

## CURRICULUM VITAE

DAVID STEPHENS

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

MEMPHIS, TN

(205)-960-6693

### EDUCATION

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**Bowling Green State University** Bowling Green, OH

Doctor of Philosophy, American Culture Studies (Film, Media and Culture), Summer 2020

*Making Profit, Making Play: Social Media Branding in the Era of Late Capitalism*

Advisor: Dr. Radhika Gajjala

**University of New Orleans** New Orleans, LA

Master of Arts, Literature, 2016

*A Family of One's Own: Reconstructing Queer Families of Color in Film*

**Alabama State University,** Montgomery, AL

Bachelor of Arts, English, 2014

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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University of Memphis (Fall 2020-ongoing) Assistant Professor (TT)—Department of Communication

Kutztown University (Fall 2019-Spring 2020) Frederick Douglass Institute Visiting Teaching Fellow—Department of English

Bowling Green State University (Fall 2016-Spring 2019) Graduate Teaching Assistant—School of Cultural and Critical Studies

### PUBLICATIONS

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- Stephens, D. (2023). Appear to disappear: Blackness, Affect, and the Political Imaginary. *Camera Obscura*, 38(2), 173–197.
- Emily Edwards, Stephens, D.. (Hash)tagging intersection(ality): Black and Palestinian experiences on Twitter,” *Communication, Culture, Critique*, 16(2), 83–90.
- Stephens, D. (2024). RDCWorld: Performing the Black Nerd in new media. *Communication, Culture & Critique*, 17(1), 72–79.

- Stephens, D. F. (2024). The Wendy's Retweet Challenge: Neoliberalism, Social Media, and the Creation of an Influencer. In *Global Perspectives on Social Media Influencers and Strategic Business Communication* (pp. 59–79). IGI Global.

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

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- “The Visual Spectacle of Misogyny: Black Sexual Politics in New Media” (revise and resubmit, *Communication and Critical Cultural Studies*)
- Podcasts and Cultural Production. In *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Black Queer Writing and Cultural Expression*. Ed. GerShun Avilez (**Invited Submission**)

## **TEACHING**

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### **Courses Taught at the University of Memphis:**

#### **AI and Communication and Media Studies:**

- Exclusively developed first course in the department that provides an overview of debates and scholarship in the area of artificial intelligence and its relationship to communication and media studies.

#### **Critical Studies in Media (grad)**

- Advanced seminar on the social, political, and economic construction of the media using critical and social theory.

#### **The Internet and New Media**

- Undergraduate course that explores the development of the internet and how it has expanded the media landscape from mass media to new media such as streaming, gaming, social media, and podcasts.

#### **Television and Culture**

- Undergraduate course which expanded understanding of television and the techno, cultural, economic, and political influences that shape its presence in American society.

#### **The Internet and New Media (grad)**

- The Internet and New Media is a graduate course designed to introduce students to the technical, political, social, and economic structures that govern the production of Internetbased new media.

#### **Social Media and Social Identities (grad)**

- Social Media and Social Identities is a special topics class that explores how social identities such as race, gender, sexuality, class etc., are developed, formed, and represented online.

## **Media and Information Literacy**

- Foundational course that exposes students to the complex study of media and the flow of information, particularly in an American context. This course will focus on the multiple ways we communicate and receive information and how messages delivered through media are constructed in social, political, and personal contexts.

### **Courses taught at previous institutions:**

Spring 2020                      **Kutztown University**                      Kutztown, PA

#### ***Instructor of Record, Mass Communication***

- Discuss the history of a range of media and communication technologies such as radio, cable, video games, film and social media.
- Incorporate practical application days that allowed students to explore a hands-on approach to mass communication by interacting with various technologies.

Fall 2019-Spring 2020              **Kutztown University**                      Kutztown, PA

#### ***Instructor of Record, Composition***

- Lead three courses of Introduction to Composition

Summer 2019                      **Bowling Green State University**                      Bowling Green, OH

#### ***Instructor of Record, Social Media/Participatory Culture***

- Introduced students to the political economy and cultural implications of social media
- Designed innovative assignments that generated student creativity
- Developed social media research skills

Fall 2018-Spring 2019              **Bowling Green State University**                      Bowling Green, OH

#### ***Instructor of Record, Black Popular Culture***

- Increased students' competencies regarding issues within race, media, and pop culture
- Organized semester-long syllabus as well as daily lesson plans
- Independently lead class discussions

Fall 2016-Spring 2018              **Bowling Green State University**                      Bowling Green, OH

#### ***Instructor of Record, Introduction to Ethnic Studies***

- Developed students' critical thinking about race, ethnicity and culture
- Organized semester-long syllabus as well as daily lesson plans
- Independently lead class discussions

Fall 2015-Spring 2016              **University of New Orleans**                      New Orleans, LA

#### ***Instructor of Record, Introduction to Composition***

- Improved writing, communication, and presentation skills of students

- Created dynamic lesson plans based on emphasizing student involvement •
- Responsible for grading and assessment

Fall 2014-Spring 2015    **University of New Orleans Writing Center**                      New Orleans, LA  
**Writing Coach**

- Assisted University of New Orleans students in developing effective writing skills

## **CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS**

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- Research Talk Brown Bag, '(Not) Spilling the Tea) University of Memphis, Department of Communication and Film. Fall, 2023.
- 2023 Southern States Communication Association Conference, "Pedagogy of a Bad Girl" Presidential Panel. Popular Culture Division.
- 2022 National Communication Association Conference, "Navigating Job Market as Black Faculty," Job Panel, African American Caucus.
- 2022 National Communication Association Conference, "Centering Community, Liberation, and Blackness in Media," Panel. Critical Cultural Studies Division.
- 2021 National Communication Association Conference, "RDCWorld: New Media and Black Nerd Performance," and "The Wendy's RT Challenge: A Case Study in Neoliberalism, Affect, and Social Media."
- 2019 American Studies Association Conference, "Affects of Subversion: Shame and Embarrassment as Marketing Tools on Social Media," Hawaii Convention Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Doctoral Network Conference, Hilton Newark Airport, Newark, NJ, October 2019.
- Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria Canada, Victoria, Canada, Summer 2019.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Doctoral Network Conference, Embassy Suites Hilton Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina, October 2018, (Attended).
- "'This Ain't About You:' Black Memes as Contested Digital Spaces," 43rd Annual American Studies Symposium, Purdue University, Purdue, Indiana, April 2018.

- “The Value of Stability in American Politics: Implications for Femininity and Masculinity in the Age of Trump,” The Charles E. Shanklin Colloquium, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, April 2018.
- “Cookout Community, Memes and the Organization of Black Spaces Online,” International Communication Association Conference, Hilton San Diego Bayfront, San Diego, CA, May 2017.
- “The Screen as Oracle: Social Media and Epistemology in the Age of Trump,” Ray Browne Popular Culture Conference,” Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, March 2017.
- “A Family of One’s Own: Reconstructing Queer Families of Color in Film,” Film and History Conference, Hilton Milwaukee City Center, Madison, WI, October 2016.
- “Comparing the Portrayals of Black and White Homosexuality in Film,” National Association of African American Studies & Affiliates, Baton Rouge, LA, February 2014.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS**

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- The Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society, **Grant Finalist**, Summer 2024
- Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Science Grant program WMN+ Grant Writing Workshop, University of Memphis, Summer 2023 (awarded \$2500 for Fieldwork and Archival Research)
- Frederick Douglass Teaching Scholars Fellowship, Kutztown University, Fall 2019-Spring 2020 ● Alma Payne Award, Department of American Culture Studies, Bowling Green State University, Summer 2019
- Graduate Assistantship Recipient, Department of American Culture Studies, Bowling Green State University, Fall 2016-Spring 2019
- Stoddard O’Neill Fund, School of Cultural and Critical Studies, Bowling Green State University, Summer 2017

### **PROFESSIONAL, UNIVERSITY, AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

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**Article Reviews:** *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, *Convergence*, *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*

**Dissertation Advisor (committee member):** Abby Arnold, Curtis Chamblee, Hannah Tabrizi, Jonathan Bridenbaker, Kirstin Cheers, Mireille Onry

**Advisor, Film and Video Production Culminating Project (Spring 2024--)**

- Reviewed scripts and suggested feedback
- Evaluated final submissions and developed standards for scoring

**Graduate Committee, College of Communication and Fine Arts, University of Memphis (Spring 2023-Spring 2024)**

- Reviewed professional development and graduate academic award applications
- Reviewed and approved new curriculum proposals

**Graduate Committee, Department of Communication and Film, University of Memphis (Fall 2022-Spring 2024).**

**Hiring Committee, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Communication and Film, University of Memphis (Spring 2022)**

**Policies Committee, Department of Communication and Film, University of Memphis (Fall 2020-Spring 2022)**

- Worked with other committee members to develop rules and procedures that govern department structure, research expectations, tenure guidelines, faculty meeting and voting process etc.

**Frederick Douglass Institute Discussion Series, *Creating Space: The Legacy of Toni Morrison*, Kutztown University, Fall 2019**

**Undergraduate Research Conference, *Organizer/Mentor*, Kutztown University Frederick Douglass Institute, Fall 2019**

- Secured funds for undergraduate travel and lodging to present at Black Doctoral Network Conference
- Mentoring students and improving research ability oral presentation skills as well as networking and professional communication.

**Director of Multicultural Affairs Hiring Committee, *Graduate Student Representative*, Bowling Green State University, Summer 2019**

- Reviewed cover letters, CVs and other professional documents
- Identified candidates with competencies in race, sexuality, gender and other identity categories
- Consulted with committee, hiring personnel and human resources regarding standards and qualifications
- Interviewed candidates in multiple rounds via phone and in person

## **SKILLS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- **Twitter API Access for Academic Research (data mining)**
- **R, Python, Zotero**
- **Digital Humanities Summer Institute, *Participant*, University of Victoria Canada, Summer 2019--Modeling Virtual Realities: A Practical Introduction to Virtual (and Augmented) Reality**

