



# LESLEY C. STEVENSON

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## EDUCATION

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- PH.D. UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON, expected spring 2026**  
Communication Arts (Media & Cultural Studies)  
Dissertation: Pathways to Power in Media Industries: Theorizing the ‘Entry-Level Elite’  
Committee: Eric Hoyt (chair), Kate Fortmueller, Johnathan Gray, Derek Johnson, Lori Kido Lopez
- M.A. UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON, 2021**  
Communication Arts (Media & Cultural Studies)  
Advisor: Eric Hoyt
- B.A. UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, 2016**  
Film, Television & Theatre and American Studies  
Honors Thesis: “‘Accio, Author!’: Dispersal and Convergence of Authorships in *Harry Potter*”  
Advisor: Jim Collins

## APPOINTMENTS

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- 2023–24 College of Letters & Science Lead Teaching Mentor**  
University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2022–23 College of Letters & Science Teaching Mentor**  
University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2020–24 Project Assistant specializing in communications, social media, outreach, and development**  
Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research & Media History Digital Library (@MediaHistoryDL)
- 2019– Graduate Lecturer and Teaching Assistant**  
University of Wisconsin–Madison

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Hoyt, Eric, Mary Huelsbeck, Amanda Smith, Maureen Mauk, Olivia Johnston Riley, Matt St. John, Pauline Lampert, and **Lesley Stevenson**, “Reviving Neglected Giants: Digitally Preserving and Sharing Two Early Television Collections,” in *The Archivability of Television: Essays on Preservation and Perseverance*, edited by Lauren Brat-slavsky and Elizabeth Peterson, 2025. University of Georgia Press. Companion exhibit curated by **Lesley Stevenson**: <https://avdh.commarts.wisc.edu/s/earlytv/page/home>.
- Hoyt, Eric, Ben Pettis, **Lesley Stevenson**, and Samuel Hansen, “Searching for Similarity: Computational Analysis and the U.S. Film Industry Trade Press of the Early 1920s,” in *Global Movie Magazine Networks*, edited by Eric Hoyt and Kelley Conway, 2025. University of California Press. \*Society for Cinema and Media Studies Best Edited Collection Award 2026
- Stevenson, Lesley, “Vanderpump Rules and the Labor of ‘Real’ Life,” *ASAP Review*, August 27, 2024.
- Stevenson, Lesley, “What the Constitution Means to Me, Now that ‘Roe’ Is Dead: Seeing Hopeful Solidarity in the Anzaldúan Nепantla,” *Theatre Topics*, Summer 2023
- Stevenson, Lesley, “Writers and Actors Can Strike, But Not Their Assistants: On Paying ‘Real Money’ for Unskilled Labor,” *In Media Res*, theme week on WGA and SAG-AFTRA strikes, October 2023
- Hoyt, Eric, Mary Huelsbeck, Amanda Smith, Lauren E. Wilks, and **Lesley Stevenson**, “Love, Links, Archives: Saving and Sharing the Wendy Clarke Tape Collection,” *The Moving Image*, Volume 23.1 (Spring 2023).

## PUBLICATIONS (continued)

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Stevenson, Lesley, "Dispersal and Convergence of Authorships in the Harry Potter Franchise," in *Time Lords & Tribbles, Winchester & Muggles: The DePaul Pop Culture Conference*, 2016.

### FORTHCOMING

Stevenson, Lesley. "100 Years of Production Assistant 'Experience,'" in *Unions & Hollywood*, edited by Luci Marzola and Kate Fortmueller, forthcoming 2027.

### UNDER REVIEW

Stevenson, Lesley. "Paying Dues to Power: The Entry-Level Elite and the Cultural Politics of Creative Labor."

Stevenson, Lesley. "*Harry Potter* and the Forgotten Production Designer: Remaking the Vision of Stuart Craig."

## GRANTS

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### 2025 Digital Humanities Advancement Grant, National Endowment for the Humanities

PI: Eric Hoyt, team: Sam Hansen, Mary Huelsbeck, Amanda Smith, Ben Pettis, and **Lesley Stevenson**

\$148,428 for "Project Ballyhoo: Analyzing Publicity Text and Promotional Image Reuse across 20th Century Periodical Collections"

### 2022 Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Implementation Grant, National Endowment for the Humanities

PI: Eric Hoyt, team: Mary Huelsbeck, Amanda Smith, Lauren E. Wilks, and **Lesley Stevenson**

\$298,292 for "Love, Links, Archives: Saving and Sharing the Wendy Clarke Tape Collection"

## TEACHING

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### UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

#### Lecturer

Communication Arts 313: The Business and Culture of Disney Spring 2025

Course that evaluates the impact of The Walt Disney Company's business on global cultures, and vice versa, exploring the interplays between business and culture through the lens of critical media industries studies.

Communication Arts 468: Producing for Internet TV & Video Spring 2024, summer 2022 and 2023

Advanced course for junior and senior Comm. Arts majors combining hands-on digital cinema production with project management skills through four team projects in a variety of stylistic categories.

#### Teaching Assistant

Communication Arts 155: Intro to Digital Media Production AY 2025–26 and 2020–22

Introductory production course for Communication Arts majors and non-majors, with individual projects on digital photography, audio production, and web design and a group videography project.

Communication Arts 250: Survey of Contemporary Media AY 2022–23

Introductory media studies course for Communication Arts majors in the radio-television-film track with a focus on building media literacy skills and writing about film and television.

#### Instructor of Record

Communication Arts 100: Intro to Speech Communication AY 2019–20

Core composition course intended primarily for incoming freshmen of any major, with an emphasis on informative and persuasive modes of researching, writing, and public speaking.

### UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DEL ALTIPLANO (Puno, Peru)

#### Visiting Instructor

English language classes and American culture seminars Summer 2017

Instructed 5–30 students at a time in English grammar and lectured in Spanish on theatre and performance.

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

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- 2023–25**      **Teaching Mentor & Lead Teaching Mentor** | College of Letters & Science, U. Wisconsin–Madison  
Nominated by department and selected by college leadership for highly selective team to train and mentor new TAs; then appointed to train incoming teaching mentors and improve training process
- 2020–25**      **McCarty Award—Conference Travel Grant** | Dept. of Communication Arts, U. Wisconsin–Madison  
Totaling \$3,900 for presentations in Los Angeles, CA; Orlando, FL; Denver, CO; London, UK; and online
- 2023**          **Herman Award** | Dept. of Communication Arts, U. Wisconsin–Madison  
\$1,000 for excellence in research, teaching and extra-curricular activities in Communication Arts
- 2023**          **Student Reseach Grant** | Graduate School, U. Wisconsin–Madison  
\$1,500, maximum award, for travel to Console-ing Passions Conference in Calgary, Canada
- 2022**          **Wickhem Award** | Dept. of Communication Arts, U. Wisconsin–Madison  
\$1,000 for excellence in broadcasting and production by a graduate student in Communication Arts
- 2020**          **Sites Award** | Dept. of Communication Arts, U. Wisconsin–Madison  
\$1,000 awarded to an outstanding female graduate student in Communication Arts

## HONORS

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- 2021**          **Phi Kappa Phi** | U. Wisconsin–Madison  
All-discipline honor society including graduate students in the top 10 percent of their class
- 2016**          **O’Toole Award for Excellence in Film Studies** | Dept. of Film, Television, & Theater, U. Notre Dame  
Presented to a senior for outstanding scholarly achievement in critical studies

## SERVICE

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- Media Industries SIG (Society for Cinema and Media Studies): Graduate Student Representative, 2024–**  
Elected by members of the Significant Interest Group (SIG) for a two-year term
- Graduate School Dean’s Advisory Board (U. Wisconsin): Member, 2023–25; Chair, 2025–**  
Appointed by student government to represent 10,000+ graduate students on committee to Dean William Karpus
- Peabody Awards: Screening Committee Member, 2022–23**  
Evaluated and ranked a selection of entrants in the Peabody Awards’ entertainment category
- College of Arts & Letters Advisory Council (U. Notre Dame), 2018–22**  
Served on Dean Sarah Mustillo’s chief advisory board as a limited-term young alumna alongside experts and major donors

## INVITED TALKS, LECTURES, & SPECIAL EVENTS

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- 2023**      “**Influencers in the Digital Age**” — Panelist  
Panel sponsored by Letters & Science Honors Program and Chadbourne Residential College, U. Wisconsin–Madison
- 2023**      “**Texts outside the Text: Intertextuality in the *Harry Potter* Canon and Fanon**”  
Communication Arts 250 lecture (220 students), U. Wisconsin–Madison
- 2023**      “**Inside the New Media History Digital Library.**”  
Online workshop by Eric Hoyt, Ben Pettis, Sam Hansen, Kat Pan, and Lesley Stevenson.
- 2022**      “**iTake Advantage of People: Postfeminist Discourses on Gendered Labor in *iCarly***”  
Media & Cultural Studies Colloquium (20 students and faculty), U. Wisconsin–Madison

## CONFERENCES

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**“Introducing the Entry-Level Elite”**

Society for Cinema and Media Studies, April 2026, Chicago, IL

**“The ‘Experience’ of Production Assistants: What They Do, How They Learn, and Why It Matters”**

The Hollywood Conference, July 2025, Los Angeles, CA

**“The Intern: Reproducing Media Industry Labor through Collegiate to Corporate Pipelines”**

Console-ing Passions, June 2025, Atlanta, GA and online

**“It’s a Scarlet Letter’: Dues-Paying throughout the History of the NBC Page Program”**

Society for Cinema and Media Studies, April 2025, Chicago, IL

**“Man, Woman, or Leopard: Queering Gender Identity on FOX’s The Masked Singer”**

Console-ing Passions, June 2024, Bloomington, IN and online

**“The Case for Early-Career Labor in Critical Media Industries Studies”**

Media Industries, April 2024, London, United Kingdom

**“Cruel Productivity? Navigating the Neoliberal Academy”—Graduate Student Organization Workshop**

Led by Andy Fischer Wright, Edoardo Pelligra, Lesley Stevenson, Geneveive Newman, Joseph Roskos, and Kristina Brüning  
Society for Cinema and Media Studies, March 2024, Boston, MA

**“In Conclusion, Feminism?: Powerful Women and Popular Misogyny in *iCarly* (2021–)”**

Console-ing Passions, June 2023, Calgary, Canada and online

**“iTake Advantage of People: Postfeminist Discourses on Gendered Labor in *iCarly*”**

Society for Cinema and Media Studies, June 2023, Denver, CO

**“Nepantla Meets Penumbra: Resistance to White Neoliberal Feminism in ‘What the Constitution Means to Me’”**

Console-ing Passions, June 2022, Orlando, FL and online

**“Turning Back The Page on NBC’s Page Program: An Archival Analysis of Its Place in Media Lore”**

Society for Cinema and Media Studies, April 2022, online

**“Digitizing Ephemera And Building Interactive Timelines: A Hands-On Workshop,” with Dr. Eric Hoyt**

HoMER Network Annual Conference, May 2021, Rome, Italy and online

**“Flea Market: The Unexpected Transmedia Franchising of *Fleabag*”**

Society for Cinema and Media Studies, March 2021, online

**“Visual Authorships in the *Harry Potter* Franchise”**

The 5th Annual Harry Potter Conference, October 2016, Chestnut Hill, PA

**“‘Bad Bitch’ or Just a Bitch: The Mean Girls of High School Films”**

New Directions in Gender Studies, January 2016, Notre Dame, IN

**“Caricatures of Femininity and Flawed Feminism in *Mean Girls*”**

Fun with Dick and Jane: Gender and Childhood, December 2014, Notre Dame, IN

## PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE

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- 2026 Copyeditor**, *Reading Media: The New Horizons of Textual Analysis*, edited by Jonathan Gray and Daphne Gershon (NYU Press)
- 2024 Copyeditor and project assistant**, *Global Movie Magazine Networks*, edited by Eric Hoyt and Kelley Conway (U. California Press, 2024)  
Winner of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2026 Best Edited Collection Award  
Copyedited all chapters through multiple rounds of edits, corresponded with authors, tracked all documentation and assets, and prepared graphics for print.
- 2023 Indexer**, *Redefining Sports Media*, by Jason Kido Lopez (Routledge)
- 2022 Copyeditor and project assistant**, *Ink-Stained Hollywood: The Triumph of American Cinema's Trade Press*, by Eric Hoyt (U. California Press)  
Copyedited all chapters, created graphs, prepared graphics for print, and conducted additional research.
- 2021 Copyeditor**, *Saving New Sounds*, edited by Jeremy Wade Morris and Eric Hoyt (U. Michigan Press)
- 2019 Researcher**, *Earn It!*, by Mika Brzezinski and Daniela Pierre-Bravo (Legac'y Lit)  
Filmed, conducted, and transcribed interviews; researched millennial trends, women and workplace influencers.
- 2016 Copyeditor and layout designer**, *How to Land Your Dream Job in Marketing*, by Dr. John A. Weber and Kate Ferrara (independently published)

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

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### UNITED TALENT AGENCY

New York, NY  
11/2018 – 6/2019

#### **Theatre Department Assistant / Agent Trainee**

- Reliably identified and fulfilled specific needs of five theatre agents and four assistants.
- Synthesized industry news, trends, and critical reviews to inform agents' strategic decisions for current and prospective clients.

### NBCUNIVERSAL CORPORATE EVENTS

New York, NY  
9/2017–8/2018

#### **Guest Communications Coordinator, 2018 Winter Olympics & FIFA World Cup**

- Maintained direct communication with 550+ guests and staff attending NBCU's Winter Olympic Program in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and Telemundo's World Cup Program in Moscow, Russia.
- Purchased, tracked and distributed \$1.5 million in tickets to the 2018 FIFA World Cup.
- Procured Russia-specific FIFA spectator credentials for 635 VIPs and staff.
- Liaised directly with C-suite executives, clients and staff to secure logistics including travel and Russian visas.
- Worked on various other programs, including NBCU's National Sales Meeting and 2018 Upfront, for which I tracked 6,000+ invitations and RSVPs and distributed 300+ VIP credentials.

### NBCUNIVERSAL PAGE PROGRAM

New York, NY  
8/2016–9/2017

#### **"Morning Joe" and "First Look"**

- Delivered scripts and breaking news edits to on-air talent throughout four hours of live cable news.

#### **"Saturday Night Live" and "Weekend Update" – Seating Director**

- Led staff and Pages to discreetly seat 300 celebrities, VIPs and fans minutes before live shows and rehearsals.

#### **Corporate Events**

- Supported 12 members of the events team with logistics, including managing 14 Pages, for the 2017 Upfront.
- Entrusted to atypical Page duties such as escorting NBCU executives and co-managing Intern Orientation.

#### **USA Network Brand Marketing – Social Media**

- Synthesized daily social metrics on "Colony," "Chrisley Knows Best" & "Shooter" for Cable executives.

#### **East Coast Ambassador – Social Media Branding Co-Manager**

- Doubled Instagram followers, led a novel hour-long Twitter talkback and designed social media ads.

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE (continued)

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- CREATIVE ARTISTS AGENCY (CAA), *Entertainment Marketing Intern*** New York, NY  
5/2016–8/2016  
 • Tracked global response to entertainment activations for major brands, including Chipotle and GM.
- NBC/THE TONIGHT SHOW STARRING JIMMY FALLON, *Production & Costumes Intern*** New York, NY  
5–8/2015  
 • Ran discreet errands for Mr. Fallon, producers, and The Roots; filled in for talent during studio rehearsals.

## CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

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- IMCD LIGHTING, *Production Coordinator*** New York, NY  
9/2018 – 11/2018  
 • Supported Production Managers, crew members and office staff through full event schedule, including New York Fashion Week's Brandon Maxwell and Carolina Herrera S/S 2019 shows.
- UNTITLED OLIVER SACKS PROJECT, dir. Patrick Vassel, *Bushwick Starr Residency*** New York, NY  
11/2018  
 • Implemented director's and designers' vision in purchasing set decorations, props and audience amenities; maintained integrity of props through rehearsals and final show
- SHE*, a new play by Renee Roden, prod. Open Booth Theatre Company, *Publicity Director*** New York, NY  
7/2015

## SKILLS, INTERESTS, & COMMUNITY

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- LANGUAGE:** Advanced Spanish, including reading and writing
- TECHNICAL:** HTML, CSS, Adobe Creative Suite (incl. Dreamweaver, InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere Pro, Audition, After Effects), RED CineX, iNews, Wordpress, Microsoft Office Suite, Eloqua
- EDITING:** AP style, UC Press style, general copyediting
- HOBBIES:** Five-time TONY Awards seat filler, four-time marathoner, 15-time half marathoner
- CULTURE:** World-Wide Mustard Competition judge; member of state championship-winning trivia team

## REFERENCES

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### Eric Hoyt

Professor of Communication Arts and Director of the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research  
 University of Wisconsin–Madison  
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### Derek Johnson

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### Jonathan Gray

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### Kate Fortmueller

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### William Karpus

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 Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
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**Additional references available upon request.**