

Curriculum Vitae

Karen Schlag, M.A.
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** **Communication Studies, expected by Fall 2021**
The University of Texas at Austin
* Dissertation Title: *ADRD Family Caregiver Support Seeking and Provision: How Stigma and Support Seeking by Dementia Family Caregivers Impact Support from Social Network Members, Caregiver Well-being and Burden*
* Concentration: Interpersonal Communication
* Working towards Portfolio in Aging
* Advisor: Dr. Anita Vangelisti
- Post baccalaureate work** **Speech Communication, 2006-2007**
University of Houston
* Graduate Courses completed: Persuasion, Conversational Patterns, Interpersonal Communication
- M.A.** **Media Studies, 1998**
The Pennsylvania State University
* Thesis: *Cinema's Masculine Influence: An Examination of How Film Audiences Potentially Use Cinema to Define Masculinity*
* Supervisor: Dr. Shari L. Roberts
- B.A.** **Journalism, 1993**
University of Houston
* Graduated summa cum laude
* Minors in Business and Psychology

RESEARCH

Doctoral Fellow Center for Health Communication, Fall 2020-present

The University of Texas at Austin (Supervisor, Dr. Michael Mackert)

I am working on a team tasked with researching and planning for the initial design phase of an online continuing education program targeting medical professionals seeking further training and certification. My responsibilities include researching questions related to potential course content and consulting with others on design and delivery of one-hour course modules to be offered by the Center for Health Communication.

Research Team Member, Fall 2019-present

The University of Texas at Austin (PI: Dr. Carmen Valdez)

This project investigates how deported individuals living in Guatemala engage in relational maintenance strategies with U.S. family members. This team also aims to assess the extent a traditional relational maintenance framework can be applied to forced separation experiences. My responsibilities include assisting in developing and applying qualitative coding, contributing to analysis and development of relevant themes, and participating in manuscript writing. A paper is in the preliminary stages of development.

Research Team Member, Summer 2019-present

The University of Texas at Austin (PI: Dr. Jung Kwak)

This project studies how family caregivers of persons with dementia function as surrogates in end-of-life decision making for their relative. This study assesses the usefulness of an intervention decision-making guide for family caregivers and identifies their remaining information needs. My responsibilities include coding and analyzing qualitative interview responses, contributing to the development of relevant themes, and participating in manuscript writing, including leading one of the papers to be submitted for publication.

Research Team Member, Spring 2019-Spring 2020

The University of Texas at Austin (PI: Dr. Marissa Burgermaster)

This is a multistage project examining outcomes of nutrition messaging delivered via the mobile app Plantano to individuals diagnosed with Type II diabetes. I participated in the early stages of this study. Specifically, I assisted with the development of an IRB protocol and Qualtrics survey used in a preliminary, cross-sectional study testing perceptions of different regulatory fit tailored dietary messages. I also contributed to writing for the final manuscript.

Research Team Member, Coder, Summer-Fall 2019

The University of Texas at Austin (PI: Jacob Hazzard)

For this project, I assisted with coding of video recorded verbal and nonverbal interactions by romantic couples. This study, completed as a dissertation project, analyzed couples' interaction styles when discussing relational dissolution occurring for others in their close social network.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Book Chapter

Wang, Y., & Schlag, K.E. (2019). Listening. In J.L. Ford, K. Stimpson & J.A. Daly (Eds.), *Professional Communication Skills*. (pp. 56–72). Boston, MA: Pearson.

Manuscripts in Progress

McGlone, M.S., Schlag, K.E., Altillo, B., & Burgermaster, M. (Submitted to *Translational Behavioral Medicine*). *Health regulatory focus and diet goal messaging fit*.

Schlag, K.E., Kwak, J., Burrows, D.R., Britt, K., & Fry, L. (In preparation). *Need for a tailored, decision-support to guide for complex decision-making about hospice enrollment among dementia caregivers: Lessons learned from a feasibility study of a decision aid.*

Conference Presentations

Britt, K.C., **Schlag, K.E.,** & Kwak J. (2020 Nov.) *Family caregivers' decision-support needs beyond the decision aid.* Poster presented at the annual scientific meeting for the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), virtual format.

Schlag, K.E., & Kwak J. (2020 June) *Dementia family caregiver coping patterns for managing decisional conflict and stress during end-of-life care planning.* Poster presented at the ACH Healthcare Communication Virtual Research Forum.

Schlag, K.E., McGlone, M.S., Jian, M., Yuhoso, R., Yongwood, J. (2020, May). *Perspective taking, self-disclosure and stereotype recall of persons who stutter.* Paper presented at the annual conference of the International Communication Association held virtually.

Schlag, K.E. (2020, Feb.) *Family stigma, support gaps and caregiver burden: Examining how stigma and discrepancies between support desired, sought and received relate to burden for family caregivers of relatives diagnosed with Alzheimer's.* Paper presented at the conference for the Western States Communication Association in Denver, Colorado.

Schlag, K.E., Kmetz, L., Burrows, D.R., & Kwak, J. (2019, Dec.) *Value considerations and information needs for dementia family caregivers during end-of-life decision making.* Paper presented at the Aging and Health Informatics Conference at The University of Texas at Austin, TX.

Schlag, K.E. (2019, Oct.) *Redefining the student role as a writer: Flipping the student writing frame.* Talk presented during a panel on structuring writing-intensive courses at the Center for the Skills and Experience Flags, Flag Symposium at The University of Texas at Austin.

Schlag, K.E., (2019, Nov.) *Considering the impact of race and ethnicity on support seeking and receiving for family caregivers of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's.* Paper presented at a preconference for the annual conference of the National Communication Association, Baltimore, MD.

Schlag, K.E., Kmetz, L., Burrows, D.R., & Kwak, J. (2019, Nov.) *Values and information needs related to hospice and artificial nutrition and hydration decision making by dementia family caregivers.* Poster presented at the annual scientific meeting for the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), Austin, TX.

Schlag, K.E., & Table, A. (2019, Nov.) *Deciding to be voluntarily childfree: Accounts and appraisals of VCF decision-making enacted between romantic partners.* Paper presented at the annual conference of the National Communication Association, Baltimore, MD.

Schlag, K.E., Yuhoso, R., & Yongwoog, J., (2019, Feb.) *Perspective-taking and self-disclosure: Two influences on personality impression formation of individuals who stutter.* Poster presented at the St David's CHPR annual conference for Self-Management of Chronic Conditions: Building Science, The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing.

Burdick, S., **Schlag, K.E.**, & Vangelisti, A.L. (2018, Nov.) *Hurtful messages about the body and social distancing: How gender influences responses perceived to be intentional*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.

Kearns, K.D., Zhong, L., **Schlag, K.E.**, & Aguirre, A., (2018, Nov.) *Agency and actor/activity nouns in messages about depression*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.

Schlag, K.E. (2018, Nov.) *Negotiating being childfree: Privacy management, ambivalence and decision-making control during family planning talks by committed romantic partners weighing choices to be voluntarily childfree*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the National Communication Association, Salt Lake City, UT.

Schlag, K.E., Yuhoso, R., Yongwoog, J., & Crace, R., (2018, June) *The Influence of perspective-taking on stereotyping people who stutter*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Duquesne University & Communication Ethics Institute Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies, Pittsburgh, PA.

Schlag, K.E. (2017, Nov.) *Negative emotions and interpersonal conflict: An examination of how anger and sadness influence individuals' views on blame, cooperation and trustworthiness when reflecting on conflict with a romantic partner*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the National Communication Association, Dallas, TX.

Sundar, S. S., Otto, G., Pisciotta, L., & **Schlag, K.E.** (1997, April). *Animation and priming effects in online advertising*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), Chicago, IL.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Since August, 2000, I have taught a majority of full-term and summer semesters as the teacher of record, ranging between 2 to 6 courses per semester, with my typical class size between 20-40 students. My primary job responsibilities have included designing, instructing, grading, and consulting students in lower and upper division courses. Much of my teaching experience has been working with students having a range of backgrounds and experiences and included traditional, nontraditional, underserved, and international student populations. I have taught in face-to-face, hybrid and online formats, with most face-to-face courses having online components using programs including Blackboard Learn, Canvas, or Vista.

Assistant Instructor, The University of Texas at Austin Jan. 2017-present

Taught 2-3 face-to-face sections per semester.

Courses:

Language Communication and Culture (writing intensive course; **also taught online Mar. 2020-May 2021*)

Professional Communication Skills

Graduate Teaching Assistant, The University of Texas at Austin Aug. 2016-Aug. 2020

Provided assistance, guest lectured, and graded for the professor of record.

Courses:

Theories of Persuasion (Web-based course)

Conflict Resolution (Web-based course)

Difficult Conversations

Graduate Writing Tutor, Sanger Learning Center, The University of Texas at Austin Nov. 2017-May 2018
Advised graduate students on scholarly writing, including grants, research proposals, course papers and dissertations

Instructor, Duke TIP Summer Studies Camp, Sherman, TX June 2017
 Debate and Speech
Four-week program teaching advanced students, ages 12-14

Lecturer, University of Houston – Downtown Aug. 2012-Aug. 2016
Taught 4-6 face-to-face and some hybrid courses per semester.

Courses:

Interpersonal Communication; Intercultural Communication;
 Women Men and Communication (writing intensive course);
 Film Appreciation; Introduction to Communication; Public Speaking;
 Small Group Communication

Full-time Adjunct Instructor, University of Houston – Downtown Aug. 2007-June 2012
Taught between 5-6 face-to-face courses per semester.

Courses:

Interpersonal Communication; Intercultural Communication;
 Advanced Public Speaking; Public Speaking; Voice and Diction;
 Introduction to Communication; Small Group Communication;
 Business and Professional Communication; Film Appreciation;
 Women Men and Communication (writing intensive course)

Adjunct Instructor, University of Houston – Downtown Jan. 2001-June 2007
Taught between 1-3 face-to-face courses per semester.

Courses:

Public Speaking; Business and Professional Communication;
 Interpersonal Communication; Intercultural Communication;
 Voice and Diction; Introduction to Communication

Adjunct Instructor, Lone Star College (formerly Cy Fair College) – Fairbanks Jan. 2005-May 2009
Taught between 1-2 face-to-face courses per semester.

Courses:

Public Speaking; Business and Professional Communication;
 Interpersonal Communication

Adjunct Instructor, Lone Star College (formerly Cy-Fair College)- Cy Fair Jan. 2007-May 2008;
Taught between 1-2 face-to-face courses per semester.

Courses:

Public Speaking; Interpersonal Communication

Adjunct Instructor, San Jacinto College – South Campus Aug. 2000-Dec. 2005
Taught between 1-3 face-to-face courses per semester.

Courses:

Public Speaking; Business and Professional Communication;
 Interpersonal Communication

Adjunct Instructor, Education America

April 2001-July 2001

Taught one face-to-face class.

Course:

Speech Communication

AWARDS and GRANTS

- June 2020 **Academy of Communication and Healthcare, Virtual Research Forum Student Scholarship Award recipient.** This award funded participation at this organization's Virtual Research Forum.
- March 2020 **Health Communication Scholars Program Grant**, Center of Health Communication, The University of Texas at Austin. This award will fund participant recruitment for a study examining health outcomes related to perceived support gaps and family stigma by family caregivers of persons with dementia; award \$2,000.
- August 2016-2020 **Graduate Studies Fellowship Award**, The University of Texas at Austin. This was a 4-year fellowship awarded to incoming Ph.D. students, which included a 1-year award from the Graduate school and a 4-year funding commitment from the Communication Studies graduate program.
- April 2017 **Graduate Student Assembly Travel Award**, The University of Texas at Austin; award \$150.
- March 2016 **Persuasion of Houston Engagement Grant**, The University of Houston-Downtown. This High Impact Practices grant was awarded for design of a project in which students worked with local businesses to create persuasive campaigns. This grant was specifically awarded by the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, \$700.

SERVICE

Disciplinary Service

Reviewing

Communication and Aging Division, National Communication Association (4 manuscripts since 2020)

* Served on the Communication and Aging book and article award committee for 2020

Student Division, National Communication Association (2 manuscripts since 2020)

Interpersonal Division, International Communication Association (9 manuscripts since 2018)

Health Communication Division, International Communication Association (1 manuscript since 2018)

Conference

Teaching Assistant for the short course on Teaching Persuasion, National Communication Association (2018)

Volunteer organizer, Conflict Conference at The University of Texas at Austin (2016-2017; 2019)

University – The University of Texas at Austin

Pedagogy Chair for the Graduate Communication Student Association (Aug. 2017-May 2018)

University – The University of Houston-Downtown

Arts and Humanities Fine Arts Festival Committee (Sept. 2013-May 2016) * Chair (Sept. 2014-May 2015)

Communication Search Committee for Professor in Interpersonal Communication (Dec. 2014-Mar. 2015)

Communication Search Committee for Professor in Media Communications (Nov. 2013- Apr. 2014)

Arts and Humanities Curriculum Committee (Sept. 2012-July 2013)

* Assisted with core course proposal submission for 2307 Intercultural Communication

Community Volunteer Service

Marketing

Assisted in the development of print marketing materials for Animeals, a division of Meals for Wheels in Houston, Texas, run by Interfaith Ministries. Mrs. Cecilia Pham, Animeals program director (June-July, 2020)

Outreach

Participated in the Big and Mini Program connecting seniors with other adults around the United States to participate in weekly video chats during the COVID=19 pandemic (March, 2020-June 2020)

MEDIA EXPERIENCE

Feb. 2000-Aug. 2000 **On-air reporting, morning show co-host**

- Forever Broadcasting Radio (Hollidaysburg, PA)

Sept. 1999-Feb. 2000 **Co-host for educational feature program**

- WPSX-TV “What’s in the News” (State College, PA)

March 1999-Feb. 2000 **Marketing, commercial copy writing, web design, host for “House Calls” radio show**

- WRTA Radio (Altoona, PA)

June 1998-March 1999 **Marketing**

- Garman Opera House (Bellefonte, PA)

MEDIA WRITING EXPERIENCE

Aug. 1994-Aug. 2000 **Newspaper Reporter, Freelance Writer**

- Altoona Mirror (Altoona, PA)

Aug. 1999-Aug. 2000 **Freelance Writer**

- Pennsylvania Business Central

Dec. 1998-Aug. 2000 **Abstract Summaries for Online Communication Journal**

- Communication Institute for Online Scholarship

Oct. 1999-Aug. 2000 **Freelance Writer**

- Penn State University, College of Education

Jan. 1994-Aug. 1994 **Newspaper Reporter**

- The Brazosport Facts (Clute, TX)

Last updated January 2021

PROFESSIONAL CREATIVE WORK

- May 2009-Aug. 2012 **Associate Artistic Director** for Mildred's Umbrella Theatre Co.
- Write, direct, produce and perform for the company's summer youth program
- Oct. 2007-Aug. 2016 **Company Member**, for Mildred's Umbrella Theatre Company
- Acting, directing, writing
- Feb. 2002-Aug. 2016 **Houston Area Actor**
- Worked with (partial list): Texas Repertory Theater, Main Street Theatre
Wordsmyth Theater (founding member)

 - Film performance work: *Jacob* (2012), Lucky Chucky Productions
Disappointed Sniper (2011), Privatera
Productions