

Emily A. Mendelson, M.A.

Department of Communication | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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EDUCATION

- Degree in progress **Ph.D. in Communication | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**
Advisor: Dr. John Caughlin
- May 2022 **M.A. in Communication | Baylor University**
Concentration in Interpersonal & Organizational Studies
Thesis: *Applying the theory of motivated information management to sexual relationships between college students*
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Jessica L. Ford
- May 2020 **B.S. in Business Administration | Binghamton University**
Concentration in Business Analytics
Minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Binghamton University Presidential Scholar
PricewaterhouseCoopers Scholar

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- Mendelson, E. A.** (2023). Sensemaking and public intimacy on TikTok: How viral videos influence interpersonal relationships offline. *New Media & Society*, 14614448231163232. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448231163231>

Book Chapters

- Buttgereit, T., **Mendelson, E.**, & Schatz, J.L. (2019). 'Poisoning' masculinity: Poison Ivy as a counter-narrative of villainy and trauma through representations of queer love in DC's "Everyone Love's Ivy." Published in Schatz, J. & Parson, S. (eds.) *Superheroes and Masculinity*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Book Reviews

- Mendelson, E. A.** (2023). Book review: Momfluenced: Inside the maddening, picture-perfect world of mommy influencer culture. *New Media & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448231171833>
- Mendelson, E.** (2023, April 28). 'LGBTQ+ people with chronic illness': Book review. *The Polyphony*. <https://thepolyphony.org/2023/04/28/lgbtq-people-with-chronic-illness-book-review/>

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

- Mendelson, E.**, Smith, J. K. (forthcoming). Gen Z's mediated sexual and romantic learning on TikTok: The #DatingWrapped trend. To be published in Reynolds, R., Paje, D., & Timlin, J. (eds). *Mediating sex, gender, and sexuality in the Gen Z era*.

PUBLIC WRITING

- Mendelson, E.** (2023, July 8). There's more to the dick pic than meets the eye. *Sex and Psychology*. <https://www.sexandpsychology.com/blog/2023/8/9/there-might-be-more-to-the-dick-pic-than-meets-the-eye/>
- Mendelson, E.** (2023, June 26). How to use the sex and psychology podcast in your classroom. *Sex and Psychology*. <https://www.sexandpsychology.com/blog/2023/6/26/how-to-use-the-sex-and-psychology-podcast-in-your-classroom/>
- Mendelson, E.** (2023, May 24). Five reasons to support the Kinsey Institute and defend sex research. *Sex and Psychology*. <https://www.sexandpsychology.com/blog/2023/5/24/five-reasons-to-support-the-kinsey-institute-and-defend-sex-research/>
- Mendelson, E.** (2023, April 27). Why do people cheat? Their reasons are often counterintuitive. *Sex and Psychology*. <https://www.sexandpsychology.com/blog/2023/4/27/what-do-people-cheat-their-reasons-are-often-counterintuitive/>
- Mendelson, E.** (2023, March 22). The state of sex education in the USA in 2023. *Sex and Psychology*. <https://www.sexandpsychology.com/blog/2023/3/22/the-state-of-sex-education-in-the-usa-in-2023/>
- Mendelson, E.** (2023, February 15). Speaking your partner's "love language" might give your sex life a boost. *Sex and Psychology*. <https://www.sexandpsychology.com/blog/2023/2/15/speaking-your-partners-love-language/>
- Mendelson, E.** (2023, February 2). How using OnlyFans affects people's sex lives and relationships. *Sex and Psychology*. <https://www.sexandpsychology.com/blog/2023/2/2/how-using-onlyfans-affects-peoples-sex-lives-and-relationships/>
- Mendelson, E.** (2023, January 11). New year, new porn trends: What was popular in porn in 2022? *Sex and Psychology*. <https://www.sexandpsychology.com/blog/2023/1/11/new-year-new-porn-trends-what-was-popular-in-porn-in-2022/>
- Mendelson, E.** (2022, December 14). Why is "holiday sex" so popular? *Sex and Psychology*. <https://www.sexandpsychology.com/blog/2022/12/14/why-is-holiday-sex-so-popular/>
- Mendelson, E.** (2022, November 16). Is love truly blind? The psychology of love at first sight. *Sex and Psychology*. <https://www.sexandpsychology.com/blog/2022/11/16/is-love-truly-blind-the-psychology-of-love-at-first-sight/>
- Mendelson, E.** (2022, November 9). Say "no" to no nut November: The health benefits of masturbation. *Sex and Psychology*. <https://www.sexandpsychology.com/blog/2022/11/9/say-no-to-no-nut-november-the-health-benefits-of-masturbation/>
- Mendelson, E.** (2022, October 26). I played OnlyBans, an interactive game about online sex work. Here's what I learned. *Sex and Psychology*. <https://www.sexandpsychology.com/blog/2022/10/26/i-played-onlybans-an-interactive-game-about-online-sex-work-heres-how-i-did/>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Mendelson, E.A. (2023). Theorizing consent as care: A critical disability studies approach to sexual freedom through interpersonal communication. Paper to be presented *National Communication Association 109th Annual Convention*, Interpersonal Communication Division, National Harbor, MD.

Smith, J.K. & **Mendelson, E.A.** (2023). AI-mediated sexual violence: Non-consensual imagery of a body that is not your own. Paper to be presented *National Communication Association 109th Annual Convention*, as part of “The Changing Nature of Rhetorical Constructions of AI Personhood” paper session, Cross Examination Debate Association Division Division, National Harbor, MD.

Mendelson, E.A., Lehmilller, J.J., Adams, K.N., & Adams, O.R. (2023) Self-Expansion as a Relational Maintenance Strategy During the Covid-19 Pandemic. Paper to be presented orally at *The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality 2023 Annual Conference*, New Orleans, LA.

Adams, O.R., Adams, K.N., **Mendelson, E.A.**, & Lehmilller, J.J. (2023, November). Physical Pain with Sex and Coping Strategies across Gender and Sexual Identities. Paper to be presented orally at *The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality 2023 Annual Conference*, New Orleans, LA.

Farnworth, M., Khanam, S., & **Mendelson, E.** (2023). Problematic integration and managing uncertainty in abortion care and disclosure. Paper presented by first author at the *73rd Annual International Communication Association Conference*, Health Communication Division, Toronto, CA.

Smith, J.K., & **Mendelson, E.** (2023). Mediated parental absence: Parasocial relationships between children and their “TikTok parents.” Paper presented by first author at the *TikTok Cultures Research Network’s TikTok and Children symposium*, online.

Mendelson, E. (2023). Sex down South: Religion’s influence on hookup behaviors and uncertainty for college students in the Southern United States. Presented as poster at the *Sexuality preconference for The Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2023 Annual Conference*, Atlanta, GA.

Mendelson, E. (2023). Differences in external consent behavior use when seeking and providing sexual interest during college hookups. Presented as poster at *The Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2023 Annual Conference*, Atlanta, GA.

Mendelson, E. (2022). Information-seeking strategies for receiving consent: Applying the theory of motivated information management to sexual relationships between college students. Presented at *National Communication Association 108th Annual Convention*, Interpersonal Communication Division, New Orleans, LA.

- Mendelson, E.** (2022). Viral displays of public intimacy: The impact of audience participation on romantic relationship content on TikTok. Presented at *National Communication Association 108th Annual Convention*, as part of “TikTok on the Clock: An Investigation into Subject Formation on TikTok” paper session, Human Communication and Technology Division, co-sponsored by the Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division, New Orleans, LA.
- Mendelson, E.** (2022). Sex before marriage? The impact of religiosity on information management about consent during college hookups. Presented as poster at *The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality 2022 Annual Conference*, Vancouver, BC.
- Mendelson, E.** (2021). Who gets to tell the truth? Legal ramifications of rape myths for sexual assault survivors. Presented as poster at *The Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2022 Annual Conference*, San Francisco, CA.
- Mendelson, E.** (2021). A space for survivors: Collective sensemaking, social media activism, and college sexual assault. Presented as poster at *The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality 2021 Annual Conference*, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Mendelson, E.** (2020). Rhetorics of sexual assault: Crisis communication and Binghamton University. Paper presented at *National Communication Association 107th Annual Convention*, Public Relations Division, Seattle, WA.
- Mendelson, E.,** and Pastreich, E. (2020). Visualizing voyeurism. Presented virtually as part of *Binghamton University Art Museum Student Curatorial Presentations*, Binghamton, NY. Exhibition is available on SCALAR at scalar.usc.edu/works/visualizing-voyeurism/index and presentation is available online [at this hyperlink](#).
- Mendelson, E.** (2020). @ShareYourStoryBing: Social media activism and college sexual assault. Presented on Twitter as part of the *Baylor GSA Twitter Conference*, Waco, TX.
- Mendelson, E.,** Lancia, E. (2020). The more you know: Relationship comfortability and applications of consent. Presented virtually as poster at *2021 Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, at Baylor University’s *Fall 2020 Graduate Research Showcase*, and as part of *Binghamton University Research Days* symposium. Poster is available online [at this hyperlink](#).
- Lancia, E., **Mendelson, E.** (2020). Can practice make perfect: Sexual experience and consensual behaviors in hookups. Presented virtually as poster as part of *Binghamton University Research Days* symposium, Binghamton, NY. Poster is available online [at this hyperlink](#).
- Mendelson, E.** (2019). Think hard, talk fast: Competition and the drive to conform in the college policy debate community. Presented as part of “The Ableism of Arguments, Spaces, and Competition in College Policy Debate” panel at the *2019 Pacific/Western Disability Studies Symposium*, Spokane, WA.

Mendelson, E. (2019). Sexual (in)accessibility: How legal codes structure violence onto disabled bodies. Presented at “Intersectionality” Roundtable Discussion at *2019 Society for Personality and Social Psychology “Sexual Violence Preconference,”* Portland, OR.

Mendelson, E. (2019) Policy v reality: Consent discrepancies in university policy and actual college hookup encounters. Presented as poster as part of *SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference 2019*, Adirondack, NY; *Binghamton University Research Days* and *Psi Chi Research Fair* symposiums, Binghamton, NY.

Mendelson, E., Lancia, E., Lenchner, K., Fok, L. (2019). Reading the signs: Conflicting perceptions of sexual consent among college students. Presented as poster as part of *Binghamton University Research Days* and *Psi Chi Research Fair* symposiums, Binghamton, NY.

Bouman, K., Pagan, K., & **Mendelson, E.** (2019). Breaking down silos and building bridges. Presented as PowerPoint at the *2019 National Collegiate Honors Consortium*, New Orleans, LA.

Mendelson, E. (2018). Sexual (in)capacity: How disabled bodies are ostracized from sex. Presented as poster as part of “Independent Undergraduate Research in the Humanities” symposium at *Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities* and *Binghamton University Research Days* symposium, Binghamton, NY.

Mendelson, E. (2018). To see or not to see: Wearing glasses during hookups. Presented as poster as part of *Binghamton University Research Days* and *Psi Chi Research Fair* symposiums, Binghamton, NY.

Mendelson, E., Desantis, D., Bocanumeth, B. (2017) Finding ‘Tinderella’: How digital communication impacts sexual satisfaction. Presented as poster as part of *Binghamton University Research Days* and *Psi Chi Research Fair* symposiums, Binghamton, NY

FELLOWSHIPS

2023 –2025 **Illinois Distinguished Fellowship**
Provides a stipend of \$25,000 for three years of doctoral study, totaling \$75,000 of fellowship support.

2019 **Kaschak Institute Fellowship**
Awarded inaugural grant of \$1,000 by Kaschak Institute for Social Justice for Women and Girls to pursue research about consent and sexual assault.

AWARDS

2022 **NCA Student Caucus Travel Grant**
Awarded \$200 for travel to the 2022 National Communication Association as member of the Disability Issues Caucus.

- 2022 **Illinois Communication Friends Travel Support**
Awarded \$800 for travel to the 2022 National Communication Association conference to present a sole-authored paper.
- 2022 **Three Minute Thesis Competition**
Awarded \$100 for winning second place in Baylor University three-minute thesis competition.
- 2021 **Graduate Research Showcase Winner**
Awarded \$200 for presenting the top poster in the social science division of Baylor's 2021 Graduate Research Showcase.
- 2020, 2021 **SPSP Graduate Registration Award**
Covered full extent of registration costs for the 2021 and 2022 Society for Personality and Social Psychology conventions.
- 2020 **Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence**
Awarded to top 0.02% of State University of New York seniors who have best demonstrated integration of academic excellence with other aspects of their lives, such as leadership or career achievement.
- 2019 **President's Award for Undergraduate Student Excellence**
Honors three faculty-nominated juniors with \$1,000 for enriching the Binghamton University community through leadership and accomplishment in academic, campus, and community life.

HONORS

- 2023 **List of Teachers Ranked Excellent By Their Students**
Spring 2023 – CMN 112, *Fall 2022 – CMN 111; based on student evaluations.
*Received *outstanding* score distinction.
- 2020 **National Debate Scholar, Summa Cum Laude**
Honors students who have competed in at least eighteen College Policy Debate rounds in one season while maintaining a GPA of 3.75 and above.
- 2019 **Outstanding Scholar in Humanities**
Granted by the Binghamton University Scholars Program to the student who best demonstrates breadth and depth of scholarship in the humanities.

TEACHING

- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**
Fall 2023 CMN 111 (Oral and Written Communication I) Instructor of Record
- Summer 2023 CMN 210 (Public Comm in Everyday Life) Instructor of Record
CMN 502 (Health Comm Research Methods I) Faculty Extender

CMN 503 (Health Comm Research Methods II) Faculty Extender
Spring 2023 CMN 112 (Oral and Written Communication II) Instructor of Record
Fall 2022 CMN 111 (Oral and Written Communication I) Instructor of Record

Binghamton University

Spring 2020 PSYC 474 (The Psychology of Sex and Gender) Teaching Assistant
Spring 2020 SCHL 281N (Applied Journalism) Teaching Assistant
Fall 2019 SCHL 127 (Thinking Like Leonardo DaVinci) Instructor

Additional Debate Teaching Experience

Broome County Debate Alliance

2020 – Present Senior Instructor

Baylor University

2020 – 2022 Debate Team Graduate Assistant

The University of Texas at Austin

Summer 2018, 19 National Institute of Forensics Instructor

INVITED TALKS

“Graduate tips for success.” Panel with Dr. Leslie Hahner, Azile Nelson, and Breanne Bates. Graduate Student Orientation, Department of Communication, Baylor University; August 2021.

“Networking for graduate students.” Guest lecture to Baylor University McNair Scholars Program students, Baylor University; July 2021.

“Graduate student panel.” Panel with Rachel Bay and Anna Wells. Baylor University McNair Scholars Program students, Baylor University; July 2021.

SERVICE

Reviewing

Conference Organizing

2023 **Society for Personality and Social Psychology**, Member of *Sexuality* Preconference Organizing Committee

Journal Article Reviewing

2023 **Journal of Social and Personal Relationships**
2022 **Journal of Social and Personal Relationships**

Award Reviewing

2023 **Society for Personality and Social Psychology**, Student Poster Awards
2022 **Society for Personality and Social Psychology**, Graduate Travel Awards

Conference Paper Reviewing

2023 **Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality** 2023 Annual Conference
2023 **National Communication Association** 2023 Annual Conference,
Disability Issues Caucus; Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division
2023 **George Mason D.C. Health Communication** (DCHC 2023)
2022 **Society for Personality and Social Psychology**, *Sexuality* Preconference
2022 **Western States Communication Association**, Organizational
Communication Interest Group
2022 **National Communication Association**, 2022 Annual Conference,
Feminist and Women's Studies Division

Mentoring

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Communication Department

2023 – 2024 Undergraduate Research Mentor for Mentoring through Research and
Practice (supervised one undergraduate's research for course credit)
2023 – 2024 Graduate Student Peer Mentor
2023 Peer Leader, CV and Resume Workshop
2023 Communication Department Welcome Weekend Host

Binghamton University

2018 – 2019 Transfer Student Mentor, Binghamton University School of Management
2017 – 2018 Student Mentor, Binghamton University Scholars Program

Leadership

Cross Examination Debate Association

2022 CEDA Awards Committee Member

The Women's Debate Institute

2022 – Present Community Development Committee Member
Summer 2020 Workshop Discussion Leader
Summer 2019 Resident Assistant

Student Association at Binghamton University

2019 – 2020 Sexual Assault Prevention Intern
2018 – 2019 Community Government Advisor and General Advising
2017 – 2018 Director, Marketing and Promotions Department

Binghamton University Speech and Debate Team

2018 – 2020 President
2016 – 2018 Treasure

EDITING EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2022 – Present **Sex and Psychology**
Co-Managing Editor
Perform a myriad of editing tasks for the Sex and Psychology Blog by Dr. Justin Lehmillier, including drafting new blog content, editing textbook chapters, identifying individuals for podcast episodes, and isolating video and sound clips for social media
- Spring 2021 – Present **PopMeC**
Editorial Assistant
Copyedit article drafts for the PopMeC academic collective website according to the Chicago Manual of Style to make grammatical changes and content suggestions and format article content

SUPERVISED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Summer 2023 – Fall 2023 **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**
Research Assistant
Supervisors: Dr. Charee M. Thompson and Dr. Brynn Adamson
Distribute training and four follow-up surveys to physical fitness instructors about, inclusive practices for teaching disabled individuals, accessibility, and methods to modify exercises for various abilities and body types
- Spring 2023 – Summer 2023 Research Assistant
Supervisors: Dr. Charee M. Thompson and Dr. Mardia Bishop
Assist in developing both VR-based and non-VR implicit bias and cultural competency training for physicians with a specific focus on Black maternal health, distribute training and surveys to physicians and mothers, synthesize current training frameworks within the literature across various disciplines, prepare manuscripts for conference and journal submission with team
- Summer 2019 – Spring 2020 **Binghamton University School of Management Graduate Admissions**
Research Assistant
Supervisor: Dr. Ali Alper Yayla
Created instructional materials for data visualization under Dr. Yayla's Data Science Course Development Grant Program for instructors to access when teaching students visualization methods in R, SPSS, Tableau, and Python, processed research on critical data studies, recorded visualizations, and created syllabi for integration in future coursework; curated PowerPoints on data visualization topics including storytelling with data, color theory, and theory of semiotics
- Fall 2019 – Spring 2020 **Binghamton University Art Museum**
Exhibit Curator, "Visualizing Voyeurism"
Supervisor: Dr. Claire Kovacs

Curated exhibit on voyeurism and the female nude with pieces selected carefully from the university-owned collection, drafted and edited item labels and introductory panel, and utilized online platform SCALAR to build a website of the exhibition that offers a virtual viewing experience

Summer 2019 –
Spring 2020

Dr. Ellyn Uram Kaschak Institute at Binghamton University

Student Fellow

Supervisor: Dr. Ann Merriwether

Researched student-reported consent usage in comparison to NYS Consent Law and SUNY Title IX Policy to be presented to campus administrators and devised educational materials to promote a greater campus-wide understanding of affirmative consent; analyzed data of affirmative consent utilization of over 500 students

Spring 2017 –
Spring 2020

Human Sexuality Lab at Binghamton University

Research Assistant

Supervisors: Dr. Sean Massey, Dr. Ann Merriwether, Dr. Sarah Young, Dr. Melissa Hardesty

Cleaned data from a national survey of over 900 participants, coded qualitative and quantitative data according to research objectives, developed codebooks for data, and visualized findings in Excel and Tableau to present eight different research posters at various conferences, with seven first-authorships for those posters

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Summer 2023

Studying Conversations as Dynamic Dyadic Systems

Workshop Participant

Instructors: Mimi Brinberg, Denise Solomon

Developed skills in dynamic data analysis, including coding schemas and data visualization for dyadic data, configural frequency analysis, and sequence analysis

Summer 2019

Critical Data Visualization Workshop at Purdue University

Workshop Participant

Instructor: Dr. Vetrica Byrd

Practiced Dr. Byrd's seven steps of data viz under her supervision, visualized data on Tableau based on publicly-available datasets as part of a randomized interdisciplinary research team

AFFILIATIONS

2023 –
Present

Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life

Graduate Student Affiliate

2022 –
Present

International Association for Relationship Research

Student Member

2021 –
Present

National Communication Association
Student Member

2021 –
Present

Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality
Student Member

2021 –
Present

International Academy of Sex Research
Student Member

2021 –
Present

Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Student Member