

Department of Communication, SS 351
University at Albany, SUNY
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LAUREN H. BRYANT

EDUCATION

- 2014 Ph.D., Sociology and Communication, University at Albany, SUNY
Dissertation: Gender balanced or gender biased? An examination of news coverage of male and female governors
Committee: Dr. Jennifer Stromer-Galley, Dr. Christine Bose, Dr. Ron Jacobs, Dr. Mihye Seo
- 2008 M.A., Communication, University at Albany, SUNY
- 1998 B.A., Sociology, University of Virginia

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

communication theories, media studies, social media, political communication, campaign communication, gender inequality, gendered communication

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2025-present Lecturer II, Department of Communication, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2018-2025 Lecturer, Department of Communication, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2017-2018 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2015-2016 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2011-2015 Adjunct, Department of Communication, University at Albany, SUNY

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNDERGRADUATE:

ACOM 265X – Introduction to Communication Theory

Fall 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025; Spring 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

This course is required for all communication majors and minors. The course enrollment is 170 students. ACOM 265X is taught using a full Team-Based Learning approach. Classes are devoted to in-class team tasks that introduce students to group, interpersonal, intercultural, and mass communication theories. The theories discussed help students solve everyday communication problems and become savvy and more critical consumers of communication messages. This course fulfills the information literacy requirement of the general education curriculum.

ACOM 265X – Introduction to Communication Theory – Asynchronous Online
Spring 2025; Fall 2025

This course is required for students in our fully online communication major and minor program. Students watch lectures, write weekly journals and participate in small team discussions in which they work through various communication scenarios based upon group, interpersonal, intercultural, and mass communication theories.

ACOM 383 – Social Media: Theory and Practice

Fall 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024; Spring 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024; Summer 2024, 2025

This fully online course provides students with a fundamental theoretical understanding of social media as well as the practical application of social media skills. Students examine social media as it relates to organizational, political, and health communication.

ACOM 203Y – Speech Composition and Presentation

Spring 2011, 2012, 2014, 2017; Fall 2012, 2013, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025

This course is required for all communication majors and minors. ACOM 203Y provides students with the knowledge to design, implement, and evaluate oral presentations. Students learn a variety of purposes in oral presentations including giving and evaluating introductory, informative, persuasive, and ceremonial speeches.

UFSP 100 – Unlocking Your Communication Potential

Fall 2024; 2025

This one-credit course is offered through the University at Albany's First Year Experience program and is designed to introduce students to the University as well as to the field of communication. Topics covered include: communicating your point of view, listening to others, collaborating in a team, and overcoming speaking anxiety.

ACOM 499 – Senior Honors Project

Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

Supervised an undergraduate Honors College thesis for the Communication Department. Title: Death and Dynasties: Using Family Communication Patterns Theory to Understand Individual Feelings Regarding the End of Life

ACOM 378 – Gender and Communication

Spring 2016; Fall 2016

This course introduces students to different theories about gender construction, gender identities, and gender roles and how these theories intersect with communication. Students examine gender in several contexts including interpersonal, organizational, health, and political communication.

ACOM 382 – Introduction to Political Communication

Fall 2015

This course is an overview of the field of political communication. Topics include political campaigns, public opinion, and the role of governmental and media institutions in the political process.

GRADUATE:

ACOM 503 – Message Design and Social Influence

Spring 2025 (Assumed course responsibilities mid-semester due to department need)

This course is designed to introduce students to the classic and contemporary theories of persuasion. Students examine persuasive appeals and their effects, explore cognitive, affective, and motivational processes that mediate persuasive outcomes, and apply persuasion research to real-world topics, issues, and concerns.

ACOM 696 – Independent Study in Communication

Spring 2025

Supervised a graduate independent study for the Communication Department.

Title: Examining the Role of AI Tools in Relation to University Settings

PEER- REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Jackson, S., Zhang, F., Boichak, O., Bryant, L., Li, Y., Hemsley, J., Stromer-Galley, J., Semaan, B., & McCracken, N. (2017). Identifying political topics in social media messages: A lexicon-based approach. *Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Social Media & Society*, Toronto, Canada.

Zhang, F., Tanupabrunsun, S., Hemsley, J., Robinson, J., Semaan, B., Bryant, L., Stromer-Galley, J., Boichak, O., & Hegde, Y. (2017). Strategic temporality on social media during the general election of the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign. *Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Social Media & Society*, Toronto, Canada.

Stromer-Galley, J., Bryant, L. & Bimber, B. (2015). Context and medium matter: Expressing disagreements online and face-to-face in political deliberations. *Journal of Public Deliberation*, 11(1).

Stromer-Galley, J. & Bryant, L. (2011). Agenda control in the 2008 CNN/YouTube debates. *Communication Quarterly*, 59(5), 529-546.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Jackson, S., Zhang, F., Boichak, O., Bryant, L., Li, Y., Hemsley, J., Stromer-Galley, J., Semaan, B., & McCracken, N. (August 2017). A method for computational topic identification in social media messages. *American Political Science Association*, San Francisco, CA.

Stromer-Galley, J., Hemsley, J., Rossini, P., Robinson, J., Bryant, L., Semaan, B., & Boichak, O. (May 2017). Explaining Trump: Analyzing the relationship between social media and mainstream media coverage. *International Communication Association*, San Diego, CA.

Rossini, P., Jackson, S., Zhang, F., Bryant, L., Kenski, K., & Stromer-Galley, J. (May 2017). Disrupting controlled interactivity? An analysis of public comments on Facebook in the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign. *International Communication Association*, San Diego, CA.

Stromer-Galley, J., Rossini, P. G. C., Hemsley, J., Kenski, K., Zhang, F., Bryant, L., & Semaan, B. (October 2016). Social media, U.S. presidential campaigns, and public opinion polls:

Disentangling effects. *Association of Internet Researchers Annual Conference*, Berlin, Germany.

Stromer-Galley, J., Rossini, P. G. C., Bryant, L. Semaan, B., Hemsley, J., Kenski, K., & Zhang, F. (August 2016). Online interaction: Do candidates still avoid it? *American Political Science Association Political Communication Preconference*, Philadelphia, PA.

Stromer-Galley, J., Tanupabrungrun, S., Zhang, F., Hemsley, J., McCracken, N., Bryant, L., Dobreski, B., Semaan, B. (June 2016). Strategic changes in gubernatorial campaign messaging over time: A computational analysis. *International Conference on Computational Social Science*, Chicago, Illinois.

Stromer-Galley, J., Kenski, K., Hemsley, J., Bryant, L., Xu, H., & Semaan, B. (October 2015). How it begins and how it ends: U.S. gubernatorial campaign messaging on social media over time. *Association of Internet Researchers Annual Conference*, Phoenix, AZ.

Bryant, L. (November 2016). Gender balanced or gender biased? An examination of news coverage of male and female governors. *Political Communication Division of the National Communication Association*, Philadelphia, PA.

Bryant, L. (November 2010). The spouses of presidential candidates: The media's coverage of the unofficial running mates. *Political Communication Division of the National Communication Association*, San Francisco, CA.

Stromer-Galley, J. & Bryant, L. (November 2010). Agenda control in the 2008 CNN/YouTube debates. *Mass Communication Division of the National Communication Association*, San Francisco, CA.

Stromer-Galley, J. & Bryant, L. (November 2009). Journalists vs. citizens as questioners: Comparing the CNN/YouTube and MSNBC 2008 campaign primary debates. *Political Communication Division of the National Communication Association*, Chicago, IL.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2025 *AI and the Future of Writing*, Writing and Critical Inquiry Program, University at Albany, SUNY. Invited panelist for roundtable discussion. Joined by Jane Rosenzweig (Director, Harvard College Writing Center); Annette Vee (Associate Professor of English and Director of the Composition Program, Pittsburgh University); and Jason D'Cruz (Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Philosophy Department, University at Albany).

2024 *Teaching Large Classes*, SUNY New Paltz, Faculty Development Center (via Zoom). This workshop focused on various components of Team-Based Learning including active learning, engagement, collaboration and reflection. SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Plattsburgh and SUNY Ulster were invited to attend.

MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2025 Quoted in *Times Union*, “Local Colleges Say AI Cheating Isn’t Rampant”
June 14, 2025
- 2025 Quoted in *Inside Higher Ed*, “SUNY Will Teach Students to ‘Ethically Use AI’”
January 16, 2025
- 2024 Podcast, Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Learning and Online Education, University at Albany, SUNY. Invited guest to discuss the role of AI in higher education, including how students think about AI in relation to their assignments and how instructors can effectively respond to this new technology.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2025 Developing an AI Policy for Your Course, CATLOE, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2023 Brightspace Basics Workshops, CATLOE, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2022 Designing for Online Learning: Building an Online Classroom, Asynchronous Five Week Course, ITLAL, University at Albany, SUNY.
- 2021 Cultural Competency and Implicit Bias Workshop, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, University at Albany, SUNY.
- 2021 Designing for Online Learning: Ongoing Improvement of Online Teaching through Guided Self-Reflection Workshop, ITLAL, University at Albany, SUNY.
- 2020 Moving Activity & Discussion Based Teaching Online Workshop, ITLAL, University at Albany, SUNY.
- 2019 Designing for Online Learning Workshop, University at Albany, SUNY.
- 2017 Team-Based Learning Academy, University at Albany, SUNY. The academy consisted of a two-day workshop followed by a series of consultations with the Institute for Teaching, Learning & Academic Leadership staff to develop a full team-based learning course.
- 2014 Online Course Development Program, University at Albany, SUNY. Selected to participate in summer long program to develop a new, fully online course for the Department of Communication.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2018-present UAlbany in the High School Communication Department Liaison
- 2018-present Undergraduate Curriculum Committee member, Department of Communication

- 2022-2023 Search Committee Member for an Instructional Consultant Position for the Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Learning, and Online Education, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2019, 2017 Manuscript Reviewer: Communication Quarterly
- 2015 Manuscript Reviewer: The Electronic Journal of Communication

AWARDS

- 2024 Received the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching
- 2024 Nominated for the 2024 Spark Faculty/Student Engagement Award
- 2024 Nominated for the 2024 Torch Faculty/Student Engagement Award
- 2021 Nominated for the 2021 Torch Faculty/Student Engagement Award
- 2016 Received Outstanding Service Award, Disability Resource Center
- 2015 Nominated for the Gerald R. Miller Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award
- 2009-2010 Student travel grant, University at Albany, SUNY, Department of Communication

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016-2017 Research Assistant, Illuminating 2016, Syracuse University
The goal of this research project was to use machine learning to provide journalists with a summary of the content and sentiment of online political communication.
- 2009 Research Assistant, Department of Communication, University at Albany, SUNY
Duties included collecting and transcribing questions from CNN/YouTube and MSNBC presidential debates, coding debate questions and analyzing content analysis data.
- 2008-2009 Research Assistant, Department of Communication, University at Albany, SUNY
Deliberative E-Rule Making Decision Facilitation Project (DeER), Funded by the National Science Foundation. This research project used online public deliberation and natural language processing technologies to test the value of different types of feedback on federal agency rules.