

NICK MATHEWS

Assistant Professor of Digital Journalism
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Communication and Journalism
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POSITIONS

(Incoming) 2023-2022-2023 Assistant Professor, University of Missouri
Assistant Professor, University of Missouri-Kansas City

EDUCATION

PhD, 2022 Mass Communication, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Dissertation: *Our News, For Us, From Us: Social Identity and Rural News and Information*
Co-advisor: Valérie Bélair-Gagnon
Co-advisor: Matt Carlson
Committee: Benjamin Toff, Teresa Gowan
Minor: Sociology

MA, 2019 Journalism, University of Missouri

BJ, 2001 Journalism, University of Missouri

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Finneman, T., **Mathews, N.**, & Ferrucci, P. (Expected, 2024). Reviving Rural News: Transforming the Business Model of Community Journalism in the U.S. and Beyond. Disruptions: Studies in Digital Journalism series, Routledge (*Contract signed*)

Articles in peer-reviewed journals

Finneman, T., Ferrucci, P., **Mathews, N.** (2023). Revenue & readership: Rescuing and reviving rural journalism. *Journalism Practice*. DOI: 10.1080/17512786.2023.2183236

Mathews, N., Bélair-Gagnon, V. & Carlson, M. (2023). Why I quit journalism: Former journalists' advice giving as a way to regain control. *Journalism*, 24(1), 62-77. DOI:10.1177/14648849211061958

Weber, M. & **Mathews, N.** (2022). Explicating local: An audience-based framing of local community and local news. *Digital Journalism*. DOI: 10.1080/21670811.2022.2142629

Mathews, N. & Ali, C. (2022). "Come on f---er, just load!" Powerlessness, waiting and life without broadband. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*. DOI: 10.1093/jcmc/zmac020

Mathews, N., Bélair-Gagnon, V. & Lewis, S (2022). News is "toxic:" Exploring the non-sharing of news online. *New Media and Society*. DOI: 10.1177/14614448221127212

Mathews, N. & Ali, C (2022). Desert Work: Life and labor in a news and broadband desert. *Mass Communication & Society*. DOI: 10.1080/15205436.2022.2093749

Mathews, N. (2022). Life in a news desert: The perceived impact of a newspaper closure on community members. *Journalism*, 23(6), 1250-1265. DOI: 10.1177/1464884920957885

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

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Articles under review

Toff, B., **Mathews, N.**, Badrinathan, S., Mont'Alverne, C., Arguedas, A.R., Fletcher, R., & Nielsen, R.K. Examining urban/rural gaps in trust in news across four countries.

In development (Titles may be merely descriptive)

Mathews, N. The newspaper is not "ours:" An audience-centric view of news deserts

Mathews, N. An oasis in a perceived news desert: Location-based Facebook groups and Social Identity Theory

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

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

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Mathews, N. An oasis in a perceived news desert. Local News Researchers Workshop, University of North Carolina, 2023

Finneman, T., Ferrucci, P., **Mathews, N.** Revenue & readership: Reviving rural journalism. Local News Researchers Workshop, University of North Carolina, 2023

Mathews, N., Toff, B., Mont'Alverne, C., Badrinathan, S., and Arguedas, A.R. When no news is local: Urban/rural gaps in trust in news across four countries. American Political Science Association, Montreal, 2022

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

Mathews, N., Bélair-Gagnon, V., & Lewis, S. News is "toxic:" Exploring the non-sharing of news online. ICA, Journalism Studies Division, Paris, 2022

Lewis, S. & **Mathews, N.** Extended abstract: What's accepted, missing and "maniacal:" News consumers' perceptions of bias. ICA, Journalism Studies Division, Paris, 2022

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. & 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 PRESENTATIONS, ARTICLES, ETC.

Research presentations

Invited speaker, Redefining your newspaper business model with research, Missouri Press Association, Nov. 17, 2022

Invited speaker, News deserts and news finances, Business of Media (Kevin Curran), Loyola Marymount University, Oct. 24, 2022

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

Invited speaker, Forging a Local News Media Ecosystem Research Agenda panelist, AEJMC, Newspaper and Online News Division and Community Journalism Interest Group, Aug. 4, 2021

Invited speaker, News deserts and the role of local media panelist, AEJMC, Community Journalism Interest Group, Nov. 5, 2020

Articles

Were fears about the “infodemic” overblown?: RQ1 newsletter, Nieman Lab, Oct. 12, 2022. At: <https://www.niemanlab.org/2022/10/were-fears-about-the-infodemic-overblown/>

Local journalism and media policy event recap: Joy Jenkins, Elizabeth Hansen Shapiro and Phil Napoli discuss where we go from here, Tow Center newsletter, Feb. 1, 2022. 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, Tow Center newsletter, Jan. 25, 2022. 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, Tow Center newsletter, Jan. 11, 2022. 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, Tow Center newsletter, Nov. 30, 2021. 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, Tow Center newsletter, Nov. 2, 2021. At: <https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?u=f92dc374de944af763a8fdf13&id=2178a1abbe>

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

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

Featured in radio interview, “Why this photographer documented more than 100 newspapers across rural Kansas.” KCUR-NPR, Feb. 8, 2023. At: <https://www.kcur.org/podcast/up-to-date/2023-02-08/why-this-photographer-documented-more-than-100-newspapers-across-rural-kansas>

Featured in article, “Analysis: Access is not everything – with inadequate broadband digital dignity is lacking.” Daily Yonder, Nov. 2, 2022. At: <https://dailyyonder.com/analysis-access-is-not-everything-with-inadequate-broadband-digital-dignity-is-lacking/2022/11/02/>

Featured in article, “Analysis: No newspaper, low broadband connectivity rates leads to additional labor costs.” Daily Yonder, Aug 10, 2022. At: <https://dailyyonder.com/analysis-no-newspaper-low-broadband-connectivity-rates-leads-to-additional-labor-costs/2022/08/08/>

Featured in article, “University study reveals a path to revenue growth for weekly and rural newspapers.” Editor & Publisher, July 18, 2022. At: <https://www.editorandpublisher.com/stories/university-study-reveals-a-path-to-revenue-growth-for-weekly-and-rural-newspapers.233573?newsletter=234711#.YtXHOJ7GuXs.twitter>

Featured in radio interview, “This business model could save the Midwest’s weekly newspapers.” (Teri Finneman interview). NPR-KCUR, May 12, 2022. At: <https://www.kcur.org/podcast/up-to-date/2022-05-12/saving-the-weekly-newspapers-in>

Featured in article, “KU leading project to test new business models for rural, weekly newspapers.” May 3, 2022. At: <https://news.ku.edu/2022/05/03/ku-leading-project-test-new-business-model-rural-weekly-newspapers>

Featured in article, “National research study picks newspaper to test innovation.” Harvey County Now, April 27, 2022. At: https://harveycountynow.com/all-news/national-research-study-picks-newspaper-to-test-innovation?fbclid=IwAR1XRShik93UeZLhpVK_kfDqwvXtbGNoQmefcXj6kAY7k946VdVfMW5O6mo

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:

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

HONORS AND AWARDS

Grant, University of Kansas, William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications, \$25,000 (Project with Teri Finneman & Pat Ferrucci) (2021)

Grant, Southern Newspaper Publishers Association, \$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

TEACHING

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Comm-363: Podcasting and Audio Storytelling, Spring 2023

Comm-400: Digital Games and Society, Fall 2022, Spring 2023

University of Minnesota

Jour-3751: Digital Media and Culture, Summer 2021

James Madison University

SMAD-210: News Reporting, News Writing, Spring 2019

SERVICE

Service to the field

Professional Freedom and Responsibility Chair (elected by membership in 2022), Community Journalism Interest Group, AEJMC, 2022-2023

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

Journal reviews

Journal of Communication, Digital Journalism, Journalism, Journalism Studies, Journalism Practice, Information, Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly, Communication and Society

PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

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 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