Kami Vinton, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

PH.D. IN JOURNALISM AND MEDIA *Dec 2024*

University of Texas at Austin

The School of Journalism and Media

Dissertation: Depolarizing Health News for Texans: Developing and Testing the Adaptive "Health" Frame on Politicized Topics, Supervisor: Renita Coleman. DOI: 10.26153/tsw/59817

M.A. IN COMMUNICATION *May 2016*

University of Texas at Arlington

Department of Communication

Thesis: The butterfly effect of deceptive science: How media influence may have spread the illusory link between vaccines and autism, Supervisor: Thomas Christie. https://mavmatrix.uta.edu/communication_theses/64/

B.S. IN PYCHOLOGY *May 2005*

University of Texas at Arlington

Department of Life Sciences

Honors Thesis: Revisiting the Nature vs. Nurture Problem: What Neuroscience Reveals about the Psychotherapeutic Process, Supervisor: Kenneth Farr. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.31685.77289

EXPERIENCE

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION

Sul Ross State University, Eagle Pass, TX

Sept 2025 – Present

- Appointed on a 9-month, non-tenure-track contract with expectation of transition to an International faculty line in Fall 2026.
    - Teach *Public Speaking* to dual-credit high school and undergraduate students, integrating applied communication skills with research-informed, culturally responsive pedagogy.
    - Support student development through mentorship and create opportunities for collaborative learning.
    - Collaborate with faculty on academic initiatives and to engage in service that strengthens campus and community connections.

TEACHING ASSISTANT AND GRADUATE RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

The University of Texas at Austin

Jan 2021 – Dec 2024

Teaching Assistant

(2021-2024): *Courses Supported:* **Introduction to Media Studies, Media Law, Fundamentals of Journalism, Race and Digital Media, Popular Culture and Media, Food: Culture and Agriculture**

- Led weekly discussion sections, facilitated group learning, and reinforced lecture content with applied examples.
- Provided individualized academic support and maintained detailed grading records.
- Supported course logistics: classroom management, proctoring, AV setup, and Canvas updates.
- Developed review sessions and contributed to curriculum refinement in collaboration with faculty.

Graduate Research Assistant, Assessing the 2024 U.S. Presidential Candidates
Fall 2024 — Supervisor: Renita Coleman

- Programmed and deployed a complex Qualtrics survey, ensuring smooth user experience.
- Managed data collection from 1,600 nationally representative respondents and conducted data preprocessing to deliver a clean dataset.
- Ensured high data quality and contributed to the project's successful and timely completion.

Lab Manager, Computational Media Lab
Summer 2022 – Summer 2023 — Supervisor: Dhiraj Murthy

- Designed and analyzed research studies contributing to peer-reviewed publications and presentations.
- Supervised and mentored 17 research assistants, coordinating onboarding and training.
- Maintained detailed research documentation, coordinated project logistics, and contributed strategic guidance to evolving research initiatives.

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER, MATHEMATICS

IDEA Montopolis College Preparatory, Austin, TX   **January 2019 - August 2020**

- Taught 10th – 12th grade; algebra II, precalculus, and A.P Statistics

- Core course educator of underserved student body where the vast majority where English language learners, 95% qualified for free or reduced meals, and 100% aspired to be first-generation college students.

- Developed and delivered differentiated instruction to meet diverse learning needs and ensured student engagement through a variety of teaching methods, including project-based learning and inquiry-based activities.

- Managed the classroom to create a supportive environment conducive to social, emotional, and academic growth, fostering positive relationships with students and encouraging them to take risks in their learning.

- Communicated regularly with parents about student progress and collaborated with colleagues to address academic challenges and implement targeted support strategies.

- Adapted curriculum and instruction to include culturally responsive techniques and innovative approaches like incorporating music, art, and literature to engage students of varying abilities and backgrounds.

TEACHING ASSISTANT AND GRADUATE RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

The University of Texas at Austin   *Fall 2016 – Aug 2018*

Graduate Research Assistant, Course Consultant — Data, Privacy, and You
Summer 2018 — Supervisor: Dhiraj Murthy

- Guided course redesign and documentation, integrating lab sections and online modules.
- Reviewed student feedback and provided curriculum enhancements.
- Developed instructional materials, including lectures, assessments, and Canvas content.

Teaching Assistant
Courses Supported (2017–2018): Data, Privacy and You, Food: Culture and Agriculture

- Led weekly discussion sections and quantitative review sessions.
- Designed interactive activities to deepen student understanding.
- Advised students on assignments and helped implement inclusive teaching strategies.

Graduate Research Fellow
University of Texas at Austin, Fall 2016 – Spring 2017 — Advisor: Iris Chyi

- Contributed to ongoing faculty research projects and scholarly writing support.

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT   June 2015 – May 2016

The University of Texas at Arlington
Project/Sponsor: Investigating Hiding Behaviors, the U.S. Army
Supervisor/Term: Chunke Su

- Collected, organized, and analyzed large data sets, creating comprehensive reports that summarized research findings and project conclusions.

- Developed detailed project plans, including tasks, timelines, and resources; prepared tables, graphs, and fact sheets to present research results and briefed leadership on progress.

- Contributed to study design and methodology, providing input on instrumentation selection and addressing potential design or protocol issues before trial initiation.

- Monitored and resolved any issues or discrepancies that arose during the study to ensure project continuity.

- Prepared comprehensive reports summarizing research findings and conclusions, assisted in generating interim reports for the funding sponsor, and supported the presentation of preliminary data at conferences.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS MANAGER (DEVELOPMENT)

Center for BrainHealth at UT Dallas   *May 2013 - May 2015*

- Served as the primary grant writer for the development team, securing several million dollars in funding to support Center research initiatives and preparing detailed progress reports for granting agencies to ensure compliance with terms and deadlines.

- Developed strategic fundraising plans, engaged in donor development activities, and collaborated with community relations and PR teams to promote donor contributions and produce lay-friendly reports showcasing research outcomes.

- Compiled comprehensive program narratives, outlining goals, objectives, timelines, and outcomes, while providing technical assistance for project budgets and facilitating internal communication to meet grant deadlines.

- Utilized strong research, writing, editing, and organizational skills to craft successful funding applications and create technical documents, including white papers and press releases, tailored for various audiences.

- Participated in executive leadership meetings to present updates on grant activities and contributed to interdepartmental collaboration, ensuring streamlined communication regarding grant processes.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Center for BrainHealth at UT Dallas   *May 2010 - May 2014*

- Managed a multi-million-dollar, multi-site NIH-funded study examining the social impacts in adolescents and young adults with moderate to severe traumatic brain injury, overseeing recruitment, data collection, and adherence to timelines and budgets.

- Developed and implemented research protocols to ensure data accuracy and compliance with local regulations; maintained detailed records of all research activities and prepared study-related documentation, including progress and adverse event reports.

- Conducted cognitive testing, semi-structured diagnostic psychological interviews, and fMRI brain scans for data collection, assessed eligibility through screening interviews and medical record reviews, and recorded adverse events, collaborating with investigators for appropriate reporting to oversight agencies.

- Facilitated communication among research teams, healthcare professionals, and stakeholders to support effective recruitment and ongoing project management; tracked participant enrollment and documented retention efforts.

- Prepared for and participated in quality assurance audits conducted by sponsors and regulatory bodies and developed recruitment materials and informational content to engage potential study participants.

CLINICAL RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Metroplex Clinical Research Center, Dallas, TX   *September 2009 - May 2010*

- Managed all aspects of phase II and phase III clinical trials, including participant recruitment, data collection, and adherence to study protocols.

- Coordinated communication among research teams, participants, and stakeholders to ensure smooth trial progression.

- Monitored data quality and compliance with regulatory standards throughout the trial.

- Assisted in preparing reports and documentation for submission to oversight bodies and sponsors.

CLINICAL STUDY MANAGER

Covance, Inc., Dallas, TX   *July 2008 - August 2009*

- Oversaw all phases of phase I clinical trials, ensuring the implementation of study protocols, adherence to timelines, and budget management to meet project goals.

- Managed relationships with sponsors (drug companies) and compliance monitors, facilitating effective communication and addressing inquiries to ensure alignment with study requirements.

- Collaborated closely with physician principal investigators (PIs) to coordinate study activities, review data, and make informed decisions regarding study progress and patient safety.

- Led participant screening, enrollment, and retention strategies, maintaining high data integrity and comprehensive documentation throughout the trial.

- Coordinated cross-functional teams, managing logistics, data reporting, and project timelines to support seamless trial operations and compliance with ethical and regulatory standards.

STUDY COORDINATOR

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX   *June 2005 - July 2008*

- Managed a large, NSF-funded study from inception to completion, overseeing participant recruitment, including children with autism and control subjects, data collection, and project timelines.

- Conducted cognitive testing and coordinated fMRI brain scans, collaborating with radiologists and physicists to customize MRI protocols for the study and ensure optimal data quality.

- Developed and implemented research protocols, including creating, managing, and closing out IRB submissions, informed consent documentation, and reporting to funding agencies.

- Created and programmed experimental stimuli, aligning participant interaction data with fMRI timing for accurate analysis; assisted in pre-processing behavioral and MRI data.

- Headed recruitment efforts, provided informed consent, and maintained detailed records to ensure compliance with research standards.

- Coordinated with interdisciplinary teams to meet project goals, troubleshoot challenges, and support comprehensive analyses, including preparing descriptive statistics for data interpretation.

- Prepared detailed reports, presented study findings at internal and external meetings, and ensured seamless communication among research team members and stakeholders.

RESEARCH

Journal Publications

Murthy, D., Kolluri, A., **Vinton, K.** (in press). Quantifying the Spread of Racist Content on Fringe Social Media: A Case Study of Parler. *Big Data & Society.* doi: 10.1177/20539517251321752

Murthy, D., Sharp, K., Dasari, T., **Vinton, K.**, Arroyo, F. L., Li, C., & Clayton, P. (2025). AI and Journalistic Networks: A Synergistic Approach to Disaster Damage Surveillance. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, *116,* 105092. doi: 10.1016/j.ijdrr.2024.105092

Coleman, R., Thorson, E., Jiminez, C., and **Vinton, K.** (2024) Reaching science skeptics: How adaptive framing of climate change leads to positive responses via persuasion knowledge and perceived behavioral control. *Communication Research. 51*(4), 392–414. doi: 10.1177/00936502221084925

Cook, L.G., Chapman, S.B., Elliott, A.C., Evenson, N., **Vinton, K.** (2014). Cognitive Gains from Gist Reasoning Training in Adolescents with Chronic-Stage Traumatic Brain Injury, *Frontiers in Neurology, 5*:87. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2014.00087

Newsome M.R., Scheibel R.S., Mayer A.R., Chu Z.D., Wilde E.A., Hanten G., Steinberg J.L., Lin X., Li X., Merkley T.L., Hunter J.V., Vasquez A.C., Cook L., Lu H., **Vinton, K.,** Levin H.S. (2013). How functional connectivity between emotion regulation structures can be disrupted: preliminary evidence from adolescents with moderate to severe traumatic brain injury. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 19*(8), 911-24.

Preprint Publications

Venkatesh, P., **Vinton, K.**, Murthy, D., Sharp, K., & Kolluri, A. (2024). Entendre, a Social Bot Detection Tool for Niche, Fringe, and Extreme Social Media (arXiv: 2408.06900). arXiv. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2408.06900

Murthy, D., Dasari, T., **Vinton, K.**, Lago Arroyo, F., Li, C., Sharp, K., & Clayton, P. (2024). Collaborating with Journalists and Ai: Leveraging Social Media Images for Enhanced Disaster Resilience and Recovery. (SSRN Scholarly Paper No. 4888696). Social Science Research Network. https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4888696

Kolluri, A., **Vinton, K.**, & Murthy, D. (2022). PoxVerifi: An Information Verification System to Combat Monkeypox Misinformation (arXiv:2209.09300). arXiv. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2209.09300

Conference Papers

Vinton, K. Chatterjee, K., (Upcoming November 2025). Making sense of the mess we're in: Using self-determination theory to examine skeptical Texans' collapsing trust in public health communication. National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 20-23, Denver, Colorado.

Vinton, K., Coleman, R., Major, L. (2025). The efficacy pathway in adaptive framing: Visuals drive effects on community optimism and behavioral intentions. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Meeting, August 7-10, San Francisco, California.

Shermak, J., **Vinton, K.**, Whipple, K., Willard, L., Murthy, D. (2023). Rage against the sentiment machine: A critical, historical evaluation of polarizing political discourse on Twitter. American Sociological Association 2023 Annual Meeting, Aug 19-22, 2023, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Murthy, D., **Vinton, K.**, Jung, S., Lobo, T., Gupta, D., Pandey, M. K., (2023). Identifying political and religious polarization on TikTok. American Sociological Association 2023 Annual Meeting, Aug 19-22, 2023, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Murthy, D., Dasari, T., **Vinton, K.**, Lago Arroyo, F., Li, C., & Clayton, P. (2023). Using Machine Learning, Social Media Images, and Journalists to Improve Disaster Resilience and Response. International Communication Association, May 24-29, 2023, Toronto, Ontario.

Venkatesh, P., **Vinton, K.**, Kolluri, A., Murthy, D. (2023). Entendre, a Social Bot Detection Tool for Niche, Fringe, and Extreme Social Media. International Communication Association, May 24-29, 2023, Toronto, Ontario.

Vinton, K., Murthy, D., Kim, G., Gupta, D. (2023)[1]. The use of #blacklivesmatter in Russian and Iranian Race-Related Influence Operations on Twitter. International Communication Association, May 24-29, 2023, Toronto, Ontario.

Kolluri, A., **Vinton, K.**, Murthy, D. (2023). Quantifying the Spread of Racism Online: A Comparative Study of Parler and Twitter. International Communication Association, Political Communication Pre-Conference, May 24, 2023, Toronto, Ontario.

Vinton, K., Anand, T., Lee, J., Ouellette, R., Murthy, D., Kong, G. (2023). Testing the TikTok algorithm: Can underaged TikTok users elicit e-cigarette content recommendations? Society For Research On Nicotine & Tobacco, March 2, 2023, San Antonio, TX.

Vinton, K., Chatterjee, K. (2021). Inoculating against Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy: Examining the role of news consumption, political conservatism, and religiosity in Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy. Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research, November 19, 2021, Chicago, IL.

Coleman, R., Thorson, E., Jiminez, C., and **Vinton, K.** (2020). Adaptive framing: Uncovering the mediators and extending the strategy to other controversial issues – Climate Change Skepticism and Vaccine Hesitancy. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, August 6, 2020, San Francisco, CA.

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[1] Top paper award winner

Vinton, K. (2016). The butterfly effect of fear: Third-level agenda setting? World Association for Public Opinion Research 69th Annual Conference, May 12, 2016, Austin, TX.

Su, C., **Vinton, K.** (2016). To share or not to share? A Social Network Application of Transactive Memory Theory to Examine Knowledge Sharing and Hiding in Organizational Work Teams. Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis, April 8, 2016, Newport Beach, CA.

Vinton, K., Weems, G. (2015). Ebola in Dallas: Setting an agenda of fear at home and beyond. Southwest Education Council for Journalism and Mass Communication Symposium, November 5, 2015, Fort Worth, TX.

Cook, L.G., Chapman, S.B., Evans, N., **Vinton, K.** (2012). Training of gist-reasoning in adolescents with traumatic brain injury. North American Brain Injury Society Annual Meeting, Miami.

Works in progress

Major, L., Coleman, R., **Vinton, K.,** Adaptive Framing of Climate Change: Visuals, Text and Their Interactions – submitting to *Communication Research* (Anticipated September, 2025)

Vinton, K., Avoiding Resistance, Not the Message: The Power of Adaptive Frames in Polarized Health Communication – preparing manuscript for submission to *Health Communication* (Anticipated August, 2025)

Vinton, K., Adaptive Frames for Health Communication – book chapter (Anticipated October, 2025)

Awards

- Michael Haley Travel Grant for the 73rd Annual ICA Conference, University of Texas at Austin, May 2023
- Graduate Student Professional Development Award, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (DDCE), University of Texas at Austin, May 2023
- Departmental Nominee, William S. Livingston Outstanding Graduate Student Academic Employee Award - TA, The University of Texas at Austin, 2022
- Center for Health Communication Doctoral Fellow, University of Texas at Austin, 2016-2017
- Graduate School Excellence Recruitment Fellowship, University of Texas Graduate School one-time fellowship, 2016
- Center for Health Communication Doctoral Fellow, University of Texas, 2016-2017
- Moody Doctoral Fellowship, School of Journalism recurring fellowship, University of Texas at Austin, 2016 (beginning in the 2nd year of the doctoral program)
- Department of Communication 2016 Outstanding Graduate Student, University of Texas at Arlington, 2016
- CoLA Scholar 2016, The College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Arlington, 2016
- University Scholar, President's Convocation for Academic Excellence, University of Texas at Arlington, 2005
- Outstanding Academic Achievement, College of Science at The University of Texas at Arlington, University of Texas at Arlington, 2005
- One Year Academic Grant-In-Aid Full Tuition Scholarship, Snead State Community College, 1995
- Herbert and Alice Going Social Science Scholarship, Snead State Community College, 1995