

**Dr. D. Aaron Atkins**  
**Weber State University**  
Department of Communication  
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(Updated April 2020)

**Education:**

**Ph.D., Mass Communication**, Earned Oct. 18, 2019, Ohio University  
Fall 2016 – Spring 2019, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, College of Communication, GPA 4.0  
Advisory committee: Dr. Jatin Srivastava, Dr. Hans Meyer, Dr. Kimberly Rios, Eric Williams  
**M.A., Communication**, Spring 2016, Virginia Tech  
Advisory committee: Dr. Michael Horning, Dr. Jenn Mackay, Dr. Casey Myers  
Thesis: “Sense of community, political participation, and civic engagement: An examination of the relationships between local daily newspapers, news websites, and their communities.” Published in the Virginia Tech Library. GPA 3.9  
**Bachelor of Arts in Communication**, 2009, University of North Carolina-Wilmington  
**Associate of Arts, Communications**, 2008, Cape Fear Community College  
**Associate of Arts, General Education**, 2005, New River Community College

**Academic Experience:**

Weber State University – Assistant Professor of Digital Media, July 2020 - ongoing  
Lock Haven University – Instructor of Mass Communication, Aug 2019 - May 2020  
Ohio University – Instructor of Record in Journalism, Aug. 2016 – Aug 2019  
Ph.D. Student of the Year, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University, 2018-2019  
Kappa Tau Alpha national honor society, journalism and mass communication, 2019  
Graduate Teaching Fellowship, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University, 2016-2019  
Producer, Study of the U.S. Institute on Journalism and Media, Ohio University, Summer 2017  
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Communication, Virginia Tech, 2014-2016

**Professional Journalism Experience:**

Sports Editor, Jan. 2011 – Oct. 2012, The Sheridan Press, Sheridan Wyoming  
Sports Writer/Copy Editor, Oct. 2012 – Jan. 2013, The Roanoke Times, Roanoke Virginia  
Editor-in-Chief, Jan. 2013 – Oct. 2013, News Messenger, Radford News Journal  
Producer, April 2017 – August 2017, Study of the U.S. Institute on Journalism and Media (SUSI), United States State Department, Athens, Ohio  
Assistant Director, April 2018 – August 2018, 360 VR Storytelling: Community News, Athens, Ohio  
Aerial Videographer, December 2018 – Biogas development documentary, Port au Prince, Haiti  
Multimedia Journalist, May 2019 – Cats in the Kingdom multimedia experience, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Refereed Articles**

**Atkins, Aaron**, and Speakman, Burton, “Agendamelding and the Alt-Right: The media controls the message, but not its telling.” Under review.

Srivastava, Jatin, Saks, Jeremy, Weed, Amanda, **Atkins, Aaron**, “Engaging audiences on social media: Identifying relationships between message factors and user engagement on the American Cancer Society’s Facebook page,” *Telematics and Informatics*, in press 29 May 2018, ISSN 0736-5853, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tele.2018.05.011>.

**Atkins, Aaron**, “Your paper saved Seattle: E.W Scripps, a man of contradictions, responds to the *Star’s* role in the General Strike of 1919.” In Press at *Journalism History*, Summer 2019.

**Atkins, Aaron**, “The persuasive power of narrative and the Right to Die Movement: A rhetorical analysis

of three narratives depicted in How to Die in Oregon.” Under review at *Critical Studies in Media Communication*.

Meyer, Hans, **Atkins, Aaron**, Peko, Samantha, “Environmental Crisis in Minden: An exploration of virtual reality news and community journalism. *Grassroots Editor*, In press Fall 2019.

#### **Refereed Convention Papers:**

Meyer, Hans, **Atkins, Aaron**, Peko, Samantha (2019). Environmental Crisis in Minden: An exploration of virtual reality news and community journalism. *International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors (ISWNE) Conference*, Atlanta, June 2019. **\*\* Top Paper Award Winner**

Meyer, Hans, **Atkins, Aaron**, Peko, Samantha (2019). Environmental Crisis in Minden: An exploration of virtual reality news and community journalism factors – credibility and engagement. *Annual AEJMC Conference*, Toronto, Canada, August, 2019.

Srivastava, Jatin, **Atkins, Aaron** (2019). Is video news better in virtual reality? An experimental examination of news processing outcomes between 2D and 360-degree formats on mobile platforms. *Annual AEJMC Conference*, Toronto, Canada, August, 2019.

**Atkins, Aaron**, Srivastava, Jatin (2019). Fake news, competence, and the internet: An experimental examination of self-assessment and perceptions of ability to assess truth in social media news stories. *69th annual International Communication Association Conference*: Washington D.C., May 24-28.

**Atkins, Aaron**, Charles, Franklyn (2019). Appalachian Culture: Music and Microbrews (360 VR, Docu-Short), *42nd Appalachian Studies Association Conference*, Appalachia’ville, Asheville, NC, March 14-17

**Atkins, Aaron**, Peko, Samantha (2019). Environmental Crisis in Minden – Nonlinear Narratives and Virtual Reality, a 360VR Experience. *Ohio University Creative Expo*, Athens, April 2019.

Plow, Brian, **Atkins, Aaron**, Charles, Franklyn, Harbert, Laura (2018). A thematic analysis of found footage narratives in visual communication, Franklyn Charles and Aaron Atkins, *104th annual NCA convention*, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 2018.

**Atkins, Aaron** (2018). ‘Your paper saved Seattle?’ E.W Scripps, a man of contradictions, responds to the *Star’s* role in the General Strike of 1919. *Annual AEJMC Conference*, Washington D.C., August 2018.

**Atkins, Aaron**, Charles, Franklyn, (2018). Appalachian Culture: Music and Microbrews (360 VR, Docu Short), *Ohio University Creative Expo*, Athens, April 2018, \*Appalachian Studies Award Winner.

**Atkins, Aaron**, Charles, Franklyn, (2018). Appalachian Culture: Music and Microbrews (360 VR, Documentary Short), *GRID Lab XR Immersive Media Showcase*, Athens, Oh, April 2018.

Harbert, Laura, Charles, Franklyn, **Atkins, Aaron**, (2018). Preserving Culture and Worship: The Black Church in Appalachia (Film, Documentary Short), *41st annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference*, Re-Stitching the Seams: Appalachia Beyond its Borders, Cincinnati, Oh, April 2018

**Atkins, Aaron**, (2018). Hydraulic fracturing and risk assessment: a brief examination of fracking and environmental impact through newspaper coverage of conflict and environmental disaster. *Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Midwinter*, Norman, Ok, Mar. 2018

**Atkins, Aaron** (2018). False news, incompetence, and the internet: An experiment examining self-assessment, confirmation bias, and perceptions of ability to assess truth in social media news stories. *Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Midwinter*, Norman, Ok, Mar. 2018

**Atkins, Aaron** (2018). “Your paper saved Seattle:” E.W Scripps, a man of contradictions, responds to the *Star’s* role in the General Strike of 1919. *Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Midwinter*, Norman, Ok, Mar. 2018

**Atkins, Aaron**, (2018). “To me, this is bigger than football:” Minority high school football players, taking a knee in protest, and the constitutionality of restricting political speech.” *Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Midwinter*, Norman, Ok, Mar. 2018

**Atkins, Aaron**, and Speakman, Burton (2018). Agendamelding and the Alt-Right: The media controls the message, but not its telling. *AEJMC Annual Convention*, Chicago, Il, Aug. 2017

**Atkins, Aaron**, McLean, David, Canter, William (2017). Immersive narratives, 360 video and virtual reality: A pilot experiment and comparison of news narratives and transportation effects in 360 video and virtual reality conditions. *AEJMC Midwinter*, Norman, Ok, Mar. 2017

**Atkins, Aaron**, (2017). Local news and online news-seeking behaviors: A secondary analysis of nationally representative, random-sample data. *Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Midwinter*, Norman, Ok, Mar. 2017

**Atkins, Aaron** (2016). The persuasive power of an unflinching emotional story and the Right to Die Movement: A rhetorical analysis of three narratives depicted in How to Die in Oregon. *102<sup>nd</sup> annual NCA Conference*, Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 2016

#### **Refereed Convention Poster Sessions:**

**Aaron Atkins** (2017). Immersive narratives, 360 video and virtual reality redux: A pilot experiment and comparison of news narratives and transportation effects in 360 video and virtual reality conditions. *AEJMC Annual Convention*, Chicago, Il, Aug. 2017

Marlene Preston, Brandi Quesenberry, **Aaron Atkins**, and Betsy Haugh (2016). "Ready or Not, Here They Come: Training Graduate Teaching Assistants, *8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy*, Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va., Feb. 2016

#### **Classes Taught:**

**COMM 318**, Video Workshop: Television Journalism Performance, Lock Haven University, Fall 2019

**COMM 150**, Introduction to Mass Communication, Lock Haven University, Fall 2019

**COMM 103**, Small Group Communication, Lock Haven University, Fall 2019

**JOUR 3140**, Fundamentals of Online Journalism, Ohio University, spring 2018.

**JOUR 2050**, News and Information Literacy, Ohio University, fall 2018.

**JOUR 2311**, Introduction to Multiplatform Reporting and Writing, Ohio University, fall 2016, spring 2017, fall 2017, spring 2018. Dept. of Journalism gateway course, delivered lectures, taught news-style writing, information gathering and research, and writing for print and online publications. Responsible for constructing course, generating content, grading.

**COMM 2004**, Public Speaking, Virginia Tech, fall 2014 – spring 2016. Served as instructor-of-record for Communication Dept. public speaking courses. Two courses per semester, 40 students each from all undergraduate levels, unique, experimental lecture/online hybrid course format. Responsible for generating course lecture materials, delivering lectures, assessing students' performances, evaluating learning measurement devices, delivering constructive feedback.

**COMM 1560** – Audio Production, Weber State University, Fall 2020

**COMM 2200** – Multi-camera Studio Production, Weber State University, Fall 2020

**COMM 2250** – Essentials of Digital Media, Weber State University, Fall 2020

**COMM 3780** – Broadcast Journalism, Weber State University, Fall 2020

#### **Invited Lectures:**

360-degree video and online news, June 20, 2019, Intl. Soc. of Weekly Newspaper Editors, Emory Univ.

360-degree video and news production, April 19, 2018, Kiplinger Institute Fellowship Week, Ohio Univ.

360-degree video and strategic communication/personal branding, Oct. 2, 2018, Ohio Univ.

360VR – a crash course in VR production, Nov. 14, 2018, Marshall University, JMC260: Digital Imaging

Fact-checking and Reporting, Nov. 12, 2018, Sam Houston State University

Covering Speeches, Feb. 11, 2019, Missouri State Southern University

#### **Other media:**

**WOUB** – interviewed for VR and nonfiction storytelling

**Podcast** – AEJMC History Division, May 2019, <https://journalismhistorypodcast.podbean.com>

**Born to Die documentary film** – in progress, contributed aerial videography

**Haiti biogas documentary film** – in progress, audio technician, aerial videographer

**Cats in the Kingdom** – [www.catsinthekingdom.com](http://www.catsinthekingdom.com)

#### **Reviewer/Moderator/Discussant/Panelist:**

Panelist for *Annual AEJMC Conference*, Toronto, Canada, August, 2019.

Moderator for AEJMC 2019 GSIG/NOND Preconference, Career and Research Workshop  
Article Reviewer for *New Media and Society*, December 2018 – ongoing.  
Reviewer/Discussant for AEJMC 2019 – Midwinter, March 1-2, Norman Okla.  
Moderator for AEJMC 2019 – Midwinter, March 1-2, Norman Okla. – 3 research sessions and a panel  
Reviewer for AEJMC 2018 GSIG, April 2018  
Panelist for AEJMC 2018 teaching session, GSIG/Electronic News Division, The Status of GTAs  
Moderator for AEJMC 2018, Newspaper and Online Division/GSIG preconference, Career Workshop  
Discussant for AEJMC 2018 GSIG scholar-to-scholar poster session, August 7, 2018

### **Service:**

HavenScope video production student practicum, Faculty Adviser, Lock Haven University, 2019-2020  
Budget Committee, Lock Haven University, 2019-2020  
AEJMC Community Journalism Interest Group, 2019-2020, PF&R Chair  
AEJMC Graduate Student Interest Group, 2018-2019, Chair  
AEJMC Graduate Student Interest Group, 2017-2018, Vice Chair/Programming Chair  
AEJMC Graduate Student Interest Group, 2016-2017, PF&R Chair  
Graduate Student Association, 2014-2015, Virginia Tech, Communication Dept. Representative  
Communication Graduate Student Association, 2014-2015, Dept. of Communication, Virginia Tech

### **Grants**

AEJMC History Division Travel Award, August 2018  
AEJMC Mass Communication & Society Midwinter Travel Award, March 2018  
Scripps College of Communication Diversity Committee Travel Award, March 2018

### **Awards and Certificates:**

Graduate Certificate, Preparing Future Professoriate, 2015-2016, Virginia Tech  
Graduate Certificate, Pedagogical Practices in Contemporary Contexts, Fall 2015, Virginia Tech  
Wyoming Press Association, Feature Writing, 2011, second place  
Wyoming Press Association, Event Coverage, 2011, second place  
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, Community Leadership, 2013  
“Appalachian Culture: Music and Microbrews” (360 VR, Documentary Short), Ohio University Creative Expo, Athens, Oh, April 2018, Appalachian Culture, second place  
ISWNE annual Huck Boyd National Center for Community Media research paper competition winner, June 2019, Emory University  
Ph.D. Student of the Year, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University, 2018-2019  
Kappa Tau Alpha national honor society, journalism and mass communication, 2019