

BENJAMIN K. SMITH

Department of Communication, 4005 Social Sciences and Media Studies (SSMS)
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. (Anticipated June 2018) Communication
University of California, Santa Barbara
Ph.D. Emphasis (expected): Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences
Area of Study: Media Communication
Specialization: Public Opinion, Media Effects, Terrorism
GPA: 3.97/4.00
- M.S. 2014 Communication
Portland State University
Specialization: Political Communication, Research Methods
Thesis: *Cross-cutting concerns: The varying effects of partisan cues in the context of social networks*
Chair: Dr. Lee Shaker
Committee members: Dr. Cynthia-Lou Coleman, Dr. Lauren Frank
GPA: 3.85/4.00
- B.S. 2012 Communication
Southern Utah University
B.S. Emphasis: Public Relations
Specialization: Strategic Communication, Public Advocacy
GPA: 3.38/4.00

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

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|---|----------------------------|
| University of California, Santa Barbara
Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies
Graduate Student Researcher | August 2014 – present |
| University of California, Santa Barbara
Department of Communication
Graduate Teaching Assistant / Associate | September 2014 – present |
| Portland State University
Department of Communication
Graduate Teaching Assistant | September 2012 – June 2014 |

RESEARCH

Areas of Interest

- Public Opinion
- Mass Communication
- Perceptions of Terrorism
- Research Methods
- Media Effects
- Framing
- Information Processing

Research Method Specializations

- Statistical Analysis
- Predictive Modeling
- Network Analysis
- Survey Design & Analysis
- Survey Experiments
- Discourse Analysis
- Content Analysis

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

Smith, B. K., & Jensen, E. (2015). Critical review of the United Kingdom's "gold standard" survey of public attitudes to science. *Public Understanding of Science*, 25(2), 154-170. <http://doi.org/10.1177/0963662515623248>

Book Chapters

Smith, B. K., Englund, S., Figueroa-Caballero, A., Salcido, E., & Stohl, M. (in press). Media constructions of terrorism. In M. Stohl, R. Burchill & S. Englund (Eds.), *Constructions of Terrorism*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Smith, B. K., Jensen, E., & Wagoner B. (in press). Quantification. In K. B. Jensen (Ed.), *International Encyclopedia of Communication Theory and Philosophy*. West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

Competitively Selected Conference Papers & Presentations

Gustafson, A., & Smith, B. K. (2016, November). *Wikipedia usage as a predictor of voteshare in gubernatorial elections*. Paper presented at the meeting of the National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Smith, B. K., Figueroa-Caballero, A., al-Gharbi, M., & Stohl, M. (2016, November). *Al Qaeda in the American consciousness: The role of al Qaeda in framing the global terrorist threat*.

- Paper presented at the meeting of the National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Smith, B. K., Kovacs, R., & Stohl, M. (2016, November). *The communicative constitution of the terrorist actor: Organizational metaphors and the discourse of al Qaeda*. Paper presented at the meeting of the National Communication Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Provencher, J., Smith, B. K., Coleman, C. (2016, August). *Fifteen years of framing research: Is framing research maturing?* Paper presented at the meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Minneapolis, MN.
- Gustafson, A., Jensen, E., & Smith, B. K. (2016, August). *Robust social scientific research in a big data universe*. Poster presented at the meeting of the American Psychological Association, Denver, CO.
- Smith, B. K., Figueroa-Caballero, A., & Stohl, M. (2016, June). *Networks of terror: A computational approach to studying the communicatively constituted terrorist actor*. Poster presented at the International Conference on Computational Social Science, Evanston, IL.
- Smith, B. K., Figueroa-Caballero, A., & Stohl, M. (2016, June). *Al Qaeda in the American consciousness: Communicative construction of the terrorist actor through attribute framing*. Paper presented at the meeting of the International Communication Association, Fukuoka, Japan.
- Smith, B. K., Salcido, E., & Stohl, M. (2016, February). Al-Qaeda in the American consciousness: The role of al-Qaeda in framing the global terrorist threat. In R. Rice (Chair), *Media reporting on threats, crises, and national security*. Symposium conducted at the meeting of the Western States Communication Association, San Diego, CA.
- Smith, B. K. (2016, February). *Digital media vs. print media: The ability of differing mediums to develop local community knowledge*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Western States Communication Association, San Diego, CA.
- Smith, B. K. (2016, February). *Frankenstein's food: The [second-level] agenda for genetically modified crops in the British media*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Western States Communication Association, San Diego, CA. * Top Paper Panel
- Smith, B. K., & Gustafson, A. (2015, November). *Using Wikipedia to predict election outcomes: Digital behavior as a predictor of voting*. Paper presented at the meeting of the National Communication Association, Las Vegas, NV.
- Smith, B. K. (2015, May). *Cross-cutting concerns: The varying effects of partisan cues in the context of social networks*. Paper presented at the meeting of the International Communication Association, San Juan, PR.

Smith, B. K. (2014, November). *Cognitive dissonance and the punditry: What is the effect of denial?* Paper presented at the meeting of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.

Research Positions

Graduate Student Researcher (August 2014 – Current)

Dr. Michael Stohl – Director

Orflaea Center for Global and International Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

I am leading a team of researchers in investigating media depictions and framing of terrorists and terrorist organizations. At this stage, the project is primarily focused on newspaper depictions of al Qaeda, Daesh, and linked/associated organizations and actors. Future stages include expanding the research to cover other terrorist actors and organizations, other newspapers (including papers outside of America), and testing for any effects from the frames identified in our prior research.

Research Assistant (March 2014 – Current)

Dr. Eric Jensen – Associate Professor (Senior Lecturer)

Department of Sociology, University of Warwick

I assist Dr. Jensen in a number of capacities, primarily as an expert on quantitative methods. Projects have included performing statistical analysis and reporting on the results for evaluations of the Manchester Science Festival, and Cambridge Science Festival, editing chapters for an upcoming book on research methods, and assisting with the creation of classroom evaluations. In addition, I have co-published two articles with Dr. Jensen.

Research Apprentice (September 2012 – June 2014)

Dr. Lee Shaker – Assistant Professor

Department of Communication, Portland State University

AWARDS, HONORS, AND RECOGNITION

Dean's Graduate Mentoring Award (2016)

Graduate Student Researcher, Orflaea Center for Global and International Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

Top Four Paper in Communication Theory and Research (2016)

Western States Communication Association (2016). *Top Four Paper Award*, Communication Theory and Research Division, *Frankenstein's food: The [second-level] agenda for genetically modified crops in the British media.*

Southern Utah University Student Association Director of the Year (2012)

Marketing Director, Executive Council of the Southern Utah University Student Association

Southern Utah University Student Association Organization of the Year (2011)

President, Southern Utah University Queer-Straight Alliance

TEACHING

University of California, Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara, CA)

Graduate Teaching Associate (Upper-division communication courses)

Marketing Communication (COMM 166 – 1 quarter)

Foundational principles of marketing theory and related communication strategy. Focus on consumer behavior, marketing research, and strategies for promoting products, services, and ideas.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Upper-division communication courses)

Media and Children (COMM 133, with Dr. René Weber – 1 quarter)

Examines children's and adolescents' reactions to mass media and interactive media. Includes analysis of children's cognitive processing of media and study of effects in such areas as violent portrayals, pro-social messages, advertising content. Considers policy implications of research.

Health Communication (COMM 155, with Dr. Robin Nabi – 1 quarter)

Explores theory, research, and practice regarding the impact of various types of messages (intra-personal, interpersonal, and/or media) on people's health knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and outcomes.

Communicating Science (COMM 160CS, with Dr. Gordon Abra – 1 quarter)

This course considers the social and contextual factors that limit communication, within the context of science. Examination of how social structures and social context prescribe or proscribe particular communicative acts, content, and responses, with the primary consideration being the identification of factors that constrain communication.

Political Communication (COMM 130, with Dr. Michael Stohl – 1 quarter)

Overview of the role of communication in politics and public opinion. Exploration of research on the content of a variety of forms of political communication and the cognitive, attitudinal, and behavioral effects of this communication on the public.

Portland State University (Portland, OR)

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Upper-division communication courses)

Research Methods in Communication (COMM 311, with Dr. Cynthia-Lou Coleman – 3 quarters)

Introduction to the assumptions and methods of research in the study of human communication. Students learn to design and conduct practical research projects and improve their ability to understand, evaluate, and use reports of research and scholarship encountered in future coursework and in everyday life.

Media Literacy (COMM 312U, with Dr. Lee Shaker – 2 quarters)

Focuses on building critical skills for evaluating mass media, going beyond the ways that messages represent the world to the ways that messages and the institutions that produce them actually constitute the social world. Primary issues include cultural domination and empowerment; public opinion and the legitimizing role of the media; mass culture and ideology;

cultural opposition; the political-economy of news media; and the general role of media in political socialization. Extensive in-class and small-group media analysis.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Lower-division communication courses)

Mass Communication and Society (COMM 212, with Dr. Lee Shaker – 1 quarter)

A survey of the development of print, broadcast, film, and new communication technology as social, cultural, and economic forces in American society. Examination of news media and their relationship to American political institutions. Discussion of advertising as an economic and popular cultural force. Survey of major trends in media research. Class research project examines content of contemporary commercial media.

INVITED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS / GUEST LECTURES

Smith, B. K., Figueroa-Caballero, A., Chan, S., Kovacs, R., Middo, E., Nelson, L., ... Stohl, M. (2016, April). *Ideological motives: Failures of differentiation within the print media*. Paper presented at the Constructions of Terrorism Conference, Washington D.C.

Smith, B. K. (2015). *Persuasive speech and Monroe's motivated sequence*. Lecture presented to undergraduate students in COMM 131, Fundamentals of Public Speaking, Santa Barbara City College.

Smith, B. K. (2015). *Networks of terror: The communicative constitution of the terrorist actor*. Research talk presented at the Department of Communication Colloquium, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Smith, B. K., Figueroa-Caballero, A. & Stohl, M. (2016, February). Constructions of terrorism: Communicative constitution of Daesh through attribute framing. In M. Juergensmeyer, & K. Visweswaran (Chairs), *Security spheres: Islamic State as research object*. Symposium conducted at the Orfalea Center Global Studies Conference, Santa Barbara, CA.

Smith, B. K., Englund, S., Figueroa-Caballero, A., Salcido, E., & Stohl, M. (2015, December). *Media constructions of terrorism*. Paper presented at the Constructions of Terrorism Conference, Santa Barbara, CA.

Smith, B. K. (2015). *Framing, agenda setting, and the role of print media in reinforcing/Updating science beliefs*. Lecture presented to undergraduate students in COMM160CS, Communicating Science, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Smith, B. K. (2015). *Explaining the gap: Theories of communication, and how communication can influence science beliefs*. Lecture presented to undergraduate students in COMM160CS, Communicating Science, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2015.

Smith, B. K. (2014). *Cross-cutting concerns: The varying effects of partisan cues in the context of social networks*. Research talk presented at the Department of Communication Colloquium, University of California, Santa Barbara.

- Smith, B. K. (2014). *American apparently: Public opinion and the media*. Lecture presented to undergraduate students in COMM 130, Political Communication, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- Smith, B. K. (2014). *Speak with impact*. Lecture presented to undergraduate students in COMM 311, Research Methods in Communication, Portland State University.
- Smith, B. K. (2014). *Scientific inquiry*. Lecture presented to undergraduate students in COMM 311, Research Methods in Communication, Portland State University.
- Smith, B. K. (2014). *Crash course hypothesis testing*. Lecture presented to undergraduate students in COMM 311, Research Methods in Communication, Portland State University.
- Smith, B. K. (2013). *Content analysis*. Lecture presented to undergraduate students in COMM 311, Research Methods in Communication, Portland State University.
- Smith, B. K. (2013). *Speak with impact – Public speaking and presenting*. Seminar presented at the meeting of the NSF’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates, Portland State University.
- Smith, B. K. (2012). *Make a movement: How we’ve failed and how to fix it*. Seminar presented at the meeting of the Southern Utah University Student Association, Southern Utah University.

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Political Communication and Public Opinion: Global Communication (Dr. Michael Stohl), Seminar in Public Opinion and Political Participation (Dr. Eric Smith), Political Communication (Dr. Lee Shaker), Communication and Public Opinion (Dr. Lee Shaker)

Mass Communication and Media Effects: Human Memory and Cognitive Processes (Dr. Michael Miller), Mass Media, the Individual, and Society (Dr. Miriam Metzger), Social Media (Dr. Andrew Flanagan), Framing and Mass Media (Dr. Cynthia-Lou Coleman)

Research Methods / Statistics: Structural Equation Modeling (Dr. Karen Nylund-Gibson), Factor Analysis (Dr. Karen Nylund-Gibson), Advanced Topics in Research Methods and Statistical Analysis (Dr. Rene Weber), Social Network Analysis (Dr. Noah E. Friedkin), Advanced Multivariate Statistics (Dr. George Marcoulides), Data Analysis II (Dr. Corey Nagel), Critical Methods of Media Inquiry (Dr. Elizabeth Whittington), Qualitative Methods in Communication Research (Dr. Jeffrey D. Robinson), Quantitative Methods in Communication Research (Dr. Lauren Frank)

Theory Building: Communication Theory Construction (Dr. Ron Rice), Introduction to Communication Theory (Dr. L. David Ritchie)

Other Content Area Courses: Directed Reading – Organizational Communication (Dr. Cynthia

Stohl), Technology and Organizational Change (Dr. Paul Leonardi), Interpersonal Communication (Dr. Jennifer Kam), Special Topics in Intergroup Communication (Dr. Scott Reid), Teaching College Communication (Dr. Dorothy Mullin), Health Communication Campaigns (Dr. Lauren Frank), Urban Communication (Dr. Lee Shaker)

SERVICE

University and Department Service

Department Representative, UCSB Graduate Student Association (2015-2016)
Job Search Committee Grad. Rep., Department of Communication (2015-2016)
Volunteer, Department of Communication Grad Recruitment Weekend (2015 & 2016)
Marketing Director, Southern Utah University Student Association (2011-2012)
Representative, Southern Utah University Student Services Advisory Council (2011-2012)
Marketing Intern, SUU's Speech & Presentation Center (2012)

Professional Service

Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer

Conservation Biology (2015)
Journal of Language and Social Psychology (2015)

Conference Reviewer

American Association of Public Opinion Research (2015)
Mass Communication Division, International Communication Association (2015)
Political Communication Division, International Communication Association (2015)
Media Studies Division, Western States Communication Association (2015)
Communication and the Future Division, National Communication Association (2015-2016)
Political Communication Division, National Communication Association (2015-2016)

Conference Panel Chair

Political Communication Division, National Communication Association (2015)

Community Service

Portfolio Committee, Trinity Episcopal Church (2015)
Vestry Member, St. Jude's Episcopal Church (2010-2012)
City Council Candidate, Cedar City, UT (2011)
Citizen Advocate, Equality Utah (2010-2011)
President, Southern Utah University Queer-Straight Alliance (2010-2011)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Communication Association
American Association of Public Opinion Researchers
National Communication Association

Western States Communication Association

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder, Account Planner & Research Analyst, Personal Branding Pros (2012-2014)

Public Advocacy Intern, Equality Utah (2011)

Assistant Archivist, SUU's Gerald R. Sherratt Library Special Collections (2009-2012)