

JOE CUTBIRTH, Ph.D.

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Associate Professor of Instruction
The University of Texas at Austin
jcutbirth@austin.utexas.edu

300 W. Dean Keaton
Austin, TX 78712
512-471-5775

EDUCATION**Columbia University, New York, 2001—2011**

Ph.D. Communication, 2011

Dissertation: *Satire as News: The Daily Show and American Politics at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century*

Chair: Dr. Todd Gitlin

Georgetown University, Washington DC, 1999—2001

M.A. Communication, Culture & Technology, 2001

Thesis: *Campaign 2000: Journalism in the Age of Cyberspace* (with distinction)

Director: Dr. Diana Owen

The University of Texas at Austin, 1974—1979; 1998—1999

B.J. Public Relations, 1999

CERTIFICATIONS**Executive Certificate in Public Leadership, 2021—2024**

John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Certification in Effective Teaching Practices, 2022—2023

Association of College and University Educators

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2026-present	The University of Texas Moody College of Communication, Associate Professor of Instruction
2019—2026	The University of Texas Moody College of Communication, Assistant Professor of Instruction
2016—2019	The University of Texas Moody College of Communication, Lecturer
2016—2019	The University of Houston Jack Valenti School of Communication, Visiting Assistant Professor
2015	St. Edward's University Department of Communication, Adjunct Professor
2012—2014	Manhattan College Department of Communication, Assistant Professor
2003—2009; 2012	Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Adjunct Professor
2011—2012	The University of Virginia Department of Media Studies, Lecturer
2009—2011	The University of British Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, Assistant Professor
2004—2008	New York University Department of Journalism, Adjunct Professor
2005—2007	The New School Department of Media Studies, Adjunct Professor

2007	Rutgers University-Newark Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Adjunct Professor
2006	Marymount Manhattan College Department of Communication Arts, Adjunct Professor

TEACHING AWARDS, GRANTS, AND OTHER RECOGNITION

2024-25	The University of Texas Provost Teaching Fellows 2024 cohort
2024	The University of Texas Provost Faculty Development Award (\$10,000)
2023	Moody College of Communication Outstanding Teacher, finalist
2022	Small Changes for Inclusivity Award, Moody College Center for Advanced Teaching Excellence
2021	The University of Texas Center for Skills & Experience Flags award for course innovation and development (\$2,000)
2021	Moody College of Communication Dean's stipend for curriculum development (\$3,000)
2018	Consultant to "What Does Voting Mean? Perceptions, Barriers, and Opportunities." Sharon E. Jarvis (P.I.). Total grant funding \$99,984.95, supported by Democracy Fund to the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life

JOURNALISM AWARDS

2016	Hillman Prize for Magazine Journalism, "Death on Sevenmile Road," <i>Texas Observer</i> editor-in-chief, reported by Melissa del Bosque
2016	Society of Professional Journalists Magazine Investigative Reporting, "Graves of Shame," <i>Texas Observer</i> editor-in-chief, reported by John Carlos Frey
1994	Dallas Press Club spot news major daily, "Hutchison acquitted," <i>Fort Worth Star-Telegram</i>
1992	Texas Associated Press feature series, "Ethics and the Texas Legislature," <i>Fort Worth Star-Telegram</i>
1991	Texas Associated Press team effort, "House Speaker Lewis Indicted," <i>Fort Worth Star-Telegram</i>
1986	Texas Women's Political Caucus 1986 Chrysalis award, "City Violates Hiring Agreement," <i>Wichita Falls Times/ Record News</i>
1986	Oklahoma Associated Press investigative reporting, "City Violates Hiring Agreement," <i>Wichita Falls Times/ Record News</i> .
1985	International Reading Association print media award, "Why Can't Johnnie Read?" <i>Wichita Falls Times/ Record News</i>
1985	Oklahoma Associated Press, public service, "Why Can't Johnnie Read?" <i>Wichita Falls Times/ Record News</i>
1984	Texas Associated Press team effort, "Fighter crash at SAFB," <i>Wichita Falls Times/ Record News</i>

COURSES TAUGHT

The University of Texas at Austin (2016—present)

BDP 101 Public Narrative
BDP 101 Campaign Ethics Law/ Business/ Health Care
CMS 327 Urban Communication
CMS 338 Leadership Stories
CMS 344K Lying and Deception
CMS 367 Fake News
CMS 367 Social Media/ Social Issues
J 317 Journalism Practices
J 348N/ PR 378 Leadership in News Organizations
CLD 370 Communication and Leadership Capstone
COM 370 Leadership and Public Narrative
TC 660HB Plan 2 Thesis Supervisor

The University of Houston (2015—2018)

COMM 1301 Media and Society
COMM 4303 Communication Law and Ethics
COMM 4313 Investigative Reporting
COMM 4397 Writing for Communicators

St. Edward's University (2015)

CULF 1318 Fake News, Politics, and Popular Culture

Manhattan College (2012—2014)

Comm 101 Quadrangle 1
Comm 102 Quadrangle 2
Comm 103 Quadrangle 3
Comm 201 Ethics in Communication and Media
Comm 209 Introduction to Journalism
Comm 213 Reporting and Newswriting
Comm 318 Advanced Reporting and Newswriting
Comm 330 The Journalistic Tradition
Comm 338 Feature Writing
Comm 409 Senior Thesis Seminar

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism (2003—2009; 2012)

J 6011 Columbia News Service for the New York Times Syndicate
J 6011 The Deadline in Depth
J 6075 Critical Issues in American Journalism
J 6001 Reporting and News Writing
J 6011 *The Bronx Beat* (hyperlocal digital reporting)
J 5999 Masters project (thesis)

The University of Virginia (2011—2012)

MDST 3559 Media Law and Public Policy
MDST 4559 Civic Journalism
MDST 4559 Fake News, Politics, and Popular Culture

MDST 3050 History of Mass Media
MDST 4559 Political Journalism
MDST 3104 News and the Construction of Reality

The University of British Columbia (2009—2011)

JRNL 520D Issues in Contemporary Journalism
JRNL 503D Newsroom Practice and Standards
JRNL 520E Satire as News
JRNL 549A Thesis Colloquium

New York University (2004—2008)

V54.0301 Advanced Reporting: Campaign 2008
V54.0301 Advanced Reporting: City Hall to Capitol Hill
V54.0301 Advanced Reporting: Campaign 2006
V54.0505 Fake News, Politics, and Popular Culture
V54.0013 Mass Media and American Government
G54.1021 Writing and News Reporting (graduate workshop)
V54.0008 Media Ethics, Law, and Public Policy
G54.1023 The Journalistic Tradition (graduate seminar)

The New School (2005—2007)

NCOM 3219 Fake News, Politics, and Popular Culture

Rutgers University-Newark (2007)

21.965.253 Television and Society

Marymount Manhattan College (2006)

COMM 107 Principles and Theories of Communication

**GRADUATE COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS AND UNDERGRADUATE HONORS
THESES SUPERVISED**

2025—2026	Thesis Supervisor, James Ugarte, "Podcasting and Polarization: An Analysis of the Joe Rogan Experience," Plan II Honors Program, University of Texas at Austin
2025—2026	Thesis Supervisor, Noah Gould, "The Language of the Newsroom: Small Talk as a Reflection of Journalist Culture" Moody College of Communication Honors Program, University of Texas at Austin
2024—2025	Thesis Supervisor, Hasan Arif, "The Right Jokes: An Analysis of Conservative Political Comedy in Late Night Television," Plan II, The University of Texas at Austin
2023—2024	Thesis Second Reader, Mercury Ray Robertson, "Failure to Communicate: Conspiracies and Science Communication," Polymathic Scholars Honors Program, College of Natural Sciences, The University of Texas at Austin
2023—2024	Thesis Adviser, Maria Cortes, "The Implications of Independent Status Student (ISS): dependency Override on the Mental and Physical Health of a Student at UT Austin," Moody College of Communication Honors Program, University of Texas at Austin

2020—2021	Thesis Supervisor, Aiden Snasdell, "False Familiarity and Agenda Setting: Trump's Unique Approach to Twitter in the Presidential Election of 2016," Plan II, The University of Texas at Austin
2018	Member, Comprehensive Exam Committee for Justin Graeber, M.A./Ph.D. in Advertising, The University of Texas at Austin
2009	Masters Project Adviser, Katy Hall, "Starving for Two," Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism
2005	Masters Project Adviser, Theresa Bradley, "Though the Heavens Fall: Reporter's Privilege in Life and Law," Columbia Graduate School of Journalism

PROFESSIONAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Communication Discipline and Profession

2022	The Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, political communication interest group, conference submissions reader
2020	Full book manuscript review of <i>The Year of Fear: Four Americans on the Way to November</i> by M. Shapiro. For Columbia University Press

The University of Texas

2020—present	The University of Texas Bridging Disciplines Program, Ethics & Leadership admissions and curriculum panel
2020—present	The University of Texas Bridging Disciplines Program connective experience internship mentor/ adviser
2024—2025	Services for Students with Disabilities advisory committee member
2023—2025	The University of Texas Independent Inquiry Flag Committee (Moody College representative)
2021—2024	The University of Texas Faculty Welfare Committee member
2021—2024	The University of Texas Faculty Gender Equity Council member

Moody College of Communication

2024—present	Moody College Assessment Committee (CLD Representative)
2024—present	Moody College Faculty Recruitment Committee (CLD Representative)
2021—present	Moody College Communicating Social Issues Minor Committee
2020	Moody Open Door Discussion, "Fake News and Truthiness in the Post-Trump era"
2020	Moody College Dean's COVID Online Teaching Task Force
2020	Moody Open Door Discussion, "Fake News and What Just Happened on Election Day"
2019	"The Contemporary Relevance of the History of Rhetoric" panel chair, The University of Texas

Communication Studies Department

2023—present	Socialization and Wellness Committee
2023	Communication Studies Week Committee
2020-2021; 2026	Student Scholarship Committee, 2021 (chair); and 2020, 2026 (member)
2019; 2020	Student Appeals Committees (ad hoc)

Department of Journalism and Media Studies

2024—present	Center for Ethical Leadership in Media, curricula and research committee
2021—2022	School for Journalism and Media undergraduate studies committee
2019—2022	Ethical Leadership in Newsrooms working group

Communication Leadership Degree Program

2024—present	Communication Leadership Degree committee for minor in Communication Leadership and Philanthropy
2023—2024	Communication Leadership Degree student club faculty adviser
2019—2020	Communication Leadership Degree executive council for curriculum and administration

GOOGLE SCHOLAR

https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=new_articles&hl=en&imq=Joe+Cutbirth&authuser=1#

CHAPTERS, JOURNAL ARTICLES, AND PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH

Cutbirth, J. (2016). Cash out: Philanthropy, sustainability, and ethics in nonprofit news. In Paul Booth and Amber Davisson (Eds.). *Media ethics*. Bloomsbury Academic Press, pp. 186—201.

Cutbirth, J. (2013) Journalism and intellectual freedom. In Mark Alfino and Laura Koltutsky, (Eds.), *Handbook of intellectual freedom: Concepts, cases and theories*. Library Juice Press, pp. 422—439.

Cutbirth, J. (2013, August 20) Objects of journalism: Bar rags and the AIDS virus. In Heather Ford, (Ed.). *Ethnography Matters*. <http://ethnographymatters.net/blog/2013/08/20/objects-of-journalism-bar-rags-and-the-aids-virus/>

SCHOLARLY PRESS AND COMMERCIAL BOOK REVIEWS

Cutbirth, J. (2020). *The year of fear: Four Americans on the way to November*, by M. Shapiro. Manuscript review for Columbia University Press.

Cutbirth, J. (2015, May 15). Signorile warns LGBT community to resist 'victory blindness'. [Review of the book *It's not over: Getting beyond tolerance, defeating homophobia, and winning true equality*, by M. Signorile]. *The Texas observer*. <https://www.texasobserver.org/signorile-warns-lgbt-community-to-resist-victory-blindness/>

Cutbirth, J. (2010 Fall). Untitled review. [Review of the book *From Cronkite to Colbert: The evolution of broadcast news* by Geoffrey Baym]. *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*, Vol. 13, No. 3.

INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life, Political Discourse Workshop, The University of Texas, 2023

Tejas Club Faculty Speaker Series, "Leadership and Narrative Storytelling," The University of Texas, 2023

Moody College First-year Interest Group invited presentation, "Lying and Deception in Human Interaction," The University of Texas, 2019

LBJ School of Public Affairs *EMPL Course: Understanding and Shaping Opinions*, The University of Texas, 2021, 2020, 2019, and 2018

Tejas Club Faculty Speaker Series, "Fake News," The University of Texas, 2019

CONFERENCE PAPERS, PANELS, AND RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Denius Symposium on News Integrity, panelist. Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life and the School of Journalism and Media. University of Texas at Austin. 2021 and 2019.

National Curriculum for Journalism Ethics Symposium, panelist. Press Forward/ University of Texas Moody College of Communication @ UTNYC. 2020.

"We're here, we're queer, and we report the news: Roy Aarons and the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association, an oral history," poster presentation. Oral History Association, Salt Lake City, Utah. 2019.

"The Contemporary Relevance of the History of Rhetoric," panel chair. The American Society for the History of Rhetoric. University of Texas, February 17, 2019.

"Out at the Top," keynote panel. National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association 25th anniversary, San Francisco, Calif., 2015.

"Strange Bedfellows: Bar Rags, the AIDS Virus and Modern Gay Identity," refereed paper. *Objects of journalism* pre-conference event. International Communications Association Frontline Club, London, England, 2013.

"The Trouble with Jon: A new paradigm for research on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," research. Television Through the Lens of Media Ecology, Media Ecology Association, New York, N.Y., 2012.

"Journalists and Linguists: Ways with Words Online," panelist. Georgetown University Round Table on Language and Linguistics, Washington, D.C., 2011.

"Fake News, Real Reporting: The Role of Late-night Comedy in Journalism Education," panel organizer/ moderator. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Denver, Colo., 2010.

"Five Books About Journalism Every Journalism Student Should Read," panelist. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication - American Journalism Historians Association joint meeting, New York, N.Y., 2009.

"Journalism in Our Time," panel moderator, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication - American Journalism Historians Association joint meeting, New York, N.Y., 2009.

"James Carey and the Columbia School," prepared remarks. Conversations and Communications: A Conference in Memory of James W. Carey, Columbia University, New York, NY, 2007.

“Preserving and Accessing Journalism Resources,” panel moderator. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication - American Journalism Historians Association joint meeting New York, N.Y., 2007.

“A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Election: The Making of Jon Stewart,” research presentation. Media in Transition 4 Conference, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., 2005.

“Shakespeare to Stand-up: The Evolution of Fake News in Western Culture,” research presentation. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication - American Journalism Historians Association joint meeting, New York, N.Y., 2005.

“How to Get the Out into the Classroom,” panel. National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association, Chicago, Ill., 2005.

“Going Around the Gatekeepers: What Young Americans Learn About Political Leaders from Late-Night Television,” paper. American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, Pa., 2003.

“Pop Culture or Political Riff: Presidential Imagery on Saturday Night Live,” paper. Media In Transition 3 Conference, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., 2003.

“The Pen and the Sword: News Coverage and Public Opinion of President Bush and the War on Terrorism,” paper. Midwest Association of Public Opinion Research, Chicago, Ill., 2002.

“The Internet Vote: Web Use and Political Behavior in the 2000 Presidential Campaign,” paper. Eastern Communication Association, New York, N.Y., 2002.

“Acting in the Family Interest: Melodrama and Family Narrative in the 2000 Presidential Campaign,” paper. Georgetown University Roundtable on Language and Linguistics, Washington D.C., 2001.

“The Internet and the Youth Vote: Possibilities, Changes and Limitations” w. Dr. Diana Owen, paper. National Communication Association, Washington, D.C., 2000.

“Journalists and Linguists, Ways with Words,” panelist, Georgetown University Roundtable on Language and Linguistics, Washington, D.C., 2000.

EDITORIALS, OP-EDS

The Texas Observer

Cutbirth, J. (2015). "The moral indefensibility of death row."

Cutbirth, J. (2015). "Texas should stand tall for equity."

Cutbirth, J. (2015). "A look at concealed handgun permits in Texas."

Cutbirth, J. (2015). "Analyzing the demographic disparities of death row."

Cutbirth, J. (2015). "Death row inmates pose moral dilemma."

The Huffington Post (selected)

Cutbirth, J. (2014). "Parker's Wedding Completes an Amazing Arc of LGBT History."

Cutbirth, J. (2013). "Requiem for the Cover of Rolling Stone."

Cutbirth, J. (2013). "How Could the New York Times Screw Up Ed Koch's Obituary?"

Cutbirth, J. (2011). "Why I'm Calling It *Gulp* for Michelle Bachmann."

Cutbirth, J. (2010). "Leach Incident Shows ESPN Ethics Stink."

Cutbirth, J. (2009). "Happy Birthday Harvey Milk and Thanks for Giving Us Hope."

Cutbirth, J. (2009). "The Pope Can't Get Away with This."
 Cutbirth, J. (2009). "Digging Further Into the Texas Rape Kit Scandal."
 Cutbirth, J. (2008). "McCain Owes Us More Than Gramm's Resignation."
 Cutbirth, J. (2008). "Obama's Mile High Moment."
 Cutbirth, J. (2008). "A Different Take on Barack Obama and Mark McKinnon."
 Cutbirth, J. (2007). "When You Hear Their Big Damn Lie."

OTHER WORK

2015	<i>Texas Observer</i> , editor-in-chief
2007—2014	<i>Huffington Post</i> , blogger
2013	<i>Borderzine: Reporting Across Fronteras</i> , editor-reporter, Dow-Jones Media Academy, University of Texas at El Paso
2008	ABC News NOW, <i>Politics Live</i> , analyst for presidential primaries and general election campaign
2001	<i>Gnovis</i> (Georgetown University Communication, Culture & Technology Department academic journal), founding editor
2001	<i>Education Daily</i> , contributing writer
2000	<i>Northwestern Magazine</i> , contributing writer
1998—1999	Joe Cutbirth and Associates; founder, media consulting firm
1997—1998	Garry Mauro gubernatorial campaign, communications director
1995—1997	Texas General Land Office, special assistant to the commissioner
1996	Clinton-Gore '96/ Texas Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign, communications director
1994	Ann Richards Committee/ Texas Democratic Party, communications director
1992	<i>Texas Triangle</i> , contributing writer
1989—1994	<i>Fort Worth Star-Telegram</i> Texas Capital Bureau, reporter
1988—1999	Morris News Service Texas Capital Bureau, reporter
1984—1998	<i>Wichita Falls (Texas) Times/ Record News</i> , reporter

CONSULTING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

1999	Texas Daily Newspaper Association
1999	Legend Pharmacy
1998—1999	Amusement and Music Operators of Texas
1998—1999	Pohl, Brown and Assoc.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2020—present	National Communication Association
2020-2022; 2025	Association for Education in Journalism and Mass
2019	Oral History Association