

CURRICULUM VITAE

Nick Mathews

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Media studies, journalism studies, audience research, inequality of access to news and information, business of news, news deserts, sociology of news, news in everyday life, social media, journalism ethics, local news, community journalism, newspapers, weekly newspapers, rural journalism, rural broadband, digital divide, in-depth interviews, qualitative research

EDUCATION

- PhD, 2022 (Expected) Mass Communication, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Dissertation: *News in everyday life: How the presence and absence of news impacts those in rural America*
Co-advisor: Valérie Bélair-Gagnon
Co-advisor: Matt Carlson
Committee: Benjamin Toff, Teresa Gowan
- MA, 2019 Journalism, University of Missouri
Thesis: *"Life is harder:" The perceived impact of a newspaper closure on community members*
Advisor: Tom Warhover
Committee: Tim Vos, Clyde Bentley, Edward Brent
- BJ, 2001 Journalism, University of Missouri

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed journal articles

Mathews, N. & Ali, C (Forthcoming). Desert Work: Life and labor in a news and broadband desert. *Mass Communication & Society*.

Mathews, N., Bélair-Gagnon, V. & Carlson, M. (2021). Why I quit journalism: Former journalists' advice giving as a way to regain control. *Journalism*.
DOI:10.1177/14648849211061958

Mathews, N. (2021). Print imprint: The link between the physical newspaper and the self. *Journal of Communication Inquiry*. DOI: 10.1177/01968599211052899

Toff, B. & Mathews, N. (2021). Is social media killing local news? An examination of engagement and ownership patterns in community news on Facebook. *Digital Journalism*. DOI: 10.1080/21670811.2021.1977668

Mathews, N. (2021). The community caretaker role: How weekly newspapers shielded their communities while covering the Mississippi ICE raids. *Journalism Studies*, 22(5), 670-687. DOI: 10.1080/1461670X.2021.1897477

Mathews, N. (2020). Life in a news desert: The perceived impact of a newspaper closure on community members. *Journalism*. Online first. DOI: 10.1177/1464884920957885

ARTICLES IN PROGRESS

Revise and resubmit

Mathews, N. & Ali, C. 'I'll believe it when I see it:' Waiting in a broadband desert. Submitted to *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*.

Mathews, N., Bélair-Gagnon, V. & Lewis, S. News is 'toxic:' Exploring the non-sharing of news online. Submitted to *New Media and Society*.

Weber, M. & Mathews, N. Defining local news based on audience perspectives in the digital era. Submitted to special issue of *Digital Journalism*, "Disrupting and resetting the local."

In development

Mathews, N. & Toff, B. The challenges facing small town news organizations and their relationships with digital media platforms.

Mathews, N., Toff, B., Badrinathan, S., Mont'Alverne, C., Arguedas, A.R., Fletcher, R., & Nielsen, R.K. Examining disparities in trust in news along geographic lines: Urban/non-urban divides across four countries.

Lewis, S. & Mathews, N. What's accepted, missing, and 'maniacal:' News consumers' perceptions of bias.

Bélair-Gagnon, V., Lewis, S., & Mathews, N. News is 'exhausting: Verification, fact-checking and distrust in news.

Finneman, T., Ferrucci, P. & Mathews, N. Exploring future business models for weekly newspapers.

Mathews, N., Thomas, R. & Toff, B. The role of professional opinion journalists in the age of omnipresent opinion.

Mathews, N. Journalism: A greedy institution.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Refereed

Mathews, N. & Ali, C. “I’ll Believe It When I See It:” Waiting in a Broadband Desert. ICA, Philosophy, Theory and Critique Division, Paris, 2022 (Accepted)

Mathews, N., Bélair-Gagnon, V., & Lewis, S. News is “toxic:” Exploring the Non-Sharing of News Online. ICA, Journalism Studies Division, Paris, 2022 (Accepted)

Lewis, S. & Mathews, N. Extended abstract: What’s accepted, missing and “maniacal:” News consumers’ perceptions of bias. ICA, Journalism Studies Division, Paris, 2022 (Accepted)

Mathews, N. & Ali, C. Informational, infrastructural and emotional labor: The extra work in a news and broadband desert. AEJMC, Mass Communication & Society Division, Virtual 2021. **Top paper award, Open Division**

Mathews, N. Print imprint: The connection between the physical newspaper and the self. AEJMC, Community Journalism Interest Group, Virtual, 2021. **Top student paper award**

Mathews, N. Weekly newspapers and the community caretaker role. ICA, Journalism Studies Division, Virtual, 2021. **Top student paper award (No. 1)**

Mathews, N. I lost a love one: A sociology of losing a newspaper. ICA, Journalism Studies Division, Virtual, 2021

Mathews, N. and Ali, C. Desert Work: Life and labor in a news and broadband desert. ICA, Journalism Studies Division, Virtual, 2021

Mathews, N. How weekly newspapers defended their communities while reporting on the Mississippi ICE raids. AEJMC, Community Journalism Interest Group, Virtual, 2020. **Top student paper award**

Mathews, N. Life in a news desert. ICA, Journalism Studies Division, Virtual, 2020. **Top student paper award (No. 1)**

Mathews, N. The perceived impact of a newspaper closure on community members. AEJMC, Community Journalism Interest Group, Toronto, 2019. **Top student paper award**

INVITED PANELS, TALKS, ARTICLES, ETC.

Local journalism and media policy event recap: Joy Jenkins, Elizabeth Hansen Shapiro, and Phil Napoli discuss where we go from here, published Feb. 1, 2022, Tow Center newsletter. At: <https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?u=f92dc374de944af763a8fdf13&id=c83e161f47>

Local journalism and media policy: Christopher Ali, Sue Cross and Jessica Gonzalez discuss emerging issues and fresh ideas, published Jan. 25, 2022, Tow Center newsletter. At: <https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?u=f92dc374de944af763a8fdf13&id=b17e2a0bc1>

Local journalism and media policy: Tracie Powell, Graciela Mochkofsky and Simon Galperin explore issues surrounding grassroots news organizations, published Jan. 11, 2022, Tow Center newsletter. At: <https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?u=f92dc374de944af763a8fdf13&id=4625111cc7>

Local journalism and media policy: Kristy Hess, Sameer Padania and Matthew Powers explore international issues and their potential implications for the USA, published Nov. 30, 2021, Tow Center newsletter. At: <https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?u=f92dc374de944af763a8fdf13&id=4e1356c35a>

Emily Bell, Victor Pickard and Nikki Usher kick off our new webinar series on local journalism and media policy, published Nov. 2, 2021, Tow Center newsletter. At: <https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?u=f92dc374de944af763a8fdf13&id=2178a1abbe>

Role of local news organizations, published Oct. 11, 2021, Democratic Visions. At: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjDVq1FDDbM>

Community newspapers are vital to our rural communities – and our democracy, published Aug. 5, 2021, West Central Initiative. At: https://www.wcif.org/news_resources/blog.html/article/2021/08/05/community-newspapers-are-vital-to-our-rural-communities-and-our-democracy

Forging a Local News Media Ecosystem Research Agenda, Aug. 4, 2021, AEJMC, Newspaper and Online News Division and Community Journalism Interest Group, Virtual (Panelist)

Engagement symposium, Jan. 14, 2021, Minnesota Journalism Center, University of Minnesota (Moderator)

News deserts and the role of local media, Nov. 5, 2020. AEJMC, Community Journalism Interest Group, Brown Bag lunch session (Panelist)

MEDIA COVERAGE

Featured in article, “Media consolidation and algorithms make Facebook a bad place for sharing local news, study finds.” Nieman Lab, Oct. 13, 2021. At:

<https://www.niemanlab.org/2021/10/media-consolidation-and-algorithms-make-facebook-a-bad-place-for-sharing-local-news-study-finds/>

Featured in article, “COVID-19 reignites the desire for local journalism, but future remains uncertain.” *ONA Newsroom*, June 21, 2021. At:

<https://newsroom.journalists.org/2021/06/21/covid-19-reignites-the-desire-for-local-journalism-but-future-remains-uncertain/>

Featured in article, “I’Falls newspaper closing at the end of the month.” *The Timberjay*, June 10, 2021. At: <http://www.timberjay.com/stories/ifalls-newspaper-closing-at-the-end-of-the-month,17765>

Featured in podcast, “Life in a local news desert.” *Areas of Agreement*, by Elia Powers. March 21, 2021. At: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-5-life-in-a-local-news-desert/id1542046441?i=1000513872504>

Featured in “Spotlight on research” series, *The expanding news desert*, University of North Carolina’s Hussman School of Journalism and Media, Nov. 19, 2020: At:

<https://www.usnewsdeserts.com/spotlight-research/5770/>

Featured in segment, “She’s a one-person newsroom, but Lee Enterprises kept cutting.” *Virginia Public Radio*, Oct. 8, 2020. At: <https://www.wvtf.org/post/she-s-one-person-newsroom-lee-enterprises-kept-cutting#stream/0>

Featured in article, “EDITORIAL: To combat partisanship, read your local newspaper.” *The Floyd Press*, Oct. 8, 2020. At: https://swvatoday.com/floyd/article_4e30beb0-096c-11eb-995a-430326bedf4c.html

Featured in newsletter, “A new kind of journalistic labor, focused on rebuilding public trust in news.” *RQ1*, Oct. 7, 2020. At: <https://rq1.substack.com/p/the-emergence-of-a-new-kind-of-journalistic>

Featured in article, “Lohmann: ‘Life in a news desert:’ In Caroline County, the loss of a newspaper hits home.” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Oct. 1, 2020. At: Richmond. https://richmond.com/news/local/lohmann-life-in-a-news-desert-in-caroline-county-the-loss-of-a-newspaper-hits/article_6f0bb574-d723-5159-a892-2464e2989047.html

RESEARCH

Research assistant

Media policy instruments to support local journalism. Damian Radcliffe. Tow Center, Knight News Innovation, Fall 2021

News avoidance/audience research. Benjamin Toff, University of Minnesota, Spring 2020

Minnesota Journalism Center. Valérie Bélair-Gagnon, University of Minnesota, Fall 2019-Spring 2020

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

Southern Newspaper Publishers Association grant, \$5,000 (Project with Teri Finneman & Pat Ferrucci) (2021)

Top Paper (Open Division) Award, AEJMC annual conference (2021)

Top Student Paper Award, AEJMC annual conference (2021)

Top Student Paper Award, ICA annual conference (2021)

Dan Wackman First-Year Graduate Student Research Award (competitive), \$2,500 (2020)

Top Student Paper Award, AEJMC annual conference (2020)

Top Student Paper Award, ICA annual conference (2020)

Top Student Paper Award, AEJMC annual conference, Toronto (2019)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2019-present

International Communication Association, 2020-present

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Service to the field

Newsletter editor (elected by membership in 2020), Community Journalism Interest Group, AEJMC, 2020-2021

Secretary and communications chair (elected by membership in 2019), Community Journalism Interest Group, AEJMC, 2019-2020

Reviewer

Journalism Studies, Journalism Practice, Digital Journalism, Information, Communication and Society

TEACHING

Instructor of record, Digital media and culture (JOUR 3751), University of Minnesota, Summer 2021

Adjunct professor, News reporting, news writing (SMAD 210), James Madison University, Spring 2019

Teaching assistant

Digital Games and Society (JOUR1501), for Andrew Locke, University of Minnesota, Spring, 2022

Media in a changing society (JOUR 1001), for Dr. Scott Memmel, University of Minnesota, Fall, 2021

Media in a changing society (JOUR 1001), for Dr. Scott Memmel, University of Minnesota, Spring, 2021

Mass media and popular culture (JOUR 3745), for Dr. Ruth DeFoster, University of Minnesota, Spring, 2021

Digital media and culture (JOUR 3751), for Dr. Valérie Bélair-Gagnon, University of Minnesota, Fall, 2020

Media in a changing society (JOUR 1001), for Dr. Sid Bedingfield, University of Minnesota, Fall 2019

PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE (Non-academic)

Bankrate.com, Senior Money Editor, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., July 2016-March 2017

Directed team of reporters, covering issues including mortgage, retirement, banking and the overall national and global economy. Wrote content, as needed, quickly, cleanly and on deadline. Produced weekly video Q&As with our experts, and quickly turned around video broadcasts following big news events (Brexit, November 2016 election, etc.). Founded the organization's internship program, mentoring young journalists across the country, especially in South Florida. Invited to lecture to student journalists at Florida Atlantic University.

Berkshire Hathaway, Regional editor-in-chief, Charlottesville, Va., May 2015-July 2016

Oversaw all news operation – including newspaper, digital, mobile, video, niche publications, website and social media – for 42 employees and three daily newspapers, the *Charlottesville Daily Progress*, *Waynesboro News Virginian* and *Culpeper Star-Exponent* and three weekly newspapers. Focused much of my effort on mentoring and

training our newsroom of young journalists, several I hired immediately after they graduated from college. Won 26 Virginia Press Association Awards (including 10 first-place honors) in 2016 – a record for the *Daily Progress* at the state's awards banquet. Invited to lecture to student journalists at Piedmont Virginia Community, the University of Virginia and James Madison University.

Houston Chronicle, Sports editor, Houston, Texas, March 2011-May 2015

Oversaw all sports-related operations – including newspaper, digital, mobile, video, niche publications, website, social media and events. Supervised and organized the coverage of four professional teams (Astros, Dynamo, Rockets, Texans), four major universities (Texas, Texas A&M, Houston, Rice), several smaller colleges and more than 200 high schools in the metro area. Recognized as a digital leader in the Hearst company and gave best-practice lectures to other departments in Houston and other papers throughout the Hearst chain. Invited to the New York City Hearst headquarters to discuss best digital strategies for sports departments throughout the company. Earned numerous national awards for Chron.com sports coverage, including the newspaper's first APSE award in newspaper website content. Organized and coordinated coverage for all Hearst properties for numerous events – including Super Bowls, Final Fours and the London Olympics. Served as regional chair for the APSE, the nation's leading sports journalism organization. Invited to lecture at Houston Baptist University.

Daily Press, Sports editor, Newport News, Va., April 2007-March 2011

Athens Banner-Herald, Assistant sports editor, Athens, Ga., April 2005-April 2007

News-Messenger, Sports editor, Fremont, Ohio, August 2003-2005

Decatur Herald & Review, Sports writer / Copy editor, Decatur, Ill., April 2002-August 2003

Columbia Daily Tribune, (Part-time) Sports writer / Copy editor, Columbia, Mo., 1997-2002

Pekin Daily Times, (Part-time) Correspondent / Copy editor, Pekin, Ill., 1995-1997