communication and Ethical Journalism. Presentation for the 12th Annual International Symposium on Digital Ethics, Loyola University Chicago School of Communication

Dwyer, D. L. (2021, April 20). Unpublishing the news: Considerations from the field. Presentation for the Missouri Press Association Annual Conference and Trade Expo, Excelsior Springs, MO.

Dwyer, D. L. (2021, April 20). Unpublishing the news: Editor's pain points. Presentation for members of the Organization of News Ombudsmen & Standards Editors, Virtual.

Dwyer, D. L. (2021, April 9). Crime, mugshots, and take down requests. Creator and moderator of special event by the News Leaders Association and Reynolds Journalism Institute, Virtual.

Dwyer, D. L. (2020, December 10). Unpublishing: Research and best practices. Presented at the NewsRewired conference. Journalismco.uk international journalism conference, Virtual (U.K.).

Grants & Research Awards

Student Co-Investigator

2017 – 2019

Interlocked: American news media and resource dependency.

AEJMC Mass Communication & Society Division Faculty Research Award | \$10,000

[PIs: Drs. Adam J. Saffer and Daniel Riffe]

Invited Publications

Abernathy, P. M. & Dwyer, D. L. News deserts. *Encyclopedia of Journalism (2nd ed.)*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Napoli, P. M., & Dwyer, D. L. (2018). Media policy in a time of political polarization and technological evolution. *Publizistik*, 63(4), 583-601. DOI: [10.1007/s11616-018-0440-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11616-018-0440-2)

Book Chapters

Dwyer, D. L. (forthcoming late 2023). *Watchdogs in the Digital Age: Digital surveillance, cybersecurity, and the evolution of journalist-confidential source relationships*. University of Pennsylvania Law School Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law (CERL) special volume on the intersection of national security and journalism. Oxford University Press.

Case Studies

Dwyer, D. L. (2022). [Guilty by Google: Unpublishing and crime reporting in the digital age](#). In L. Wilkins, C. Painter, & P. Patterson, Eds., *Media Ethics: Issues and Cases*, 10th ed. Rowan & Littlefield. pp. 84-86.

Dwyer, D. L. (Spring 2021). [Case study: Should News About Our Past Follow Us Forever Online?](#) *Media Ethics Magazine*, 32(2). The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

Refereed Paper Presentations

*Denotes award winner (see Awards & Honors)

Dwyer, D. L., & Patrow, K. A. (2021, January). *Refocusing the lens on mugshot legislation: Newsworthiness and practical obscurity*. Presented at the 2021 Inaugural Media Law and Policy Scholars Conference, Virtual.

Dwyer, D. L., and Painter, C. (2019, November). *Erasing the past: Unpublishing's challenges to traditional journalistic norms and ethics*. Presented at the 2019 Center for Digital Ethics & Policy 9th Annual International Digital Ethics Symposium, Loyola University, Chicago, IL.

Dwyer, D. L., Riffe, D., & Kifer, M. (2019, November). *Gender Uprising? Populism, anger, political efficacy, and information seeking in Trump's America*. Presented at the 2019 Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research annual conference, Chicago, IL.

Saffer, A., Dwyer, D. L., Harker, J., Etheridge, C., Turner, M., & Riffe, D. (2019, August). *Interlocking among American news media*. Presented to the Mass Communication & Society Division at the 2019 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication annual conference, Toronto, Canada.

*Dwyer, D. L. (2018, August). *Fake news and the Fourth Estate: The role of editorial messaging in repairing the journalistic paradigm*. Presented to the Media Ethics Division at the 2018 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication annual conference, Washington, D.C. *Winner, second place, Carol Burnett/ University of Hawaii/ AEJMC Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research in Media Ethics

*Dwyer, D. L. (2018, August). *Nothing but the facts? Journalistic objectivity and media adjudication of President Trump's false claims*. Presented to the Mass Communication & Society Division at the 2018 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication annual conference, Washington, D.C. *Winner, Moeller Student Competition Award

Dwyer, D. L. (2018, March). *Protecting the credibility of the Fourth Estate: Journalists' role in addressing the fake news dilemma*. Presented to the Newspaper & Online News Division at the 2018 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Southeast Colloquium, Tuscaloosa, AL.

*Gibson, R., & Dwyer, D. L. (2017, August). *News coverage of transgender lives and issues within a family context*. Presented to the LGBTQ Interest Group at the 2017 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication annual conference, Chicago, IL. *Winner, Top Faculty Paper Award

Dwyer, D. L. (2017, March). *Mug Shot mayhem? The right to privacy v. the right to know at the state and local levels*. Presented to the Law & Policy Division at the 2017 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Southeast Colloquium, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX.

Luehrs, D. D. (2006, March). *Free speech, or free reign to censor? Hosty v. Carter's threats to the university press and how editors and advisors can fight back*. Presented at the 2006 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Southeast Colloquium, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Refereed Research-in-Progress Presentations

Ringel, E., Dwyer, D. L., and Ekstrand, V. S. (2023, January). *Critical race theory and the weaponization of the First Amendment*. Working paper presented to the 2023 Media Law & Policy Scholars Conference, Virtual.

Dwyer, D. L., & Etheridge, C. (2021, March). *Riding the #WomensWave: An analysis of pre-midterm election Twitter activity*. Presented to the 2021 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Midwinter Conference, Virtual.

Dwyer, D. L. (2018, March). *Nothing but the facts: A pilot study of objectivity and media adjudication of President Trump's false claims*. Research-in-progress presented at the 2018 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) Southeast Colloquium, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Non-Refereed Research-in-Progress Presentations

Dwyer, D. L. (2019, March). *Hitting delete: Media professionals' perspectives of unpublishing and its potential threats to the journalistic paradigm*. Presented at the 2019 UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media Spring Research Colloquium, Chapel Hill, NC.

Dwyer, D. L. (2017, March). *The pressure to unpublsh: Journalists' perspectives on an emerging ethical challenge in the Digital Age*. Presented at the 2017 UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media Spring Research Colloquium, Chapel Hill, NC.

Panels

Panelist (2021, August 4). *Whose visual ethics? everyone's visual ethics*. Sponsored by the Committee on Professional Freedom and Responsibility at the 2021 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) national conference, Virtual.

Panelist (2020, August 8). *Scandal, stigma, and sexualization: How sharing sensational and sensitive information relates to calls for privacy protection*. Sponsored by the Media Law & Policy and Media Ethics divisions at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) annual conference, Virtual.

Panelist (2020, March 4). *Media & the culture of shame*. Elon University School of Communications, Elon, NC.

Panelist (2019, August). *So you've decided to earn a Ph.D.. Now what?* Panel presentation at the AEJMC National Conference Preconference session hosted by the Newspaper and Online News Division and Graduate Studies Interest Group, Toronto, Canada.

Panelist (2019, November). *Extreme speech online: Moral panic 2.0?* Loyola University Center for Digital Ethics & Policy 9th Annual International Symposium on Digital Ethics, Chicago, IL.

Panelist (2017, November). *Waging war against the media: Donald Trump battling the forces of the First Amendment and a free press*. Freedom of Expression Division of the National Communication Association (NCA) Annual Convention, Dallas, TX.

Invited Talks

Dwyer, D. L. (2023, April). Digital ethics inflection points: *Unpublishing the news*. Presented at the 12th [Annual Symposium on Digital Ethics](#) sponsored by Loyola University Chicago Center for Digital Ethics and Policy.

Saffer, A., & Dwyer, D. L. (2019, September 6). Presented results of two-year, multi-method research study, *Interlocking among American news media*, to full faculty of the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

Dwyer, D. L. (2020, February 12). Moderator and discussant for [political film series showing of Wag the Dog](#) and audience Q&A.

Guest Lectures

Unpublishing and the Right to be Forgotten. (April 3, 2023). Presented to Media Law undergraduate class, Butler University College of Communication. Instructor: Dr. Kristen Patrow.

Privacy in the digital age. (April 19, 2021). Presented to MEJO 141 Media Ethics, Hussman School of Journalism and Media, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Instructor: Autumn Ledford.

Digital media ethics. (April 7, 2021). Presented to Journalism Ethics class at San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA.

The Ethics of unpublishing. (April, 2020). Presented to Media Ethics class at Missouri School of Journalism, The University of Missouri. Instructor: Brett Johnson, Ph.D.

The Ethics of unpublishing. (October 12, 2021). Presented to MEJO 141 Media Ethics, Hussman School of Journalism and Media, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Instructor: Angela Herrin.

Privacy in the Digital Page. (October 12, 2021). Presented to MEJO 141 Media Ethics, Hussman School of Journalism and Media, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Instructor: Madison Calvalchire.

Unpublishing and digital journalism. (October 7, 2020). Presented to Innovation in Journalism Freshman Student Interest Group, Missouri School of Journalism, The University of Missouri. Instructor: Randy Picht.

Unpublishing survey research. (Fall 2019). Presented to MEJO 861: Seminar in Survey Research Methods, Hussman School of Journalism and Media, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Instructor: Daniel Riffe, Ph.D.

Comprehensive exam planning. (October 20, 2019). Presented to MEJO 801, Professional Seminar in Doctoral Studies, Hussman School of Journalism and Media, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Instructor: Rhonda Gibson, Ph.D.

The news media faces a new challenge: Unpublishing. (Fall 2019). Presented to COMM 200, Communication and New Media, School of Communication, Loyola University Chicago. Instructor: Lee Hood, Ph.D.

Media Exposure (Examples)

- Mateos, E. (July 2021). [Unpublishing the News: New project provides newsroom resources to address dilemma](#). *Editor & Publisher Magazine*, 12.
- [‘Unpublishing’ the News](#) (2021, June 21). *Editor & Publisher Reports Podcast*.
- Greenberg, Z. (2021, January 22). [Boston Globe launches ‘Fresh Start’ initiative: People can apply to have past coverage about them reviewed](#). *The Boston Globe*.
- Nelson, J. (2020, July 30). [RJI Fellowship to help newsrooms handle unpublishing requests ethically and practically](#). *Reynolds Journalism Institute*.
- Ahmad, A. (2019, December 12). [Whose responsibility is the right to be forgotten?](#) *Columbia Journalism Review*.
- Schmidt, C. (2019, September 4). [Unprepared for unpublishing? Here’s how some newsrooms are rethinking what lasts forever](#). *NiemanLab*.
- Webster, M., & Habte, B. (2019, August 23). [Right to be forgotten \[RadioLab podcast\]](#). *WNYC Studios, New York Public Radio*.

Service

Moderator (2021, August 7). Refereed paper session: *Moral & ethical orientations in murky media contexts*. Sponsored by the Media Ethics Division at the 2021 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) national conference, Virtual.

Contributor, Media Law Notes

Fall 2020

- Dwyer, D. L., & Stewart, C. [Back to basics on unpublishing](#). *Media Law Notes*, 49(1). A publication of the Law & Policy Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Journal Manuscript Reviewer

Digital Journalism

2019

Graduate Student Representative Committee

AEJMC Media Ethics Division

August 2017 – present

Newsletter contributions:

Dwyer, D. L. (2019, Winter). Classroom management and student engagement in the wake of #MeToo. *MED Newsletter*, 22(2), 4-5.

Dwyer, D. L. (2017, Fall). A balancing act in the classroom. *MED Newsletter*, 21(1), 3-4.

Contributor, AEJMC Media Ethics Division online teaching resources

[“Ethics in the News Assignment”](#)

August 2018

Social Media Coordinator	March 2017
<i>Thwarting the Emergence of News Deserts: A Center for Innovation and Sustainability in Local Journalism Symposium</i> The Newseum, Washington, D.C.	
Member at Large	2017
UNC <i>Daily Tar Heel</i> Editor Selection Committee	
Implementation/Training Co-Leader	2017
CrowdTangle Academic Partnership	
Coordinator	2017
First Draft Academic Partnership	
Alumni Representative/Voting Board Member	2008 – 2011
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga UTC Publication Board	
Founding Member	1999 – 2004
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Communication Department Alumni Association	
Coordinator, Volunteer, Mentor, & Guest Speaker	1995 – 2016
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Communication Department Coordinator, volunteer, mentor, and guest speaker for various student events such as resume critique sessions for seniors, "Pizza with the Pros," student internships, professional shadowing opportunities, and mentoring program	

Awards & Honors

Minnie S. and Eli A. Rubinstein Research Award (\$3,650)	2020
UNC Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism and Media	
William Francis Clingman Jr. Ethics Award (\$3,750)	2020
UNC Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism and Media	
AEJMC Research Prize for Professional Relevance (Nominee)	2018
Paper nominated by conference reviewers for inaugural year of a new competition established by the AEJMC Presidential Task Force on Bridges to the Professions with the goal of fostering stronger ties between media professionals and educators. More than two dozen papers were considered. See <i>Nothing but the facts? Journalistic objectivity and media adjudication of President Trump's false claims.</i>	
Moeller Student Competition Award (First Place)	2018
AEJMC Mass Communication and Society Division. See <i>Nothing but the facts? Journalistic objectivity and media adjudication of President Trump's false claims.</i>	
Carol Burnett/University of Hawaii/AEJMC Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research in Media Ethics (Second Place)	2018
See <i>Fake news and the Fourth Estate: The role of editorial messaging in repairing the journalistic paradigm.</i>	

William Francis Clingman Jr. Ethics Award (\$3,500) 2018
UNC Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism and Media

AEJMC Graduate Student Travel Award (\$1,000) 2018
Merit-based award granted by AEJMC Research Committee

Top Paper Award 2017
AEJMC LGBTQ Interest Division
See News coverage of transgender lives and issues within a family context.

William Francis Clingman Jr. Ethics Award (\$2,000) 2017
UNC Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism and Media

Roy H. Park Fellowship 2016 – 2019
UNC Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism and Media

Holmberg Journalism Scholarship 1992
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Academic & Professional Association Memberships

Student Member 2016 – present
Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communications

Student Member 2017 – 2020
National Communication Association

Member/Director at Large 2008 – 2011
Public Relations Society of America

Student Member 1991 – 1995
Society of Professional Journalists