

ALEX OLSHANSKY

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EDUCATION

- 2021
(Anticipated) Ph.D., *Media and Communication*, Texas Tech University
Specialization: Science Communication
Dissertation: Awe-inspiring conspiracies: The role of emotion in the hindering of cognitive defense mechanisms
Advisor: Justin R. Keene (Journalism & Creative Media Industries)
Committee Members: Asheley R. Landrum (Advertising), Kerk F. Kee (Professional Communication), and Tyler Davis (Experimental Cognitive Psychology)
- 2018 M.A., *Mass Communication*, Texas Tech University
Thesis: Conspiracy Theorizing and Religious Motivated Reasoning: Why the Earth 'Must' Be Flat.
Advisor: Erik P. Bucy (Professional Communication)
Committee Members: Asheley R. Landrum (Advertising) and Glenn Cummins (Journalism & Creative Media Industries)
- 2006 B.S., *Finance*, University of Texas at Dallas

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Cognitive and Emotional Media Processing; Conspiracy Theories; Media Effects; Media Psychology; Public Media; Public Understanding of Science; Science Curiosity; Science and Health Misinformation; Science of Science Communication

RESEARCH

Publications

Submitted for Review

5. **Olshansky, A.**, Bucy, E., Landrum, A. R. (revising). Conspiracy Mentality and Science Illiteracy Predict Flat Earth Beliefs.

Journal Articles

4. **Olshansky, A.**, Peaslee, R., & Landrum, A. R. (2020). Flat Smacked! Converting to Flat Eartherism. *Journal of Media and Religion*. doi: 10.1080/15348423.2020.1774257
3. Landrum, A. R. & **Olshansky, A.** (2020). Third-person Perceptions and Calls for Censorship of Flat Earth Videos on YouTube. *Media & Communication*, 8(2), XX-XX. doi: 10.17645/mac.v8i2.2853.
2. Landrum, A. R., **Olshansky, A.**, & Richards, O. (2020). Differential susceptibility to misleading flat earth arguments on YouTube. *Media Psychology*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15213269.2019.1669461>
1. Landrum, A. R., & **Olshansky, A.** (2019). The Role of Conspiracy Mentality in Denial of Science and Susceptibility to Viral Deception about Science. *Politics and the Life Sciences*, 38(2), 193-209. doi: 10.1017/pls.2019.9

Conference Submissions & Presentations

6. **Olshansky, A.**, Peaslee, R. M., Landrum, A. R. (August 2020). *Flat Smacked! Converting to Flat Eartherism*. Paper presented at AEJMC. (Virtual due to COVID19)
5. **Olshansky, A.**, Peaslee, R. M., Landrum, A. R. (March 2020). *Flat Smacked! Converting to Flat Eartherism*. Paper to be presented at the Conspiracy Theory Conference. (Cancelled due to COVID19)
4. Landrum, A. R., **Olshansky, A.**, & Richards, O. (February 2019). *YouTube as a Primary Propagator of Flat Earth Philosophy*. Paper presented as part of E. Bucy's & A. R. Landrum's (organizers) *YouTube: Friend or Foe to Communicating about Science and Health*. The 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Washington, D.C.
3. **Olshansky, A.** (October 2018). *Conspiracy Theorizing and Religious Motivated Reasoning: Why the Earth 'Must' Be Flat*. Poster presented at Texas Tech University Three Minute Thesis Competition.
2. Landrum, A. R. & **Olshansky, A.** (February 2018). *Believing in a Flat Earth*. Paper presented as part of A. R. Landrum's and J. Reifler's (organizers) *The Proliferation of Conspiracy Theories and Fake News about Science*. The 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Austin, TX.
1. Landrum, A. R., **Olshansky, A.**, & Helft, L. (October 2017). *Curiosity, Knowledge, and Acceptance: Early Evidence of a Developmental Shift in Motivated Reasoning about Science*. Poster to be presented at the 2017 meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Portland, OR.

TEACHING

Courses

Instructor of Record

MCOM 1301	Intro to Digital and Social Media Fall 2020 (400 students)	Texas Tech University
MCOM 2350	Communicating in a Global Society Spring 2020 (77 students)	Texas Tech University
MCOM 3380	Research Methods in Media and Communication Fall 2019 (41 students)	Texas Tech University
MCOM 3300	Theories of Media and Communication Spring 2019 (60 students), Summer 2019 (13 students)	Texas Tech University

Teaching Assistant

MCOM 2320	Writing for Media Fall 2018 (37 students) Spring 2018 (32 students) Fall 2017 (40 students)	Texas Tech University
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Guest Lectures

MCOM 2330	Media Literacy (2019)	Texas Tech University
JOUR 6315	Misperceptions, Misinformation and the Media (2019)	Texas Tech University
MCOM 3302	Communication Research (2018)	Texas Tech University

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2020 - 2021	J.T. and Margaret Talkington Graduate Fellowship, College of Media & Communication, Texas Tech University
2019 - 2020	Thomas J. Harris Fellowship, College of Media & Communication, Texas Tech University
2019 (April)	Regent Professors' Graduate Student Research Small Grant (\$500)
2019 - 2020	Hellen DeVitt Jones Graduate Fellowship, College of Media & Communication, Texas Tech University
2019 - 2020	J.T. and Margaret Talkington Graduate Fellowship, College of Media & Communication, Texas Tech University
2018 - 2019	Hellen DeVitt Jones Graduate Fellowship, College of Media & Communication, Texas Tech University
2017 - 2018	J.T. and Margaret Talkington Graduate Fellowship, College of Media & Communication, Texas Tech University

GRANT ACTIVITY

Submitted Proposals

May 2020	Awe-inspiring Conspiracies: The Role of Emotion in Defensive Processing Facebook Role: Co-PI Lead: J. R. Keene Co-PIs: A. R. Landrum, K. F. Kee Status: Declined Amount Applied For: \$99,694
Aug 2020	National Science Foundation Regional I-Corps Program Role: Co-PI Lead: K. F. Kee Status: Accepted Amount Applied For: \$3,000

Grant experience

Aug 2019	National Science Foundation: CAREER Grant Project Title, "Organizational Capacity and Capacity Building for Cyberinfrastructure Diffusion"(ACI #1453864) National Science Foundation Role: Research Assistant (2019 - Present) Lead: K. F. Kee Grant Amount: \$519,753.00
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SERVICE

Professional Memberships:

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
 AEJMC (ComSHER division) Communicating Science, Health, Environment & Risk
 STEM CORE (Center for Outreach, Research & Education)

Public and Community Service:

President of TTU Science Booster Club, Lubbock, TX (2017 to present)
 Graduate Student Society member (2020 - present)

EMPLOYMENT

2019 – Present	Instructor College of Media & Communication, Texas Tech University	Lubbock, TX
2017 - 2018	Graduate Teaching Assistant College of Media & Communication, Texas Tech University	Lubbock, TX
2016 – 2017	AVP Operations Support Manager State Bank of Texas	Irving, TX
2015 – 2017	VP Operations Access Bank Texas	Denton, TX
2013 – 2015	AVP Deposit Operations Manager Park Cities InterBank	Dallas, TX
2011 – 2013	Quality Assurance Analyst Argo Data	Richardson, TX
2006 – 2011	Imaging Manager/ EFT Specialist SharePlus Bank	Plano, TX

REFERENCES

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