

# Sophie S. W. Downing

Curriculum Vitae

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Schoonover Center 410 • 1 Ohio University Athens, OH 45701

## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D.**  
Expected: May 2025  
**Ohio University**, Scripps College of Communication, Athens, OH  
Degree: Interpersonal & Organizational Communication  
Other Interests: Family & Instructional Communication, Qualitative Methods  
Graduate Certificate: Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies  
  
Dissertation: *The Stories We Tell and the Stories We Hold: Forging Family in Narrative*  
Committee: Dr. Devika Chawla (Chair), Dr. Sarah Jones, Dr. Brittany Peterson,  
Dr. China Billotte Verhoff, & Dr. Jennifer Chabot (Child & Family Studies)
- M.A.**  
2024  
**Ohio University**, Scripps College of Communication, Athens, OH  
Degree: Interpersonal & Organizational Communication
- B.S.**  
2021  
**University of Portland**, College of Arts & Sciences, Portland, OR  
Majors: Organizational Communication & English  
Minor: Social Justice  
Graduated Cum Laude (GPA: 3.9)  
  
**Institution for the International Education of Students**, Amsterdam, NL  
Study Abroad, Summer 2019

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2021 – Present  
**Graduate Teaching Associate**  
School of Communication Studies, Ohio University

## AWARDS, HONORS, & GRANTS

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- 2024 – 2025  
**Scholar Award (\$25,000)**  
International Chapter, Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.)
- 2024  
**Doctoral Honors Seminar**  
National Communication Association, hosted by the University of Utah
- 2024  
**Outstanding Teaching Associate Award**  
School of Communication Studies, Ohio University
- 2024  
**Outstanding Graduate Student Leader Award\***  
School of Communication Studies, Ohio University  
\*Nominated and awarded by fellow graduate students
- 2024  
**Paul H. Boase Family Scholarship (\$1,500)**  
School of Communication Studies, Ohio University
- 2024  
**Stocker Professorship Dissertation Research Support (\$1,500)**  
School of Communication Studies, Ohio University

- 2024                    **Cooper Award for Excellence in Teaching**  
Central States Communication Association
- 2023                    **Distinguished Graduate Teaching Assistant Award**  
Ohio Communication Association
- 2023                    **Travel Award (\$750)**  
Graduate College, Ohio University
- 2023                    **Outstanding Researcher Award**  
School of Communication Studies, Ohio University
- 2023                    **Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor Award\***  
School of Communication Studies, Ohio University  
\*Nominated and awarded by fellow graduate students
- 2023                    **Paul H. Boase Family Scholarship (\$1,000)**  
School of Communication Studies, Ohio University
- 2023                    **Excellence in Graduate Studies Fund (\$1,500)**  
School of Communication Studies, Ohio University
- 2021 – 2023            **Departmental Travel Grants (\$1,930)**  
School of Communication Studies, Ohio University
- 2021 – 2022            **Offered\* Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Award to Taiwan**  
Fulbright U.S. Student Program  
\*Declined due to COVID-19 and admittance to PhD program
- 2021                    **Louis J. Masson Outstanding English Major Award**  
Department of English, University of Portland
- 2021                    **Bishop Paul E. Waldschmidt, C.S.C. Service Award**  
University of Portland
- 2020                    **Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (\$2,400)**  
Department of Philosophy, University of Portland

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Journal Articles**

Downing, S. S. (2023). "I remember feeling pretty darn lucky": Crafting Family Resilience in Response to a Medical Emergency. *Health Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2023.2296187>

Downing, S. S., & Billotte Verhoff, C. (2023). Incorporating Mini Lessons on the Hidden Curriculum in Communication Classrooms. *Communication Teacher*, 37(3), 246-253.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17404622.2022.2162559>

Hannah, M., & Downing, S. S. (2023). "You can get clarity that other students may feel the same way you do": Exploring Students' Decision-Making Around and Motivations for Engaging in Evaluative Talk About Instructors. *Communication Education*, 72(3), 237-256. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03634523.2022.2149829>

### **Manuscripts in Progress**

Downing, S. S. (revise and resubmit). *Fragmented Selves: Introducing Students to Archival Research and Historical Representations*.

Downing, S. S., & Jones, S. E. (in preparation). "It is very white man and white men like to talk to white men": Construction of Inequality Regimes in an Engineering College. To be submitted to *Management Communication Quarterly*.

Downing, S. S., & Jones, S. E.\* (in preparation). "There are a lot of faculty in our building who need to get off their high horse": Emergence of Class in Organizational Narratives of Belonging in the Academy.

\*Both authors contributing equally

Downing, S. S. (in preparation). *Slap Ass Fridays and Sexual Assaults: An Autoethnography of Skewed Secondary School Sexual Cultures*. To be submitted to *Journal of Autoethnography*.

### **Literary & Artistic Works**

Downing, S. S., & Wuertz, S. (2021). Letter from the Editors. *Writers Literary and Arts Magazine*, 44, iv.

Downing, S. S. (2021). small friends [Artwork]. *Writers Literary and Arts Magazine*, 44, 17.

Breiholz, C., & Downing, S. S. (2020). Letter from the Editors. *Writers Literary and Arts Magazine*, 43, iv.

Downing, S. S. (2020). baby tree. *Writers Literary and Arts Magazine*, 43, 43.

Downing, S. S. (2020). cross-stitched tattoo [Artwork]. *Writers Literary and Arts Magazine*, 43, 32.

Downing, S. S. (2020). womanhood. *Writers Literary and Arts Magazine*, 43, 20.

Downing, S. S. (2019). my resume. *Writers Literary and Arts Magazine*, 42, 53-54.

### **CONFERENCE & SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS**

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Downing, S. S. (November 2024). "Constructing, Maintaining, and Negotiating Family Identity: An Oral History of My Family." Paper accepted for presentation at the National Communication Association Conference (Family Communication Division), to be held in New Orleans, LA.

Downing, S. S., & Munroe, F. (March 2024). "Contemporary Feminist Activism in Argentina." Poster presented at Ohio University's International Women's Day Symposium, held in Athens, OH.

Downing, S. S. (March 2024). "From the Greatest Generation to Gen Z in Two Births: An Autoethnography of Socially Constructed Generations in a Family." Paper presented at the International Symposium on Autoethnography and Narrative, held online.

Downing, S. S. (February 2024). "I remember feeling pretty darn lucky': Enacted Family Sensemaking and Resilience in Response to a Medical Emergency." Paper presented at the Western States Communication Association Conference (Health Communication Division), held in Reno, NV.

Downing, S. S. (February 2024). "Hard Work, Beauty, and Family Values: Idealized Constructions of Life on Pacific Northwest Family Farms During the Great Depression." Paper presented at the Western States Communication Association Conference (Rhetoric, Culture, & Advocacy Division), held in Reno, NV.

Downing, S. S. (November 2023). “Balancing being hit on or being discounted’: Discipline of Women in Male-Dominated Fields.” Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference (Feminist & Gender Studies Division), held in National Harbor, MD.

Downing, S. S. (March 2023). “Balancing Grace and Accountability: Managing Student Mistakes Through a Lens of Crystallized Selves.” In M. Hannah (Chair), *When Students Make Mistakes: Strategizing Innovative Instructor Approaches to Communication and Pedagogy in Support of Students’ Learning*. Panel presented at the Eastern Communication Association Conference (Instructional Communication Division), held in Baltimore, MD.

Downing, S. S. (March 2023). “Crafting a New Code of Etiquette to Better Understand Politeness Theory.” Paper presented at the Eastern Communication Association Conference (Great Ideas for Teaching Students Division), held in Baltimore, MD.

Downing, S. S., & Billotte Verhoff, C. (March 2023). “Incorporating Mini Lessons on the Hidden Curriculum in Communication Classrooms.” Paper presented at the Eastern Communication Association Conference (Great Ideas for Teaching Students Division), held in Baltimore, MD.

Hannah, M., & Downing, S. S. (March 2023). “You can get clarity that other students may feel the same way you do’: Investigating Social Motives Behind Student-Student Gossip About College Instructors.” Paper presented at the Eastern Communication Association Conference (Instructional Communication Division), held in Baltimore, MD.

Downing, S. S. (February 2023). “A Case for Expanding and Clarifying Definitions of Rape: The Embodied Experience of a Hazy Sexual Assault.” Paper presented at The University of Pittsburgh’s Annual Cultural Studies and Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Graduate Student Organization Symposium, held virtually.

Downing, S. S. (November 2022). “Welcomed, Discounted, Ignored, and Harassed: Experiences of Individuals in Academic Programs Where Their Gender is Underrepresented.” Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference (Applied Communication Division), held in New Orleans, LA.

Downing, S. S. (November 2022). “Narratives of Value and Worth in US Public High Schools.” Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference (Research in Progress Roundtables), held in New Orleans, LA.

Downing, S. S. (November 2021). “Enforcement and Emancipation: Engagement of Gender in Narratives of College Students.” Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference (Feminist & Gender Studies Division), held in Seattle, WA.

Downing, S. S. (November 2021). “Spodies and Slap Ass Friday: Internalization of Misogyny in Secondary School Sexual Culture.” Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference (Ethnography Division), held in Seattle, WA.

Downing, S. S. (April 2021). “Beacons of Connection: Capacity for Community-Building and Empowerment in Narratives of Sexual Assault.” Paper presented at University of Portland’s Founders’ Day (annual event celebrating outstanding seniors’ research), held virtually due to COVID-19.

Downing, S. S. (March 2020). “No animal will accept the justice of being punished for following its instincts’: White Male Entitlement in *Disgrace*.” Paper accepted for presentation\* at the Northwest Undergraduate Conference on Literature.

\*Conference cancelled due to COVID-19

Downing, S. S. (April 2019). “Epideictic timelessness’: Evaluating the Inaugural Addresses of Presidents Obama and Trump.” Paper presented at the Northwest Communication Association Conference, held in Coeur D’Alene, ID.

Downing, S. S. (March 2019). “First and foremost, a thing to be judged’: Skewed Power Dynamics in *The Girls*.” Paper presented at the Northwest Undergraduate Conference on Literature, held in Seattle, WA.

## TEACHING

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### **Ohio University**      **COMS 1030: Introduction to Public Speaking**

Instructor of Record      Spring 2022 (2 sections)  
Fall 2021 (2 sections; hybrid modality)

### **COMS 1100: Communication Among Cultures**

Spring 2024 (1 section; included 9 students from Chubu University in Japan)

### **COMS 2050: Techniques of Group Discussion**

Fall 2024 (1 section)  
Fall 2023 (1 section)

### **COMS 2060: Communication in Interpersonal Relationships**

Fall 2023 (1 section)  
Spring 2023 (1 section)  
Fall 2022 (1 section)

### **COMS 3200: Communication and New Technology**

Fall 2024 (1 section)

### **COMS 3920: Practicum in Communication Education**

Spring 2023 (1 section)  
Fall 2022 (1 section)

## RESEARCH & CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

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2023 – Present      **Research Associate**

Russ College of Engineering and Technology, Ohio University

Hired by the Russ College Belonging Committee to conduct qualitative research around diversity, equity, and inclusion within the College. Deliverables include a program evaluation in the form of a qualitative summary of the organizational culture of Russ College, suggestions for potential DEIAB initiatives, faculty workshop development and facilitation, and pedagogical materials.

2023 – 2024      **Research Associate**

Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islanders: Leadership, Education, Advocacy, and Development (AAPI-LEAD) Faculty-Led Affinity Group, Ohio University

Invited by Dr. Yuqiu You (Engineering Technology & Management) and Dr. Yuchun Zhou (Educational Studies) to assist with the literature review for a research report on the experiences of AAPI faculty and staff at Ohio University alongside Dr. Sarah Jones (Communication Studies).

2023 **Training & Development Research Consultant**  
Belron/Safelite

Surveyed and summarized research on best practices for training new-hires and on training, learning, and development.

2020 – 2021 **Undergraduate Research Assistant to Dr. Alexa Dare**  
Department of Communication Studies, University of Portland

Gathered data for the University of Portland's social justice minor and aided Dr. Alexa Dare and Dr. C. Vail Fletcher in editing and organizing their book, *Communication in the Anthropocene: Intimate Relations*.

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#### WORKSHOP DEVELOPMENT & FACILITATION

2023 **Faculty Workshops: Inclusive Teams in STEM Courses**  
Russ College of Engineering & Technology, Ohio University

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#### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2023 **Guest Lecturer in COMS 3620: Rhetorical Inquiry & Criticism**  
Ohio University, School of Communication Studies

Invited by Dr. Matthew deTar to lead his students through my multi-part assignment, "Fragmented Selves: Introducing Students to Archival Research and Historical Representations," and introduce them to the accompanying archival research processes over the course of two weeks.

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#### SERVICE & ENGAGEMENT

##### Professional Memberships

2023 – Present **Western States Communication Association**

2023 – Present **Central States Communication Association**

2021 – Present **National Communication Association**

##### Service to the Discipline

2024 **Paper Reviewer**  
Organizational Communication Division, WSCA

2024 **Paper Reviewer**  
Interpersonal & Family Communication Division, WSCA

2024 **Panel Chair**  
Family Communication Division, NCA

- 2024 **Paper Reviewer**  
Ethnography Division, NCA
- 2024 **Paper Reviewer**  
Feminist and Gender Studies Division, NCA
- 2024 **Paper Session Reviewer**  
Organizational Communication Division, NCA
- 2024 **Conference Session Moderator**  
International Symposium on Autoethnography and Narrative
- 2024 **Ad Hoc Reviewer (Emerging Reviewer Program)**  
*Management Communication Quarterly*
- 2023 **Paper Reviewer**  
Organizational Communication Division, NCA
- 2023 **Panel Chair**  
James McCroskey & Virginia Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference, ECA
- 2022 **Paper Session Reviewer**  
Feminist and Gender Studies Division, NCA
- University Service**
- 2024 – Present **Student Organization Advisor**  
Letters of Love, Ohio University
- 2021 – 2022 **Original Work Grant Reviewer**  
Graduate College, Ohio University
- 2020 **Student Representative for Ethnic Studies Faculty Search Committee**  
College of Arts & Sciences, University of Portland
- 2019 **Contributor for the Annual Report to the Board of Regents**  
University of Portland
- Departmental Service**
- 2022 – Present **Peer Mentor**  
School of Communication Studies, Ohio University
- 2023 – 2024 **President**  
GradCo, School of Communication Studies, Ohio University
- Scheduled, organized, and led all GradCo meetings; acted as liaison between graduate students and School of Communication Studies faculty and administration; helped plan social and professional events; disseminated important and timely information to graduate students; and attended all faculty meetings.

- 2022 – 2023      **Communication Resource Center Manager**  
School of Communication Studies, Ohio University
- Recruited, trained, and supervised teams of nine to twelve student tutors per semester; led and developed assignments for the corresponding practicum course; oversaw the scheduling of over 1,100 appointments; and recorded and reported appointments to over 20 instructors.
- 2022 – 2023      **Vice President**  
GradCo, School of Communication Studies, Ohio University
- Organized the peer mentorship program for doctoral students in the School of Communication Studies, managed the nomination process for student-awarded annual graduate student and faculty awards, and monitored the GradCo elections for the following academic year.
- 2023              **Developed Guide to the Communication Resource Center Manager Position**  
School of Communication Studies, Ohio University
- 2022              **Developed Doctoral Advisor-Advisee Conversation Guide**  
School of Communication Studies, Ohio University
- 2021 – 2022      **First Year Cohort Representative**  
GradCo, School of Communication Studies, Ohio University
- 2020 – 2021      **Co-President**  
Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society, University of Portland
- 2019 – 2021      **Communication Studies Representative**  
Student-Led Advisory Committee, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Portland
- 2019              **Organizational Communication Major Representative**  
Weekend on the Bluff, University of Portland

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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- 2023 – Present      **Emerging Reviewer Program**  
*Management Communication Quarterly*, supervised by Dr. Angela Gist-Mackey
- 2023 – Present      **Mentorship Program**  
NCA Family Communication Division, mentored by Dr. Lindsey Thomas
- 2022              **Peer Review Training Program**  
Taylor & Francis
- 2021 – 2022      **Scripps College of Communication Inclusive Pedagogy Training**  
Ohio University
- 2021 – 2027      **Human Research, Group 2, Basic Course Certification**  
CITI Program



2021 **Teacher Training Academy**  
Ohio University, School of Communication Studies

2021 **Tutor, Level I Certification**  
CRLA International Tutor Training Program

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**ADDITIONAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

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2022 **Dissertation Coder**  
Maria Hannah, Ohio University

Coded and thematized over 150 participants' qualitative responses around instructor handling of student misbehavior in the classroom.

2019 – 2021 **Senior Editor**  
*Writers* Literary Magazine, University of Portland

Interviewed and selected an editorial board; read and evaluated hundreds of anonymous poetry, prose, and visual arts submissions; oversaw the formatting and design process; and managed email, social media, and organization of relevant documents.

2019 – 2021 **Group Work Consultant**  
Learning Commons, University of Portland

2019 – 2021 **Speech & Presentation Lab Tutor**  
Learning Commons, University of Portland

2018 – 2019 **Editor**  
*Writers* Literary Magazine, University of Portland