

Kara S. Fort

fort.40@osu.edu | ORC ID: 0009-0009-7963-8026

EDUCATION

The Ohio State University

Expected Graduation 2027

Doctor of Philosophy in Communication

Minor in Quantitative Psychology

Advisors: Dr. R. Kelly Garrett & Dr. Hillary Shulman

Comprehensive Examinations Committee Members: Dr. Michael Slater & Dr. Dominik Stecula

- GPA: 4.00

The Ohio State University

August 2023

Master of Arts in Communication

Thesis: "The Seed-of-Truth Effect: The Role of Premise Veracity in Support for False Conclusions"

Advisor: Dr. R. Kelly Garrett

Committee Member: Dr. Jason Coronel

- GPA: 4.00

University of Kansas

May 2020

Bachelor of Arts (Highest Distinction) in Communication Studies (Honors) & Political Science

Minors in Arabic Language & Middle Eastern Studies

Certificates in Global Awareness, Intelligence and National Security Studies, & University Honors Program

Communication Studies Honors Thesis: "Small Cues and War Analogies: Replicating Gilovich's 1981 Study to Test Comparisons to WWII, Vietnam, Iraq and ISIS"

Honors Thesis Advisor: Dr. Ashley Muddiman

- GPA: 3.99

PUBLICATIONS

- 2) Fort, K. S., Lopez, R., Shulman, H. C., Riggs, E. E., & Cruz Ibarra, J. (in press). The impacts of code-mixing in a cross-cultural narrative: How processing fluency impacts narrative engagement and attitudes toward out-groups. *Communication Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00936502241287334>
- 1) Fort, K. S. & Shulman, H. C. (2024). Using a signal detection approach to understand the impacts of processing fluency and efficacy on accuracy in misinformation detection. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 15 (Special Issue: Motivation-Based Approaches to Countering Mass-Mediated Misinformation). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2024.1417910>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 8) Fort, K. S., Shulman, H. C., Bond, R. M., Nisbet, E. C., & Garrett, R. K. (2026, November 19 – 22). *Epistemic beliefs predict truth detection ability: A signal detection approach*. [Conference presentation]. National Communication Association 112th Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- 7) Fort, K. S. (2026, March 6). *How Americans defend political falsehoods: The influence of ideology, information environment, and epistemic beliefs*. [Research Forum presentation]. Hayes Graduate Research Forum, Columbus, OH, United States.
 - 3rd place poster in the Social & Behavioral Sciences/Education & Human Ecology Section
- 6) Fort, K. S., Bond, R. M., Nisbet, E.C., & Garrett, R. K. (2025, November 19 – 22). *Ideological & epistemic differences in misperception justifications during the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election* [Conference

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presentation]. National Communication Association 111th Annual Conference, Denver, CO, United States.

- **Top paper in the Political Communication Division**

- 5) Holbert, L., Rasheed, H., McKeown, M., **Fort., K. S.**, & Hardy, B. W. (2025, August 7 – 10). *Identifying and Developing a Research Agenda to Address Structural Weaknesses in Political Socialization Research*. [Conference presentation]. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication 108th Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, United States.
- 4) **Fort, K.S.** (2025, February 28). *The impacts of code-mixing in a cross-cultural narrative: How processing fluency impacts narrative engagement and racial attitudes*. [Research Forum presentation]. Hayes Graduate Research Forum, Columbus, OH, United States.
 - **Social & Behavioral Sciences Oral Presentation Finalist**
- 3) **Fort, K. S.**, Lopez, R., Shulman, H. C., Riggs, E. E., & Cruz-Ibarra, J. (2024, November 20 – 24). *The impacts of code-mixing in a cross-cultural narrative: How processing fluency impacts narrative engagement and racial attitudes*. [Conference presentation]. National Communication Association 110th Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, United States.
 - **Top paper in the Communication & Social Cognition Division**
- 2) **Fort, K. S.** (2024, November 20 – 24) *The seed-of-truth effect: The role of premise veracity in support for false conclusions*. [Conference presentation]. National Communication Association 110th Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- 1) **Fort, K. S.** & Garrett, R. K. (2022, November 17 – 20). *Ostracism and falsehood endorsement: Is partisan cheerleading to blame?* [Conference presentation]. National Communication Association 108th Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, United States.

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

The Ohio State University, School of Communication

- Summer 2023 – COMM 3331: Communication & Decision Making (online)
- Summer 2025 – COMM 3444: Advertising & Society (online)
- Spring 2026 – COMM 2367: Persuasive Communication (in-person)
- Summer 2026 – COMM 2850: Media & Citizenship (online)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

The Ohio State University, School of Communication

- COMM 2331: Strategic Communication Principles
- COMM 3331: Communication & Decision Making
- COMM 3444: Advertising & Society
- COMM 3554: Social Implications of Communication Technology
- COMM 3558: Social Media

Resident Assistant

August 2017 – April 2020

University of Kansas, Student Housing

- Created a learning centered community for the 545 students living in the newest residence hall at the University of Kansas through passive programming and intentional engagements.

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- Mediated conflicts and issues with residents, including roommate issues, suicidal ideation with and without a plan, general mental health, sexual assault, trauma, interactions with law enforcement, and academic concerns.

INDUSTRY RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Open Source Research Intern

January – August 2020

Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center

Topeka, KS

- Reported daily COVID-19 updates to the Fusion Center staff and community partners, including the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Governor, who used the information to make decisions impacting Kansas' pandemic response strategy.
- Formulated a list of searchable identifiers for potential activity of the Base, a white ethnonationalist organization, in Kansas, which was used to track the group's activity and notify law enforcement if necessary.
- Presented to the Fusion Center staff, Kansas Adjutant General, and community partners on white supremacist and nationalist organizations in Kansas to increase awareness of the history of and potential for activity in the state.

National Security & Intelligence Analysis Intern

Summer 2019

Institute for the Study of War

Washington, DC

- Compiled 6 months of attack data from both English and Arabic sources to update the organization's assessment of ISIS Wilayat Sinai, including attack patterns, areas of operation, and security forces' jurisdictional zones.
- Analyzed the potential for ISIS to seize an urban center or execute an international attack by forecasting triggers from 2015 at the height of the group's power.
- Tracked US policy statements daily and assessed how they related to the organization's areas of interest, inputting them into the organization's knowledge management platform.
- Selected as the only intern to present to the Research Director of the organization, covering findings on ISIS Wilayat Sinai.

US & Nigeria Security Cooperation Research Intern

January – May 2019

US Army TRADOC

Fort Leavenworth, KS

- Wrote a report isolating the largest climate and environmental threats in Nigeria that was used for training at the Military Advisors Training Academy at Fort Benning, Georgia.
- Collaborated with 5 other students to create a comprehensive report and presentation on the most pressing threats relevant to the US military in Nigeria.
- Trained in using the All Partners Access Network (APAN) and the Protected Internet Exchange (PIX) to gather information and work with collaborating researchers in the Department of Defense and Partner Organization Network.

SERVICE

President

Summer 2026 – Spring 2027

Secretary

Fall 2024 – Spring 2025

Master's Program Representative

Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

Graduate Student Organization, School of Communication, The Ohio State University

New Graduate Student Mentor

Fall 2022 – Spring 2027

School of Communication, The Ohio State University

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School of Communication Delegate	Fall 2025 – Summer 2026
Diversity & Inclusion Committee Member	Fall 2025 – Summer 2026
<i>Council of Graduate Students, The Ohio State University</i>	
Research Roundtable Reviewer	Spring 2026
Political Communication Division Reviewer	Spring 2024 – Spring 2026
Communication & Social Cognition Division Reviewer	Spring 2023 – Spring 2026
<i>National Communication Association Annual Conference</i>	
Graduate Representative, Journalism Associate/Full Professor Search Committee	Fall 2025
<i>School of Communication, The Ohio State University</i>	
PhD Representative	Fall 2024 – Spring 2025
<i>Graduate Studies Committee, School of Communication, The Ohio State University</i>	
President	Fall 2018 – Spring 2020
Secretary	Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
<i>Lambda Pi Eta, University of Kansas</i>	
President of the Omicron Class	Fall 2019 – Spring 2020
Chapter Hearing Board Officer	Spring 2020
<i>Omega Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Chapter</i>	
Student Conduct Hearing Board Officer	Fall 2018 – Spring 2020
<i>Student Conduct, University of Kansas</i>	
Ambassador	Fall 2017 – Spring 2020
<i>University of Kansas Honors Program</i>	

FUNDING

University Fellow	August 2023 – August 2024
<i>The Ohio State University Graduate School</i>	
Awarded a university-wide competitive fellowship to support the first year of the doctoral program.	
Miller Grant	
<i>The Ohio State University, School of Communication</i>	
Lead a project that received \$2,080 in competitive funding for a study on code-mixing's effects on processing fluency, narrative engagement, and out-group bias.	
Honors Opportunity Awards	
<i>University of Kansas, Honors Program</i>	
Received over \$1,600 in competitive funding to use toward completion of an undergraduate honors thesis and living expenses for an internship in Washington, DC.	

HONORS & AWARDS

- National Communication Association Political Communication Division Top Paper Panelist (2025)**
- National Communication Association Social Cognition Division Top Paper Panelist (2024)**
- Board of Class Officers Campanile Award** - Given to one graduating senior who exhibits outstanding leadership, character, and respect for the University of Kansas.
- University of Kansas Dean's List (Fall 2016 – Spring 2020)**

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MEMBERSHIPS

- **National Communication Association**
 - Division Memberships: Social Cognition, Political Communication, Mass Communication, Human Communication & Technology, Rhetorical & Communication Theory.
 - Caucus Memberships: Disability Issues, Women's
- **Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence Scholar**
- **University of Kansas Honors Program**
- **Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority**
- **Phi Beta Kappa** – Inducted as a junior.
- **Phi Kappa Phi** – Inducted as a junior.
- **Lambda Pi Eta** – Inducted as a sophomore.
- **Pi Sigma Alpha** – Inducted as a junior.